

The best in the National League: Padres or Cubs?

By KURT ROSENBERG

Staff Writer
The catcher says he realizes the press has a job to do, but when he goes 0-for-4, he is either silent or obnoxious. At first base is a squeaky-clean hero who every parent would love their son to emulate. At second is a former drug abuser currently among the league leaders in stolen bases.

The shortstop often acts bitter and moody and once made obscene gestures to the hometown fans before being traded. A graying, nearly

San Diego

middle-aged third baseman who spent his finest years under George Steinbrenner's volatile tyranny completes the group.

Terry Kennedy, Steve Garvey, Alan Wiggins, Garry Templeton and Graig Nettles undoubtedly constitute baseball's most diverse infield. Around the horn, the San Diego Padres have assembled one of the finest collections of talent in the game today. Without question, the most puzzling.

The pitching staff does not make the team any easier to decipher. Three of the five starters — Eric Show, Dave Dravecky and Mark Thurmond — have proudly proclaimed themselves members of the ultra-conservative John Birch Society. In the bullpen is the fire-breathing, fire-throwing Goose Gossage, one of the sport's fiercest players both on and off the field. And Luis DeLeon, nicknamed "Mambo" because of his inclination to perform Latin dances before his teammates.

If that isn't enough, there is a third-string catcher who has been dubbed "the human typo." Doug Gwosdz' last name is pronounced "goosh."

Perhaps the only thing saving this ship from sinking in a sea of insanity is a relatively normal outfield. Carmelo Martinez, Kevin McReynolds and Tony Gwynn — from left to right — have each proven themselves. Both physically and mentally.

But helping keep things consistent for San Diego, both with his bat and his behavior, is part-time outfielder Bobby Brown. He wears a Michael Jackson hairstyle and plays dominoes with the equipment boys while smoking a cigarette. When he wins, Brown forces his opponents, who are at least half his age, to stand and salute him.

The outfield, though, is dominated by Martinez, McReynolds and Gwynn. All are in their early 20s; youth is on their side. Maybe it is the reason they are unaffected by the madness surrounding them.

Speaking of which, the Padres, who have clinched the National League West, are headed by manager Dick Williams. The same man was fined \$10,000 and suspended for 10 days for instigating a beanball war in Atlanta.

Even the fans are unpredictable. While their team was playing its best baseball since its founding, the crowds remained, for the most part, at home. That is, until Padres beach towels were given away at San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium, or the team's mascot, the Chicken, "hatched" from a styrofoam egg on its 10th anniversary this summer.

Gwynn is the league's best hitter and gets on base nearly half of the time he steps to the plate. Wiggins is the ideal leadoff man, with a knack for reaching first and stealing second. The firepower is provided by Nettles, McReynolds, Kennedy and Martinez, who have helped the Padres hit more than 100 home runs.

The pitching has been surprisingly sound, and defensively, San Diego has been better than average and, at times, stellar. And in the playoffs, there will be needed experience on the roster. Garvey, Nettles and Gossage have plenty.

Everything's fallen into place for this conglomeration of parts not unlike a decaying automobile that's been freshly refurbished and put back on the highway. It's been an unexpectedly smooth ride for the Padres' 1984 model.

By GLENN PETERSON

Staff Writer
Somewhere out there Al Michaels had to be asking "Do you believe in miracles?" Except this time he was not talking about the United States defeating Russia in a hockey game.

No, Michaels was referring to the Chicago Cubs' winning the National League's East Division. And the Cubs' fans, a group who columnist George F. Will called 99.44 percent scar tissue, answered with a resounding yes.

Chicago's fans have had plenty of

Chicago

reason to celebrate this year, and the number of Cubs fans seems to increase with each day. Comedian Bill Murray is so in love with the Cubs that he named his second son after former Cubs hero Ernie Banks. Ernie Murray? No, Homer Banks Murray.

Even President Reagan, an ex-broadcaster for the Cubs, has jumped on the bandwagon. He said that the Cubs' drive for the pennant has reaffirmed his faith in miracles in a recent speech in Chicago. (Cubs fans have

reason to doubt Reagan's allegiance though, since he also did a television commercial for the Detroit Tigers this year. There's no telling how this will affect the election in November.

The Cubs are drawing all this attention because they normally have no idea what winning is all about. The last time the Cubs won anything was in 1945 when they went to the World Series and lost to the Detroit Tigers (many Cubs fans are hoping for a rematch this year). The last time the Cubs won the World Series was in 1908.

How did these lovable losers suddenly discover winning? Simple. They hired General Manager Dallas Green away from the Philadelphia Phillies, and the rest was history.

One of the first major trades Green made was an exchange of shortstops with Philadelphia. Larry Bowa came to the Cubs for Ivan DeJesus. Green didn't think this was a fair enough trade so he was also given Ryne Sandberg in the deal as a throw-in. Every team should have a throw-in like Sandberg.

While Bowa has had a terrible year at the plate, Sandberg is the leading candidate for the MVP award as the Cubs' second baseman. Sandberg leads

the league in runs scored and triples while being in the top 10 in batting average, slugging percentage, doubles and hits. Sandberg has also shown that he has power, with 19 home runs and 81 RBI.

The other Cubs know how to drive in runs as well. Third baseman Ron Cey has 25 home runs and 96 RBI, first baseman Leon Durham has 95 RBI, rightfielder Keith Moreland has 80 RBI, and catcher Jody Davis has 91 RBI.

But then, the Cubs have always had good hitters. Pitchers were as hard to find as night games at Wrigley Field. That is why Cubs fans consider the acquisition of Rick Sutcliffe this year the most important trade Green has made. Sutcliffe is an incredible 15-1 since coming to the team in mid-June.

Cubs fans are already starting to believe in miracles, but if the Cubs win the World Series there's no telling what Chicago fans will start believing. Who knows? This might be the year for Chicago sports fans. The Bears are off to a 3-1 start, and Michael Jordan will be playing for the Bulls. Are more miracles about to happen? Cubs fans will be willing to take one miracle at a time, thank you.

SPORTS

SCOREBOARD

Field Hockey

Temple 2, UNC 1
UNC 1 0 - 1
Temple 0 2 - 2
Scoring: UNC - Jonckheer; Temple - Turchie, Muir.
Assists: UNC - Gillespie, Warren; Temple - Turchie.
Shots: UNC - 18, Temple 16.
Record: UNC - 7-2

Calendar

Today
VOLLEYBALL at N.C. State, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday
FIELD HOCKEY at James Madison, 7 p.m.
VOLLEYBALL at Louisiana State Invitational, TBA (through Saturday)
Saturday
MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY in Tar Heel Invitational, Chapel Hill, TBA
FOOTBALL vs. Kansas, 1 p.m. in Kenan Stadium
WOMEN'S SOCCER in ACC tournament, Fetzer Field, TBA
Sunday
WOMEN'S GOLF at Memphis Women's Intercollegiate, Memphis, Tenn.
MEN'S SOCCER vs. Virginia, Fetzer Field, 2 p.m.

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Bloom County

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NOW AS MUCH AS I APPRECIATE THE GESTURE, I CAN NOT ALLOW--

EVEN THE BREATHTAKING POLITICAL, PHILOSOPHICAL AND RELIGIOUS IMPLICATIONS OF THIS ARE DWAFFED BY THE BREATHTAKING IMPLICATIONS OF EXPLAINING THIS TO MOM.

Peanuts

OUR HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT IS TO DESCRIBE A SUNSET.

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