# **Sports**

# Okay, listen up — once again, Oakland is too much to handle

Six months ago it was time for the daring, innovative and knowledgeable prognosticators of the baseball world to make their preseason picks for the 1988 season, and this writer told you to bet the ranch and the dog on the Oakland Athletics to win the American league pennant. You can look it up.

Now, more than 2,000 baseball games later, the Fall Classic matches the National League champion Los Angeles Dodgers and the American League champion. . . Oakland A's.

The young, powerful Oakland squad rolls into L.A. this weekend to challenge the scrappy, opportunistic boys from Tinseltown. A positionby-position analysis follows:

First Base - Mark McGwire, who finished with 32 home runs and 99 RBIs in the regular season, will be batting cleanup against the Dodgers. After a great rookie season, he finished "only" third in the AL in homers for 1988. His L.A. counterpart, hitting against the Athletics' three righthanded starters, will be lefthander Franklin Stubbs. Stubbs' .223 batting average is not an illusion. He always seems to look like, and play like, he's in some kind of hypnotic trance.

#### Advantage: Oakland

Second Base - The A's will probably go with the light-hitting combination of Tony Phillips and Mike Gallego. The Dodgers will play lead-off man Steve Sax, who sets the table for the sluggers behind him in Tommy Lasorda's lineup. Sax can spark this team with his hitting, speed, hustle and, yes, even his defense.

## **Dave Glenn**

## Asst. Sports Editor

Oakland sweep. No, Alfredo Griffin is not in a slump — he always hits that way. Griffin hit .199 during the regular season and managed to do even worse against the Mets. Indeed, it was because of the development of Weiss that the A's could package Griffin to the Dodgers during the offseason.

#### Advantage: Oakland

Third Base - Carney Lansford, a one-time AL batting champion, is still productive at the plate. He batted .279 in 1988 and added 29 stolen bases for good measure. The A's will need his speed against the tough Dodger starters. The Dodgers have untested Jeff Hamilton at the hot corner, who can be a butcher defensively. That could become a big problem against the A's.

#### Advantage: Oakland

**Right Field** — Jose Canseco will be the MVP of the American League. An extraordinary combination of power and speed, Canseco had 42 homers, 124 RBIs and 40 stolen bases on the year. The .300 hitter showed his immunity to pressure with three blasts against the Red Sox. The Dodgers have a player of their own in Mike Marshall, who will be heavily depended upon for offensive production in the inconsistent Dodger attack. He led the team with 82 RBIs and 12 game-winners.

Advantage: Oakland Center Field - Oakland's Dave Rick Honevcutt, Gene Nelson, Eric

and is no longer a great stolen base threat.

Advantage: Oakland

Left Field - The A's will have some combination of Luis Polonia and Dave Parker in left, but anything they can offer will pale in comparison to the Dodgers' Kirk Gibson. He's a winner, pure and simple. He has the talent and he makes the most of it at the most important times.

Advantage: Los Angeles

**Catcher** — The Athletics will have either Terry Steinbach or Ron Hassey behind the plate. Both hit for decent average and provide occasional power. Defensively, they could have some trouble throwing out Sax and Gibson. The Dodgers have Mike Scioscia, who showed he can come up with the big hit against the Mets. He's also a great handler of pitchers, and he has a good arm.

#### Advantage: Los Angeles

Starters - Oakland's Dave Stewart (21-12) and Storm Davis (16-7) are hot. Bob Welch, an ex-Dodger, is not. But all three have faced the Dodgers before. The Dodgers have one of the hottest pitchers in the history of baseball in 23-game winner Orel Hershiser. Rookie Tim Belcher will be hard-pressed to duplicate his two playoff wins. Tim Leary is a loss waiting to happen. John Tudor must return to form if the Dodgers are to have a chance.

#### Advantage: Oakland

Relievers — The A's have the security that if they take a lead into the eighth inning they have a victory, thanks to Dennis Eckersley and his 45 saves. The crew of Greg Cadaret,

# Setter Hopkins making the most of her chance to start

## By DAVE SUROWIECKI

The scene is Carmichael Auditorium. The time is almost any time. Whether it is before practice, after practice or on the rare free day, you can almost always find budding UNC volleyball star Patti Hopkins working on her game.

Says UNC volleyball coach Peggy Bradley-Doppes, "Right now Patti is a player who is looking for additional help. She is coming in a lot on her own, and for a coach to have a Division 1 player who has to practice four days a week anyway and compete the other two days, come in and say 'Can I work extra?' - it's powerful and very exciting."

Hopkins, a sophomore from St. Louis, is one of the Tar Heels' two main setters. In recent weeks, she has been thrust into the spotlight, becoming UNC's primary playmaker as a result of an injury to senior tri-captain Sherri Vogel. Hopkins has played exceptionally, and the Heels are winning with her setting the pace in a 5-1 offense.

"I'm very pleased with the way we're playing right now with Patti setting," says Bradley-Doppes. "She seems very confident in her ability, but more importantly she feels very confident in the players' ability to pull things out."

Vogel is back, and Bradley-Doppes anticipates that her return will push each player to new levels of play.

"I think competition is good for all of us." Bradley-Doppes said.



Patti Hopkins

defensive player who leads the team with 2.67 digs per game.

Says Bradley-Doppes, "She can fire up the team and ignite a lot of enthusiasm with her great defense, and she has been our defensive player of the week for two weeks in a row."

When Hopkins was around 14 or 15, she attended a camp in North Carolina and was immediately enamored of the state. "I fell in love with the area," Hopkins said. As a result, she decided to spend her college years here in Chapel Hill.

In high school, Hopkins was an AAU All-American in the triple jump and had hoped to run track in college. Unfortunately, she suffered an injury in her senior year that prevented her from double-lettering. Although Hopkins had been mostly a hitter/setter on her high school volleyball team, she was well-prepared for the step up in competition she faced when she came to UNC last fall.

sure," Hopkins said, "but I had played with a lot of very good people (in summer leagues and on all-star teams), so the transition wasn't that overwhelming for me. I didn't think the academics or athletics were that much harder. just different."

When Hopkins is not on the blue and white hardwoods of Carmichael, you can usually find her relaxing in her room tuning in to some Pink Floyd, catching up on her sleep or hanging out with a small group of friends.

"I don't go out to places like Four Corners, frat parties or anything like that," Hopkins said. "I feel out of place there."

She has found that all the traveling with the team makes it much more difficult to do homework. "We've traveled three weekends in a row, missing Friday classes, and it's not the actual traveling that's hard, it's making up the work you've misssed," Hopkins said. "When you get home late at night, sometimes you just don't have the energy to make the time necessary to do all your. work."

After college, Hopkins plans on going overseas to play in the European professional leagues for a few years, not so much just to forward her volleyball, but to take in the culture.

Life after volleyball will probably hold a teaching career for the sophomore education major, who right now is making major strides . in her volleyball career. "Patti is a great athlete, there's no doubt about that," Bradley-Doppes said. "But now she's a ... more controlled player, a moreseasoned player - she has a lotmore body control, ball control.

Advantage: Los Angeles

Shortstop - UNC's Walt Weiss makes all of the plays in the field and has proved to be a tough out at the plate, too. He had a big hit against Boston to help steal a win in the

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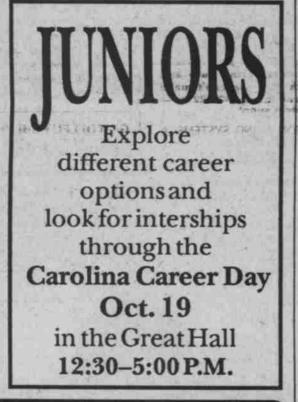
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Henderson quietly compiled some impressive numbers for the regular season and followed that up with a six-hit, four-RBI performance against the Red Sox. He's built upon the momentum from a 24-homer, 94-RBI campaign that left him with an impressive .304 average. The Dodgers will count on defensive whiz John Shelby to track down the moonshots off the bats of Oakland sluggers.

Offensively, he strikes out too much



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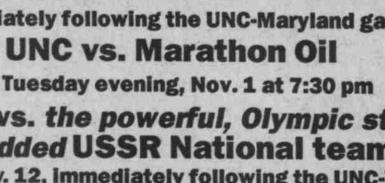
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Plunk and Curt Young has done an effective job when called upon. Dodgers' ace Jay Howell will need more than pine tar to stop the Oakland bats, and his supporting cast is shaky. Brian Holton and Ricky Horton have been effective of late, but Alejandro Pena and Jesse Orosco have not. Advantage: Oakland Pinch hitters — The A's will be

able to rely on veterans Dave Parker, Ron Hassey and Don Baylor in those inevitable late-inning pressure situations that occur in playoff series. The Dodgers will have Mickey Hatcher, when he's not starting, and the unpredictable quartet of Mike Sharperson, Rick Dempsey, Tracy Woodson and Mike Davis. I doubt there's another miracle in that crew. Advantage: Oakland

The final count - 8-3, Oakland. Yes, it's true that the Mets were better then the Dodgers on paper and they lost. But Hershiser can't pitch every game, and Dodgers hitters won't be facing a tired pitching staff this time around. The A's have too much hitting, too much pitching, too much talent for the Dodgers to handle no matter what Kirk Gibson cooks up for his old AL buddies.

It's time to make the call, the last prediction of the baseball season. And, six months later, I still haven't changed my mind - Oakland in six.



"and I think it will make both of them play better, practice better and perform better."

Hopkins is averaging 6.7 assists per game and has a .381 setting percentage. Despite standing a mere 5-foot-6, she has 14 block assists this season, which is a tribute to her jumping ability and tenacious defense. In addition to her setting, Hopkins is an inspiring

"I needed college playing expo-

She's doing very well." When you go looking for Patti Hopkins, just hop on over to Carmichael - she'll be the one bouncing off the walls.



The UNC men's and women's cross country teams finished second and first, respectively, Thursday at the Collegiate Cross Country Championships in Wilmington, which pits teams from across the state against one another.

The men's squad finished with 40 points, 12 off the pace of Brevard. However, the Tar Heels gained some redemption as senior Mike McGowan finished first in the meet with a time of 24:07 over the eight kilometer course. Chuck Lotz finished eighth, freshman Vince Howard finished 12th and Paul Cummings finished 15th for the Tar Heels.

The women's squad totaled 30 points, 12 ahead of N.C. State. Chryssa Nicholas ran the fivekilometer course in 17:28 to take first place, while Michelle Faherty finished fourth, Jeanne Peterson came in fifth and Karen Sahn was ninth for the Tar Heels.



Yes, we're happy - well, sort of. When we last appeared in this space, it was before break. Last week, the four prognosticators weaved their way in and out of Upset Saturday for identical 8-2 records. Hey, we've even got Las Vegas calling us up for our opinions.

Heh, heh, heh.

But it could've been better, because no one gained ground on Mike (Go Mets!) Berardino, thanks to Pat Dye's stupid prevent defense that allowed Tommy Hodson to pick

apart the Tiger secondary en route to a 7-6 victory. Thus, although the 8-2 mark is an impressive one, Analy (Get a real I.D.) Podolsky, Dave (Who cares, just give me a beer) Glenn and Chris (In the Stands) Spencer all stayed in their respective slots behind Berardino.

Believe it or not, this week's toughest pick could be an ACC game. And when you stop laughing, you can make note of the rest of the weekend's picks.

Dave

mes	Berardino (38-11-1).770	Spencer (31-18-1).630	Andy Podolsky (37-12-1).750	Glenn (35-14-1).710	
C. State at UNC	NCSU	UNC	NCSU	UNC .;	
ke at Clemson	Clem.	Clem.	Clem.	Clem.	
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