

Ems: Clubhouse leadership still in flux

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leagues, veteran players are valuable to the team.

"They can help a whole lot because they've been around the league for a year," Saul said. "But I don't ever like to bring people back to the same league that they were in. In our organization, we stress fundamentals, the significance of getting people to higher levels and especially the big leagues."

"They don't stress winning baseball every game. I will not do so at the expense of one of the kids. The nature of their progressing is more important to this organization than anything else."

Castro, Sanchez and Strickland are part of a team this season that Saul said will have more speed than last year's, as well as better hitting.

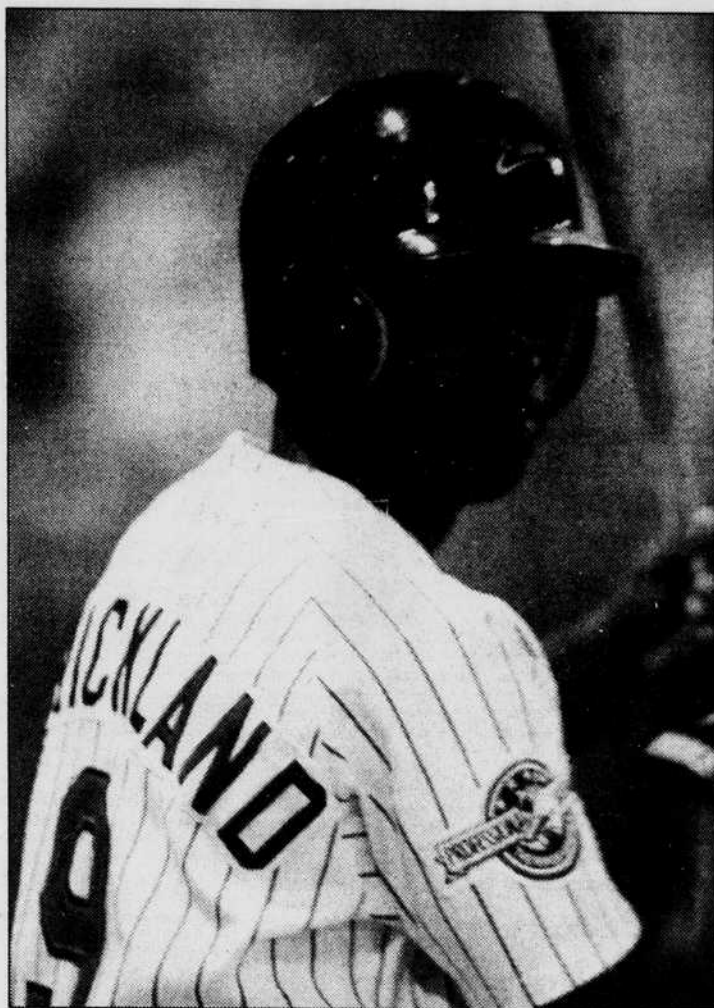
The manager specified right-fielder Jerry Simmons, who was hitting .400 with six runs, five runs batted in and four stolen bases after Sunday, and shortstop Brignac, who through Sunday was hitting .450 with five runs and five RBI, including three on a bases-loaded three-run double in the home opener.

"[Brignac] swings the bat pretty good," Saul said. "He's got some pop in his bat, and if he can continue, he's got a chance to play in higher baseball."

One aspect of the new Ems that hasn't yet been established is clubhouse leadership, something management is being forced to provide for the time being.

"I'm not saying there's one leader out there," Saul said. "They're looking for leadership, and we have to supply that right now until someone steps forward."

Saul said that day may never



Strickland is one of three players returning from last year's team, which finished 31-45.

come.

"There's leaders and there's non-leaders," he said. "As managers we have to be leaders if there is no leader and take the bull by the horns."

The Ems return home to Civic

Stadium on Saturday to begin a five-game series with the Everett AquaSox before traveling to Portland for two games, then hosting the Rockies for three games, beginning with the annual Fourth of July game.

Legendary coach re-honored by NBA

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — The Basketball Hall of Fame has put Lenny Wilkens in select company alongside John Wooden.

The Hall's Board of Trustees on Monday decided to re-induct Wilkens, the winningest coach in NBA history, making him and Wooden the only two-time inductees.

Wilkens was enshrined as a player in 1989 and will go in again on Oct. 2, this time for his 25-year NBA coaching career, the last five with the Atlanta Hawks.

Wooden was first selected in 1961 as a player for his college career at Purdue and then was re-

enshrined as a coach in 1972, three years before he retired after winning his 10th and last national championship at UCLA.

Wilkens, who coached the United States to a gold medal in the 1996 Olympics, has worked with four franchises and is the victory leader for two — Seattle (478) and Cleveland (316).

On Jan. 6, 1995, Wilkens passed Red Auerbach's total of 938 victories when the Atlanta Hawks beat Washington. Wilkens has a career record of 1,120-908, his 1,000th victory coming on March 1, 1996, against Cleveland.

The 60-year-old Wilkens was a

standout player at Providence College, then played 15 seasons in the NBA with St. Louis, Seattle, Cleveland and Portland. He was selected to nine All-Star teams, and his 16.5 scoring average and 7,211 assists, second on the career list when he retired in 1975, earned him selection to the NBA's 50th anniversary team.

"In over the 100-year history of Dr. Naismith's great game, there have been only two people elected and re-honored in two separate categories by the Basketball Hall of Fame — John Wooden and now Lenny Wilkens," Hall of Fame president Joe O'Brien said.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Sirmon selected for preseason first team

Junior Peter Sirmon was the sole Oregon Duck selected to the Football News Pacific-10 Conference preseason first team, released June 16 by the magazine.

The 6-foot-2, 246-pound linebacker was awarded second-team all-conference honors last season after leading the Pac-10 with 115 tackles, 17 of them for a loss. He also recovered two fumbles and snared two interceptions.

Preseason favorites UCLA and Arizona State each garnered five preseason all-conference selections, including quarterback Cade McNown of the Bruins and safety Mitchell Freedman of the Sun Devils. Last season's conference champion Washington State was the only team shut

out in the voting.

UO golfer Ben Crane ranked 17th in nation

The final Mastercard Collegiate Golf Rankings of the season were released June 3 with Oregon's Ben Crane finishing 37th in the nation. The rankings were calculated using a computerized point system formula based on performance.

Crane accumulated 145.268 points during the season. Freshman Bryce Molder of Georgia Tech was the top-ranked player with 464.809 points. Molder's teammate Matt Kuchar, the ACC player of the year ahead of Molder, finished second. Rory Sabbatini of Arizona was the top-ranked Pacific-10 Conference finisher, finishing fourth with 393.750 points.

EMU plays host to World Cup soccer

The EMU Recreation Center held its first of 14 planned World Cup broadcasts June 10 in the Ben Linder Room.

Four more games will be shown this week, including today's Brazil vs. Norway match and Thursday's U.S.A. vs. Yugoslavia clash. First round matches will be shown on Wednesday and Friday, the second round June 29 and 30, and semifinal matches July 7 and 8.

All broadcasts are free and begin at noon. Each will be shown on a large-screen TV in the Ben Linder Room except for the matches on June 26 and July 8, which will be in the Gumwood Room. For more information, call 346-4378.

Eugene Emeralds 1998 season

Day	Opponent	W/L	Score	Pitcher
6/16	@Salem-Keizer	L	1-6	Mazone (0-1)
6/17	@Salem-Keizer	W	5-1	Frachiseur (1-0)
6/18	Salem-Keizer	W	6-5	Lee (1-0)
6/19	Portland	L	9-11	Sobkowiak (0-1)
6/20	Portland	L	4-5	Ramierz (0-1)
6/21	Portland	W	5-4 (10 Innings)	Garmong (1-0)
6/22	@ Boise	L	3-6	Sylvester (0-1)
6/23	@ Boise			
6/24	@ Boise			
6/25	@ Boise			
6/26	@ Boise			
6/27	Everett			
6/28	Everett			
6/29	Everett			

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