

(Continued from Page 14)
 the N.Y. Yankees will have to be born again and also learn to crawl before they walk while the Cleveland Indians will have to baby their 'til scouts. Not one gray hair in the field for Indian manager Mike Hargrove. Definitely a team for the future. As for the Baltimore Orioles, the only thing that truly looks good is their new Camden Yards ballpark!!!

AL WEST

If the Texas Rangers could take the burden off the 45-year-old Nolan Ryan, they'd be the team to beat. The Rangers will travel only as far as their pitchers carry them. Jose Guzman may be Ryan's only help. Bobby Witt and Kevin Brown worry

Texas most of all while a fifth spot in the rotation is still open. Fans who like offense will love this team. After acquiring SS Dickie Thon, Texas could lead the majors in scoring again. The Rangers had leaders in six AL offensive categories including batting champion Julio Franco at .341. Rafael Palmeiro and Ruben Sierra also carry good sticks while being considered two of the best outfielders in the game. All three had 200 or more hits last season.

Chicago Knows They're Bo-less!!! Counting on the rapid maturity of young pitchers Alex Fernandez and Wilson Alvarez, White Sox coach Gene Lamont knows it'll be a struggle to boost Chicago over the top after con-

secutive second-place finishes. Jack McDowell was the only starter with a winning record last season. Frank Thomas, only the 38th player in history to reach base 300 times (317), and Robin Ventura will be an outstanding

lineup duo. Ozzie Guillen and Lance Johnson will key Chicago's defense while veteran Carlton Fisk will play the role of the leader-excellent choice.

The Seattle Mariners will be the sleeper in the AL West, if not

the AL, this year. Slugger Kevin Mitchell joins young superstar Ken Griffey, Jr. and Jay Buhner to form a deadly outfield not to mention a powerful lineup. If the Mariners pitchers stay healthy for first-year coach Bill Plummer, it'll be sad October for Texas and Chicago.

The California Angels were a slow, aging club last season with a high payroll. New General Manager Whitey Herzog used that checkbook to acquire veterans Von Hayes and Hubie Brooks at the winter meetings. Hopes for a 1992 first-place division finish lay on the shoulders of lefties Mark Langston, Chuck Finley and Jim Abbott. Herzog states that he isn't into rebuilding and wants to do it all now. Not a smart move Whitey.

After three straight division titles and a World Series crown, the Oakland Athletics have literally flopped. They closed to within three games of first place by mid-August and ended up winning only 20 of their last 50 games bouncing to fourth place. Well, you can never rule out a team that boasts Jose Canseco, Rickey & Dave Henderson, Mark McGwire, Harold Baines and a



KEN GRIFFEY JR.

pitching staff that includes Dave Stewart, Mike Moore and Bob Welch...or can you?

They were incredible, fabulous and inspirational - in 1991. The Minnesota Twins have lost their MVP Jack Morris and clutch player Dan Gladden. So now what, fill the holes, regroup and rebuild-see ya in a few years.

Time to scrape the bottom of the barrel. The Kansas City Royals signed top notch players in Kevin McReynolds, Gregg Jeffries and Wally Joyner but where is Bret Saberhagen? Oh well, it'll be fun for the others - kind of like a scrimmage- yeh, that's it.

★ ★ ★ SPORTS BRIEFS ★ ★ ★

PRO BASKETBALL

NBA LEADERS (as of 4/15/92):

SCORERS

Michael Jordan, Chicago 30.4
 Karl Malone, Utah 27.8
 Chris Mullin, Golden St. 26.0

REBOUNDS

Dennis Rodman, Detroit 18.7
 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

NOTES:

Three teams, Portland, Chicago and Utah, have clinched their division while Boston and New York are still battling for the Atlantic Division title. Portland and Chicago have both clinched home court advantage throughout the conference playoffs.

QUOTES:

"Portland is the best team out here. They certainly are the team to beat in the West." San Antonio coach Bob Bass about the Trail Blazers after Portland clinched the Western Conference last Sunday against the Spurs.

COLLEGE

BASKETBALL NOTES:

Lou Carnesecca retired as coach of St. Johns on Monday, a month before his enshrinement in Basketball Hall of Fame. After 24 seasons at St. Johns, Car-

nesecca stepped down with a career record of 526-200. His teams produced 20-win seasons 18 times and carried the Red-man to postseason play every year he coached.

6-foot point guard Lawrence Thomas, of Elizabeth, N.J., signed a letter-of-intent Wednesday, insuring his plans to become UNLV Head Coach Rollie Massimino's first Rebel signee.

BASEBALL NOTES:

One week into the season, a complete All-Star line-up has been placed on the injury list as follows:

- 1B-Kent Hrbek OF-D.Henderson
- 2B-Julio Franco Lenny Dykstra
- 3B-Chris Sabo Kevin Bass
- SS-Walt Weiss P-Nolan Ryan
- C-Carlton Fisk Rob Dibble

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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**SPECIAL EBONY/JET SHOWCASE
 MAGIC JOHNSON STARS**



Basketball great **Magic Johnson**, who stunned the world with his admission that he has tested positive for the HIV virus, stars on a special edition of EBONY/JET SHOWCASE, also featuring Grammy Award-winning singer **Lisa Fischer** the weekend of April 17th - April 19th (consult your local listing for date and time.)

The SHOWCASE explores the wizardry of **Magic Johnson**, the former star point guard for the Los Angeles Lakers basketball team who resigned last November after testing positive for the HIV virus. In a special two-part segment, which captures some of Magic's statements during his historical press conference, the NBA giant talks candidly about his illness, and gives insight into his controversial future in basketball.

Plus, EBONY/JET SHOWCASE illustrates the career highs of the three-time playoff MVP, with an overview of Magic's 12 years with the Lakers, including five championship victories.

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