

The National League Reds to rule West . . .

By LEE ROBERTS
Staff Writer

A team from the NL West hasn't won a real World Series (the Dodgers won the 1981 Strike Tourney, but that was a farce) in 10 years. And don't expect the Dodgers to show up at the October hoedown this year.

1. Cincinnati — Yup, Pete Rose and gang are back in the thick of things and will win the flag this year. They have potentially the best starting staff in the West in Tom Browning, Mario Soto, Bill Gullickson and John Denny; solid relief in young John Franco and Ted Power. As for hitting, start with Dave Parker, who should have won the MVP last year after hitting .312 with 34 homers and 125 RBIs, throw in a solid infield of Buddy Bell, Dave Concepcion, Ron Oester and the ageless first-base duo of Rose and Tony Perez (.328), add a bushel full of young talented outfielders (Eric Davis, Kal Daniels, Tracy Jones) and you've got the nucleus of a division title team.

2. Houston — The 'Stros have a lot of talent, and they've got momentum from a great second half of '85. Nolan Ryan, Bob Knepper and Mike Scott are starters and Frank DiPino and Dave Smith (27 saves) a formidable right-lefty combo out of the bullpen. The infield is solid, Glenn Davis (.271, 20 HR in only 350 at-bats as a rookie) will give Houston much-needed clout and the outfield of Jose Cruz (.300 yet again), Kevin Bass and Terry Puhl is as good as any in the division. But can they put

it together for more than a half-season?

3. Los Angeles — Oh, Tommy Lasorda, will you ever forget Jack Clark's home run last October? The blue Dodgers have great pitching in the forms of Fernando Valenzuela, Jerry Reuss, Bob Welch and Orel Hershiser, with Tom Niedenfuer and Ken Howell in the pen. Mike Marshall (.293, 28 HR) is a star, but Lasorda needs to find some infield punch, a leadoff hitter and someone to replace Pedro Guerrero (.320, 33 HR) for three months while he nurses an injured knee.

4. San Diego — Look for the Padres to rebound from a disappointing '85. Dick Williams is gone, which should lift morale and guys like Kevin McReynolds and Terry Kennedy should bounce back from off years. But Goose Gosage is 35, Graig Nettles is 41, and Steve Garvey is overrated (81 RBI in 654 at-bats for a power hitter stinks).

5. Atlanta — If the Braves are America's Team, America is in trouble. Atlanta stunk up the South last year and, despite some positive moves (like dumping Pascual Perez, Len Barker, Terry Forster, etc.) and the best player in baseball in Dale Murphy, they won't exactly come out smelling like roses this year.

6. San Francisco — The Giants are a nightmare. The outfield is good when it feels like it, the starting pitching is horrendous, and everyone hates Candlestick Park. These guys are going nowhere.

Sports

. . .but Mets are best

By JAMES SUROWIECKI
Assistant Sports Editor

The N.L. East has been the home of heartbreak the last two years, as both the Cubs and Cardinals have fallen just short. Thanks to Messrs. Gooden and Strawberry, this will be the year the division wins it all.

1. New York — The Mets are the best team in baseball, and they will win the World Series after two consecutive late-season disappointments. To begin with, the Mets have a pitching staff that should be hurling in Valhalla. Everyone knows about Dwight (24-4, 1.53) Gooden. And behind him are only Ron Darling (16-6), Sid Fernandez (5.71 hits, 9.51 K's per nine innings), and Rick Aguilera, who has tremendous stuff and great poise. Fifth starter Bob Ojeda could make this staff as good as the Dodgers'.

Not that they won't score runs. Wally Backman (.320 against right-handers) and Tim Lincecum will provide a strong platoon combination at second base, and in Keith Hernandez, who hit .309 with 34 doubles, and Gary Carter (.281, 32 HR, 100 RBI), New York has two great leaders and terrific two-way players.

But the heart of the Mets is in right field, where Darryl Strawberry roams. His seven-week absence last year cost the Mets the pennant. All he did when he was playing was slug .557, compile an OBP of .389 and hit 29 homers with 79 RBI. Wilson, Heep, Foster and Dykstra make this a dynamite outfield. If the Mets stay healthy, this race won't even be close.

2. Chicago — Forget last year. No one saw the real Cubs after June, when the whole team seemed to go down with

an injury. The real Cubs have a tough pitching staff led by Rick Sutcliffe and the best second baseman in baseball in Ryne Sandberg (.305, 26 HR, 54 SB). If Leon Durham recovers from his '85 blues and Keith Moreland (.307, 106 RBI) stays hot, the Cubs will be tough. But they won't be nearly tough enough.

3. St. Louis — Too much has been said about this team already. Vince Coleman is enormously overrated, and there's no way McGee and Herr will repeat last year's performance. Andy Van Slyke, Jack Clark (.393 OBP, 22, 87) and Ozzie Smith are terrific, but this team just isn't as good as the Mets. The loss of Andujar, especially with Cox's injury, will hurt more than expected.

4. Phillies — If this team had any pitching, it might contend. After all, the Phillies have some splendid young talent and can always count on Mike Schmidt (.532 slugging, .375 OBP, 33 HR) to solidify the middle of the order. Juan Samuel had 63 extra-base hits and made great strides in his sophomore year, and if incredibly underrated Gary Redus (.366 OBP) leads off, he'll score 120 runs. But a pitching staff whose ace is Shane Rawley condemns Philly to the second division.

5. Montreal — The Expos fought hard and well last year, but still came up 16½ games short. With Bryn Smith (18-5) and Joe Hesketh, Montreal has the makings of a fine rotation, and there has never been an NL leadoff man as good as Tim Lincecum (.405 OBP, 70 SB, 115 runs). But the Expos have no catcher to speak of, and Andre Dawson is slowly fading away.

6. Pittsburgh — It took a fight, but Pittsburgh succeeded in keeping the Pirates for another year. Why?

Scoreboard

Tennis
UNC 8, N.C. State 1
Singles—Jeff Chambers (UNC) d. Kristler Larzon 6-0.

6-0 David Pollack (UNC) d. Michael Gilbert 6-0, 6-3.
3 Mark DeMatteis (UNC) d. Alfonso Ochoa 6-2, 6-4.
4 Jimmy Weibbaeher (UNC) d. Brian Mavor 6-1, 6-3.
3 John Coss (UNC) d. Richard Bryant 6-1, 6-4.
4 Koley Keel (UNC) d. Wade Jackson 7-5, 6-7, 6-2.
Doubles—Chambers-DeMatteis (UNC) d. Bryant-Larzon 3-6, 7-5, 6-0.
Gilbert-Mavor (NCS) d. Bobby Stanley-Alex Boyd 7-6, 6-1.
Anderson-Kessler (UNC) d. Hubbard-Ochoa 5-7, 6-2, 6-3.

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Squash coming to Fetzter

By GREG COOK
Staff Writer

History will be made this weekend at UNC when Fetzter Gymnasium will play host to 75 participants in its first-ever squash tournament.

"There has been a growing interest in squash in North Carolina and throughout the country," said Steve Friedman, sponsor and technical adviser for the tournament. "I'm hoping this tournament will become an annual event."

Squash is played on a four-wall court with a rectangular space of about 30 by 15 feet. The serve must be 17 inches above the floor and all other shots must hit above a line designated at 6½ feet.

A rally in squash continues until the

ball bounces on the floor twice or hits below the 6½ line. A typical squash racket is slightly smaller, but stronger, than a badminton racket.

Scott Martin, president of the UNC Squash Club agreed with Friedman's assessment of the sport's popularity.

"The number of participants in the tournament indicates a very good start for squash in the Triangle," Martin said. "I was quite astounded with the number of entries we got."

The tournament will feature both a hardball and softball division. "The hardball division is similar to playing tennis on a grass surface because it requires more power," Friedman said. "The softball division is more like playing tennis on clay because it usually requires more finesse."

The Daily Tar Heel Classified Advertising

announcements

CAROLINA STUDENTS FOR TERRY SANFORD are meeting in the Union, Room 218 on Wed. at 7pm. All interested students please come out and lend support!

1986-87 UNC Glee Club Auditions: April 1-10. See class schedule for rehearsal times. Call 962-5695 or 962-1039 for more information or for an appointment.

OBSTERS DON'T FORGET THE RETREAT THIS SATURDAY, APRIL 5, at the Battle House 4:00 pm.

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Join the excitement of the Marching Carolines Flag Team. Try-outs April 4-6. Sign up today at the band office.

Varsity Cheerleading Try-outs on Monday, April 7th at 6:30 p.m. in Carmichael Auditorium.

Lacrosse on WXYC FM-89.1! It's Carolina vs. Johns Hopkins live Saturday at 1:45 p.m. on the WXYC Sports Network. Join Mike Schoor, Boyd "O" Harden and Mac Ford for all the excitement. Carolina-Hopkins lacrosse. Saturday at 1:45 on WXYC.

STUDY IN SPAIN THIS FALL.

UNC System Sponsored Program of Studies at The University of Santander, Spain. Five courses offered (up to 15 credit hours), field trips and more. Call 737-2475.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT: June 2-Aug 15, National Can Corp. A national container mfg. needs students for recycling promotion work. Travel overnight within the state will be required. Interviews will be conducted on Tuesday, April 8 for those meeting the following criteria: 1) major: marketing 2) GPA:3.0-3.3 must be completing either the sophomore or junior year. Compensation will be \$175/week and travel expenses and incentive bonuses. If interested, contact Robin Joseph, Placement Office, 962-6507

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WORLD HEALTH WEEK

Keynote Address
Monday, April 7
Dr. George Lythcott
Dean of CUNY School of Medicine
Former Assistant US Surgeon General
Health For All by the Year 2000:
An Overview
12:30
Auditorium
School of Public Health

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