

LAS VEGAS

# Sentinel Voice Sports

## AMERICAN LEAGUE PREVIEW

### T's prevail in the AL as Toronto and Texas Tout much Talent

By W.G. Ramirez

Cosmetic or plastic surgery - you decide. The American League raided themselves and the National League while acquiring sluggers, high average hitters and even a few NL starting pitchers. Last year the Minnesota twins surprised everyone with the second best record in the league and followed that with a seven-game decision over the NL darkhorse Atlanta Braves. Well the Twins, like in '87, after their last World Series championship, have lost key players to free agency. Fortunately, for the Toronto Blue Jays, one of the free agents that happened to be picked up was World Series MVP Jack Morris.

Hmmm...should be an interesting year-

#### AL EAST

The Toronto Blue Jays-"The Canadian Engine That Hasn't." It seems as if the 'Jays don't want to win a championship. They've dominated the East, captured three titles in the past seven years, and have yet to be involved in the October classic. What seems to be the problem boys? GM Pat Gillick says by obtaining Morris, designated

hitter Dave Winfield and having minor-league sensation Derek Bell ready for the outfield, all the pieces are in place for a World Series Championship. The Blue Jays will also see the return of Dave Stieb who hadn't pitched since May 22 due to a herniated disc. Helping Winfield out in the power department will be right-



JOE CARTER

fielder Joe Carter, who became the first batter to drive in 100 or more runs for three different teams in consecutive seasons. Bell, who dominated the International League, will also carry some of the burden. Avoiding

injury, you can expect to see Toronto somewhere in the pennant race come October.

Are you superstitious? If you're a fan of the Boston Red Sox you should be. The Red Sox have won division championships in even-numbered years since 1986 and in case you haven't noticed, it's 1992. Not only that, but Cy Young winner Roger Clemens finally might have the help he has been looking for. Former Cy Young winner Frank Viola was signed as a

free agent and southpaw Joe Hesketh re-signed with Boston. Pitching coach Rich Gale will have to mold youngsters Mike Gardiner and Kevin Morton into substantial winners with lower ERA's. With Clemens and Viola's knowledge, the pitching staff may come along just fine. The power will have to come from Wade Boggs and Jack Clark.

Veterans Robin Yount and Paul Molitor will hope their "end of the season surge" will carry

over to this season for their Milwaukee Brewers. Joining ace Jaime Navarro, in the rotation, will be Don Plesac. Plesac struggled as a reliever but he responded so well as a starter that the club decided to try something new. The brewers are pleased with their outfield now that Greg Vaughn and Darryl Hamilton have proven themselves on each side of Yount in center. Vaughn and Hamilton have often proved to strikeout too much but their power should

carry them through the line-up.

It'll be all or nothing for Detroit offensively. It led the majors in runs and home runs, but was last in league hitting at .241 and averaged a major-league worst 7.3 strikeouts per game. Cecil Fielder cracked 44 HR's last year and was aided by five teammates that hit 20 or more HR's. Their 4.51 ERA was 12th in the league last year. Obviously we know where Detroit needs help.

The once proud franchise of  
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## SHARK'S SPURS

### TARKANIAN HEADED FOR SAN ANTONIO

By W.G. Ramirez

The San Antonio Spurs announced, this past Wednesday, that Jerry Tarkanian has been signed as the new Head Coach of the Spurs. Tarkanian-who signed a multi-year deal with the Spurs-will not take over coaching duties of the team until the 1991-92 season is over.

"I really like the players on this team," said Tarkanian in a 2:00p.m. press conference at the Spurs office. "I hope I can come in here and get the running game going in San Antonio and make the Spurs the Runnin' Spurs. I like this team very, very much. And I'm real excited to be here. Hopefully we can put everything together here and have some great seasons. The Spurs have the potential to be an outstanding team."

Tarkanian comes to the Spurs from the college ranks,

spending the last 19 seasons here at UNLV. He established himself as one of the best coaches in NCAA history, putting together a 509-105 record at UNLV. In the 1989-90 season the Shark brought UNLV college basketball's ultimate award, winning the NCAA Championship game.

Overall Tark spent 24 seasons coaching at the Division I level, posting a 625-122 record during that time. And his winning percentage of .837 is the best in NCAA history. In his 24 seasons at the Division I level, Tarkanian took his teams to post-season play 16 times, including three trips to the NCAA Final Four.

"This is a significant step for our franchise," said Spurs owner Red McCombs. "Jerry Tarkanian's coaching record is unequalled. But to me, equally

important, is the fact that Coach Tark really wanted to coach this team. He knows something about the spirit that we have here in San Antonio as it is similar to the kind of involvement that he and his family had in Las Vegas. I can't tell you how related I am that we have Tark. He is a great coach and a great human being."

The 61 year-old Tarkanian has been a head coach in the college ranks for 31 years and has an overall record of 837-158. Before going to UNLV he spent five seasons at Long Beach St. and seven seasons in the junior college ranks, at Pasadena City College and Riverside City College. In his seven seasons at the junior college level the Tark was 212-28 for a .891 percentage, which is the best percentage in history at that level. In his 31 years Tark's



NEW SANANTONIO COACH  
JERRY TARKANIAN

teams have reached the 20-win mark 29 times and never in his 31 years has one of his teams turned in a losing season.

It has been speculated that Tarkanian signed a two-year contract with the option for a third. The Shark should make, at least, 2-3 times as much as he was making at UNLV.

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