

N.L. First Half Report TRICKLE DOWN ECONOMICS PLAGUE SAN DIEGO PADRES

(Teams were selected randomly. Due to limited space, not all teams were included)

When you have a 24-year old infielder that is capable of capturing not one, not two, but all three jewels of the Triple Crown, consistently, it would seem logical that this would be the person you'd build your team around. Unfortunately, the **San Diego Padres** haven't caught on to this logic.

The "trickle-down" Padres sent third basemen Gary Sheffield and reliever Rich Rodriguez to the expansion Florida Marlins for reliever Trevor Hoffman and minor league pitchers Jose Martinez and Andres Berumen.

First of all, it seems strange that the Pads had to include that *and*, in there, sending Rodriguez along in the trade. The Marlins probably would have been content with the likes of Sheffield coming in to town, in order to

deliver souvenir balls to youngsters in the outfield bleachers, via his bat.

In a strange but interesting season, San Diego looks lost amongst the Western Division contenders, even the Colorado Rockies.

Now with first baseman Fred McGriff rumored to be on the trading block, the Padres are beginning to look like the two expansion teams that are starting from scratch. The Braves, Orioles and Yankees have shown interest in McGriff, and Atlanta looks like the leading candidate.

The Sheffield trade has spurned some tension in San Diego, leaving many unhappy. Most fans and Sheffield's former teammates believe his \$3.11 million salary was the sole reason for the deal. "It's an old-fashioned baseball trade, I'm sorry," outfielder Tony Gwynn

says. "Gary Sheffield is not the type of player you ever want to trade. He is only going to get better. You trade a guy like that, and it is going to upset the community and the clubhouse." Two season-ticket holders have filed a lawsuit against the Padres, claiming fraud and misrepresentation.

San Francisco Giants- While San Diego is caught up with "internal affairs," former L.A. Dodger Dusty Baker is guiding his Giants to a first place lead in the N.L. West. Head Coach Baker has motivated a suspect squad into a strong power in a division that was expected to be dominated by the Atlanta Braves. Moving in, not only on the NL MVP award, but possibly being regarded as the best baseball player around, Barry Bonds is earning every penny of his six-year \$43.75 million contract. He is among the leaders in almost every category and with Papa Bonds, Bobby, running the hitting show, 'Frisco looks to be the team to beat in the N.L. West.

Atlanta Braves- In Atlanta, Otis Nixon's pouting, Terry Pendleton's tyrants and Deion Sanders' glitz and glamour have been the main highlight of their season.

With Sanders and Nixon splitting time in the outfield, Otis is crying for a trade, claiming that Prime Time is all talk. The only category that Sanders holds the edge over Nixon is doubles and unless he starts hitting them every at-bat, Atlanta will need a lot more from Neon Deion. After briefing Marvin Freeman at the mound and demanding a brush-back pitch against the Phillies,

SPORTS CAMPY!!!



When Jackie Robinson signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers, it paved the way for many Black baseball players. One of the all-time greats that played along side Robinson with the Dodgers in the 1950's was three-time National League MVP Roy Campanella.

The power-hitting catcher, whose Hall of Fame career was ended by an automobile accident, passed away Saturday, June 26 at age 71

of a heart attack.

Campanella joined Robinson and the Dodgers in 1948 and captured his first MVP trophy in 1951. 1953 and '55 were the other two years that Campy captured the honor.

In 1953 he set major league records for catchers with 41 home runs and 142 runs batted in. His admiration and determination for the game was tremendous.

Campanella once appeared in four games with the Baltimore Elites, playing in a double-header in Cincinnati and a twi-nighter in Middletown, Ohio.

It was the age of 15 when Campanella joined the Baltimore Elite Giants of the Negro National League, leaving school and his \$15-a-week position with the Bacharach Giants of Brooklyn, to eventually making \$3,000 per season after nine hard years.

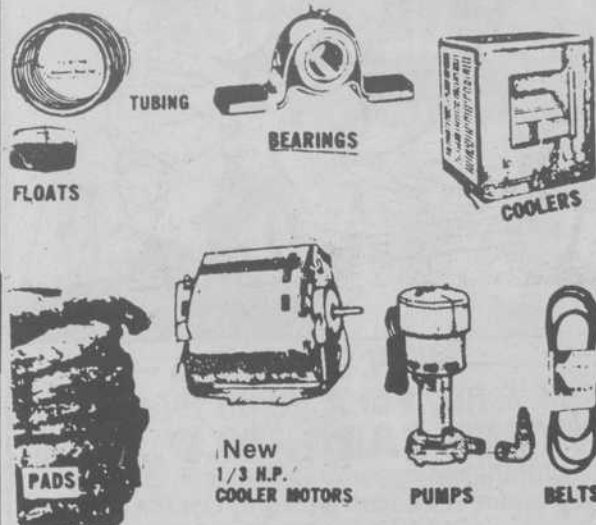
Eventually it was Brooklyn mogul Branch Rickey that recruited Campy to the Dodgers' organization in 1946.

Campanella began his career with the Dodgers' Class-B New England farm club in Nashua, N.H. Campy was joined by pitcher Don Newcombe, as they both became instant stars working for less than \$200 a month, and acquiring the dream of some day making it to the big leagues. The rest is history. We'll miss you Campy!!!



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Pendleton walked off the field when Freeman did not respond to Pendleton's "suggestion." The "so-called dynamic" pitching staff that everyone thought the Braves would have, has been less than spectacular. Steve Avery has been the most consistent pitcher, but John Smoltz and Cy Young winner Greg Maddux haven't been able to find their rhythm.

Tom Glavine has compiled a winning record but has slipped a bit as of late.

Los Angeles Dodgers- While L.A. is going to have to deal without the services of Darryl Strawberry for the remainder of the season, it'll be "the rookie" that brings traditional Dodger Blue back to life on Elysian Park Drive. Leading candi-

date for N.L. Rookie of the Year catcher Mike Piazza leads the Dodgers in hitting with a .324 batting average as well as Home Runs, RBI's and Slugging Percentage. Piazza has already hit as many home runs as former Cincinnati Reds Hall of Famer Johnny Bench did in his rookie season in 1968. Piazza is steal-

(See Baseball, Page 19)

DEXTER BONEY HEADS TO L.A.

By W.G. Ramirez

According to Marty Blake, NBA Director of Scouting Services, former Runnin' Rebel Dexter Boney was one of the top 65 recruits for the NBA draft. Unfortunately, on June 30, only 54 players were drafted and Boney was one of the unlucky remaining prospects.

What's next for Dex?

Boney will participate in the Southern California Summer Pro League in hopes of enticing some NBA scouts.

"I'm gonna go out there and do my best," said Boney, who left today for Los Angeles. "Then I'll just hope."

The summer league will begin with a pair of grueling practices on Friday and Satur-

day. The first game will be played this Sunday, when the L.A. Lakers' entry squad will begin their eight-game schedule, which will last almost two weeks.

The league runs through July 22, at the Bren Events Center on the campus of UC Irvine, where teams from Portland, the Clippers and Phoenix are already scheduled to face the Lakers' entry.

An official roster for the team has not been released but confirmed names include Boney, L.A. Lakers guard Duane Cooper, 2nd round draft choice Nick Van Exel and former New Mexico State forward Tracey Ware.

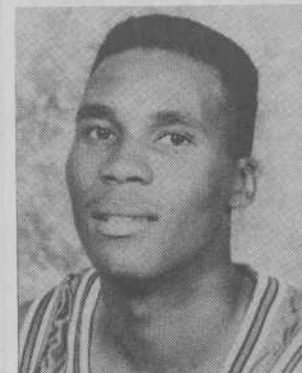
A media relations source from the Lakers mentioned that there are a number of other teams

with summer entry squads including one that is coached by John Lucas. The team is comprised of players that may have been involved in drugs and are now rehabilitated.

There weren't any other teams scheduled to play yet, but the source was confident that regardless of the competition, it was going to be 11 long days for these aspiring players.

While it seems that the Lakers are in a transition period, hoping to rebuild the once powerful team they had, Boney would fit well in any run-and-gun offense, as well as any tenacious defensive squad.

Boney will be playing for the Lakers' entry team, but he also may raise some eyebrows of



DEXTER BONEY

other NBA team scouts, which could lead to an invitation to training camp.

A representative from every team will be present, as well as scouts from the Continental Basketball Association, and overseas teams.