

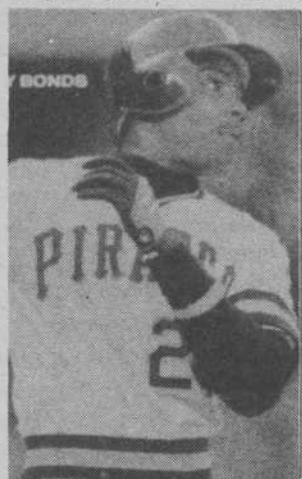
NATIONAL LEAGUE PREVIEW

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of Tim Lincecum in the rotation, that includes Jose Rijo, Tom Browning and Greg Swindell, the Reds could be deadly. Cincinnati boasts one of the finest talents in the game in shortstop Barry Larkin, a top 10 batter in the NL, along with other .300 hitters Hal Morris and Chris Sabo.

The San Diego Padres and Houston Astros might as well drop down to AAA ball and try to reinforce their farm clubs since they won't be able to contend with the caliber of play of the other teams in the division.

NATIONAL LEAGUE EAST

The Pittsburgh Pirates, the gem of the Eastern division, lost Bobby Bonilla but managed to keep Barry Bonds. Bonds will



BARRY BONDS

be the anchor man to carry this team in the wild and wacky east.

Andy VanSlyke would've liked to be the main man in camp but he'll have to settle for taking Bonilla's spot and fall in behind Bonds as the powerman. 1990 Cy Young winner Doug Drabek, a bulldog of a right-hander, will be the anchor of the Pirates' rotation while left-handers John Smiley and Zane Smith could play the proper supporting cast. The Pirates will recover from the loss of Bonilla. If Bonds, VanSlyke and Drabek play their roles properly it will be a runaway, but if business is not attended to, a battle will definitely occur.

The team that will make a run at the Pirates will be those loveable Cubs out of Chicago. New manager Jim Lefebvre has been asked to bring this team back into contention. With improved pitching, a little better hitting and no injuries, Lefebvre might be able to get the job done. Clearly the disappointment in '91, the Cubs have restructured their outlook and just may boast the finest all-around player in Ryne Sandberg, a consistent superstar in Andre Dawson and a pitcher who just may deliver Chicago his finest season ever in Greg Maddux.

The one person that the Cubs will be depending on to shake out his '91 slump is Mark Grace. Grace, whose name describes his swing, slumped to .273 from .309 in 1990. Maddux, the an-

chor of this team, has such good stuff that 20 wins should finally fall his way. Joining him in the rotation is Mike Morgan, acquired from LA, Shawn Boskie and Frank Castillo.

\$29-million-dollar man Bobby Bonilla will be the NY Mets scapegoat when they fail to contend for the NL East title. The Mets can't win because they can't catch the ball and Bonilla

cannot change that scenario. Pitching ace Dwight Gooden is coming off rotator-cuff shoulder surgery, another reason the Mets won't contend. Gooden's setback triggered New York to obtain two-time Cy Young winner Bret Saberhagen, who still complained of some elbow tenderness last year. Saberhagen always seems to have some drama surrounding him.

The St. Louis Cardinals made an improbable run from the bottom of the NL East two years back to 2nd place last season. St. Louis coach Joe Torre may not be as lucky in '92 due to the fact that the Cards really aren't that good. With the other NL East clubs more improved and the Cards lack of pitching, St. Louis doesn't seem to be a legitimate threat.

The Philadelphia Phillies will move in some young people in another rebuilding year while Montreal is in need of much talent. Why else would the Expos sign "old faithful" Gary Carter. Sorry Gary, but you hardly fit the role as the missing link for a team that needs refurbishing. Maybe he'll get a job commenting.

NEXT WEEK - THE AL

ONE "OLD FIGHTER" GIVES CREDIT TO ANOTHER

George Foreman, a believer in old fighters, thinks fellow 40-something heavyweight Larry Holmes has a chance to be the next heavyweight champion.

If he does, Foreman thinks he deserves some credit for leading the way.

"I think he was able to benefit because I went out there and showed that it could be done," Foreman said Monday after working out for Saturday night's fight against Alex Stewart at the Thomas & Mack Center. "Once I went 12 rounds and earned my money and didn't just show up for a payday, there was more credibility."

Foreman, who lost a 12-round decision to Evander Holyfield for the heavyweight title last

UNLV ASSISTANT COACHES NAMED

Tom Massimino and Jay Wright will officially become UNLV's two assistant basketball coaches under new Coach Rollie Massimino.

Former top Villanova assistant coach John Olive, who visited Massimino at UNLV this past week, confirmed that Wright, a part-time assistant at Villanova, would be named one of the two full-time UNLV coaches. Teams will be allowed only two full-time and one part-time or graduate coach under NCAA rules starting next season.

Olive was scheduled to be named the head coach at Loyola Marymount this past Wednesday afternoon, according to the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Wright, a 1986 graduate of Bucknell, was an assistant for two years at Drexel and has been at Villanova for five years.

Tom Massimino, a 1981 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business, spent several years in the accounting field before entering the coaching profession. He was an assistant at Alabama-Birmingham for two years, at Bradley for one year, and under his father at Villanova for four years.

April, said that at the age of 42, Holmes still has enough ability to defeat the 29-year old Holyfield. The fight is scheduled for June 19 at Caesars Palace.

Whether Holmes can win the title, though, depends on how much he is willing to sacrifice himself to achieve his goal, Foreman said.

"He can do it physically," Foreman said. "It just depends on how much desire and belief he has in himself."

Foreman still hasn't given up on regaining the heavyweight title he had in the 1970's, though at the age of 43 time might be running out on the former champion. Foreman is ranked #1 by the International Boxing Federation and #4 by the World Boxing Association.

Foreman remains a huge draw with the boxing public, as evidenced by the \$5 million he will earn Saturday when he meets former contender Stewart in a scheduled 10-round fight.

The fight will be Foreman's second since his loss to Holyfield. Foreman knocked out little-known Jimmy Ellis in the third round Dec. 7 in Reno.

"This is a marketable fight because I am the market," Foreman said. "I'm the guy people

want to see, the average guy who could be the guy next door."

The Foreman-Stewart fight, along with the International Boxing Federation middleweight title fight between champion James Toney and Glen Wolfe, will be televised by HBO.



Longtime Gathers' friend Bo Kimble (right) visited the set of "FINAL SHOT: The Hank Gathers Story" on location in Los Angeles and spoke on the court with actor Duane Davis who portrays Kimble in the movie. The telecast profiles the life and sudden tragic death of Gathers during a college basketball game at Loyola Marymount.

★ ★ ★ SPORTS BRIEFS ★ ★ ★

PRO BASKETBALL

NBA LEADERS (as of 4/8/92):

SCORERS

Michael Jordan, Chicago	30.4
Karl Malone, Utah	27.9
Chris Mullin, Golden St.	25.9

REBOUNDS

Dennis Rodman, Detroit	18.8
Kevin Willis, Atlanta	15.7
Dikembe Mutombo, Denver	12.3

ASSISTS

John Stockton, Utah	13.6
Kevin Johnson, Phoenix	10.8
Tim Hardaway, Golden St.	10.0

FINAL FOUR NOTES:

The Duke Blue Devils became the first team in 19 years to repeat as NCAA champions Monday night with a 71-51 victory over Michigan and the Fab Five freshman, the youngest team to vie for the title. Christian Laettner rebounded from his worst half of the year to lead a closing 23-6 Duke charge. After missing six of eight shots and making a season-high seven turnovers in the first half, Laettner finished with 19 points and seven rebounds.

BOXING NOTES:

Riddick Bowe took another

step toward a heavyweight title fight by stopping Conroy Nelson of Canada 1:16 into the first round of a scheduled 10-round bout. Bowe, 29-0 (25 k.o.'s), is ranked 2nd by the World Boxing Council, 4th by the World Boxing Association and 3rd by the International Boxing Federation.

BASEBALL NOTES:

The Atlanta Braves plan to keep their name, tomahawk emblem and chopping fans cheering despite protests from American Indian leaders, said team president Stan Kasten.

UNLV

FOOTBALL SCHEDULE:

Sept. 12	- TEXAS EL-PASO
Sept. 19	- NO. ARIZONA
Sept. 26	- @ Oregon
Oct. 03	- @ Pacific*
Oct. 10	- @ New Mexico St.*
Oct. 17	- @ UN-Reno*
Oct. 24	- @ Hawaii
Oct. 31	- SAN JOSE ST.*
Nov. 07	- @ Utah St*
Nov. 21	- MONTANA ST.*
Nov. 28	- FULLERTON*

* Denotes BIG SKY Conference game-Home games in all CAPS

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For more information about AIDS, call 1-800-842-AIDS. Nevada AIDS Hotline



This is a message from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.