

sideline

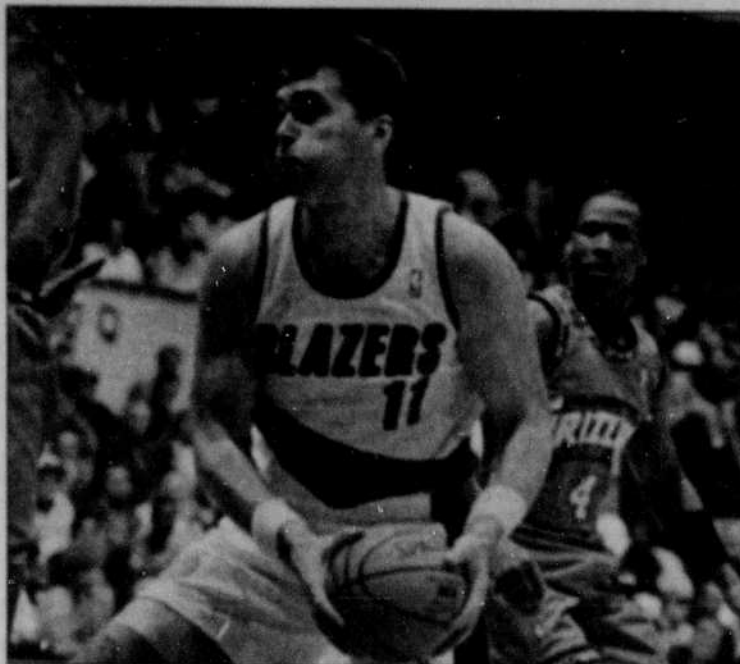
TODAY IN SPORTS

UO honors women

In celebration of the 10th year of women's sports in the Pacific-10 Conference, Oregon named an all-decade team for each of the varsity sports.

Heading the list was Annette Hand Peters, who made the cross country and track and field lists and was named Oregon's female athlete of the decade.

Current Oregon athletes named to the lists are: LaReina Woods (track and field and volleyball), Amy McNeel (volleyball), juniors Renae Fegent and Arianne Boyer (basketball), seniors Kathy Stahl, Lisa Preston, Trina Salcido and Kim Kampfer (softball) and senior Elise Adams (tennis).



Portland center Arvydas Sabonis has been a force since receiving the starting nod on March 8.

Sabonis selected as NBA's weekly best

■ **BLAZERS:** Arvydas Sabonis received the NBA Player of the Week award

NEW YORK (AP) — Portland center Arvydas Sabonis, who led the Trail Blazers to a 4-0 record, was selected NBA player of the week on Tuesday.

Sabonis averaged 20.3 points, 9.5 rebounds and 2.3 blocks last week. He shot 65 percent from the field.

The 7-foot-3-inch Sabonis edged Miami's Alonzo Mourning for the award. Mourning averaged 31.7 points, 12.7 rebounds and 2.3 blocks last week.

Sabonis led Portland with 18 points and 15 rebounds in a

March 25 win over Philadelphia, following up with a team-high 26 points and 14 rebounds in Thursday's win over Golden State.

He scored 16 points in Saturday's win at Houston and had 21 points, three rebounds and three blocked shots in Sunday's win at Dallas.

Portland has won nine of 10 games since Sabonis, a Lithuanian and former Olympian who is an NBA rookie, became a starter March 8, and the Blazers are now chasing Phoenix in the Western Conference standings. Before, center Chris Dudley had started and Sabonis had been saved for the second quarter or when the Blazers needed him, usually late in the game.

Weak Central Divisions offer little more than strong Cleveland squad

■ **AL CENTRAL:** The Indians look like they will run away with the division

By Chris Hansen
Sports Reporter

Picking the favorite to win the American League Central Division is a no-brainer. The Cleveland Indians are just far-and-away the most superior team in this division, not to mention all of the American League.

CLEVELAND INDIANS
(1995: 100-44, first place)

MANAGER: Mike Hargrove

With the most feared offensive lineup in all of baseball, and the addition of Jack McDowell to a starting rotation that already included Orel Hershiser, Dennis Martinez and Charles Nagy, the Indians are going to terrorize opponents all season long.

Only one player in this year's everyday lineup didn't hit .300 or better last season, a lineup still intact except for the loss of first baseman Paul Sorrento, whose 25 home runs and 79 RBI will be easily replaced by the addition of Julio Franco.

By bringing in McDowell, the Indians solidified the starting rotation and with Jose Mesa as the closer, tight games should be little worry.

The bottom line is this: The Indians are just scary. Look for them to win well over 100 games (they won 100 last year in a season 20 games shorter than usual) and cruise into the playoffs.

CHICAGO WHITE SOX
(1995: 68-76, third place)

MANAGER: Terry Bevington

Three short years ago the White Sox were on the verge of greatness, falling two games short of the 1993 World Series. But things didn't exactly pan out as they had planned and being placed in the newly aligned AL Central with the upstart Indians two years ago didn't help.

But the White Sox still have all the makings of good team and a wild card contender. The success of this team depends on

the arms of Alex Fernandez, Wilson Alvarez and Jason Bere, three starting pitchers that showed much potential last year. All three disappointed last season with only Fernandez having a winning record (12-8) and an ERA below 4.3 (3.8 last year).

The White Sox will score runs though, with All Star first baseman Frank Thomas (.308 batting average, 40 home runs and 111 RBI), Robin Ventura and newly acquired DH Harold Baines.

This club should challenge New York for the wild card but don't be surprised if it once again underachieves and finds itself looking up come September.

MINNESOTA TWINS
(1995: 56-88, fifth place)

MANAGER: Tom Kelly

Placing the Twins to finish third in the division is not saying this team is going to be that good, but more of statement of how bad the bottom half of this division is. Let's face it, the Twins were absolutely awful last year so they will almost have to improve to some degree, particularly with the additions of hometown hero Paul Molitor, Rick Aguilera, Roberto Kelly and Dave Hollins.

The problem, as usual, is the pitching. For the last two years the Twins pitchers have had the highest ERA in the league, giving up nearly six runs a game.

The promise of this team, as usual, is that it has players like Kirby Puckett, Chuck Knoblauch, Rookie of the Year Marty Cordova and manager Tom Kelly, who seems to get the most out his players.

The Twins will be respectable, but far from a contender.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS
(1995: 70-74, second place)

MANAGER: Bob Boone

Kansas City royally suffered in the free agent market this winter. Gone are third baseman Gary Gaetti and his 35 home runs and 96 RBI, shortstop Greg Gagne and his solid defense and first baseman Wally Joyner, who

OREGON DAILY EMERALD

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PREDICTIONS

American League Central		National League Central	
 Chris Hansen	 Andrea De Young	 Trevor Kearney	 Pete Schneider
1. CLEVELAND Indians 2. CHICAGO White Sox 3. MINNESOTA Twins 4. KANSAS CITY Royals 5. MILWAUKEE Brewers	1. CLEVELAND Indians 2. CHICAGO White Sox 3. KANSAS CITY Royals 4. MINNESOTA Twins 5. MILWAUKEE Brewers	1. ST. LOUIS Cardinals 2. HOUSTON Astros 3. CINCINNATI Reds 4. CHICAGO Cubs 5. PITTSBURGH Pirates	1. HOUSTON Astros 2. ST. LOUIS Cardinals 3. CHICAGO Cubs 4. CINCINNATI Reds 5. PITTSBURGH Pirates

DENNIS BOLT/Emerald

was immensely popular with the fans and not too shabby at the plate (.312 BA, 12 HRs, and 83 RBI).

In their stead comes shortstop Jose Offerman and his 35 errors and second baseman Bip Roberts. Not exactly an upgrade.

With no real offensive threat in a pitchers ballpark, the Royals would need the Atlanta Braves pitching staff to stay in contention.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS
(1995: 65-79, fourth place)

MANAGER: Phil Garner

It is the same song and dance every year for the oft-injured Brewers, if they stay healthy they should be competitive. But that never seems to happen.

The man who is supposed to lead this team, Greg Vaughn, was finally healthy for more than half of a season last year but did not deliver at the plate and no one else stepped up.

Milwaukee County Stadium will still have the best bratwurst in baseball, but little else to excite fans at the ballpark.

Revamped Cardinals will prevail

By Trevor Kearney
Sports Editor

The National League Central could be the closest league in baseball this season. Not the best league, mind you, but it may just be the closest league.

The remodeled St. Louis Cardinals and the Houston Astros will battle it out for the title, but don't be surprised if Cincinnati is still in the thick of things down the stretch. Don't expect a wild-card from this division, though: The team atop the Central Division may not even be as good as the N.L. wildcard team.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS
(1995: 62-81, fourth place)

MANAGER: Tony La Russa

Talk about a turnaround. Manager Tony La Russa brought some baggage from

Oakland that will probably earn the Cardinals a trip to the N.L. playoffs just one year after battling it out with the Pirates for the cellar spot.

Joining La Russa in St. Louis are former A's Mike Gallego, Rick Honeycutt, Todd Stottlemyre and closer Dennis Eckersley. Lefty Honeycutt and righty Stottlemyre will provide depth in a rotation desperately in need of just that, and a healthy Gallego would provide stability in an infield that now includes Gary Gaetti at third and Royce Clayton at short.

You really can't say enough about the acquisition of Ronny Gant, a free-agent pickup from Cincinnati. He will provide some needed pop in the Cardinal lineup and will mesh

Turn to NL, Page 12