

3. Angels.

4. Rangers.

2. White Sox.

3. Twins.

4. Royals.

2. Red Sox.

3. Toronto.

4. Tampa Bay.

5. Baltimore.

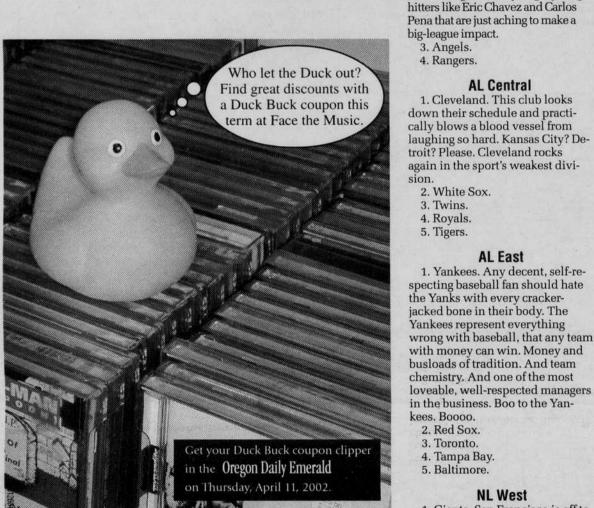
5. Tigers.

AL Central

AL East

1. Yankees. Any decent, self-re-

1. Cleveland. This club looks



his 75th homer of the season off Randy Johnson as the Giants and Diamondbacks battle in a onegame playoff for the division title.

2. Diamondbacks (wild-card team). Four words, and you know them. Randy Johnson Curt Schilling. Curt Johnson Randy Schilling. Johnson Schilling Randy Curt. Who cares? They dominate, the Diamondbacks win lots of games. Great.

3. Dodgers. 4. Padres.

5. Rockies.

NL Central

1. Cardinals. In the National League's craziest division, St. Louis has the edge because of a solid pitching staff. Mark McG-wire's gone, but he has been so injured over the past few years that he hasn't had much of an impact anyway. When top-name players like Daryl Kile and Jim Edmonds defer money from their contracts so the team can benefit, you know you've got a playoff-caliber team on your hands.

2. Pirates.

3. Astros.

4. Cubs.

NL East

1. Mets. New York picked up enough firepower in the offseason to almost make the Yankees envious. But not quite. Still, guys like Roberto Alomar, Jeremy Burnitz

and Mo Vaughn can't hurt, unless they're hurt, like Vaughn is now. Right. The Mets end Atlanta's postseason streak in a one-game playoff at the end of the season.

2. Atlanta.

3. Phillies.

4. Expos. 5. Marlins.

Playoffs

ALDS: Mariners over Cleveland (this time it's not so close). A's over Yankees (Oakland's pitching staff wreaks revenge on Giambi).

NLDS: Giants over Mets (Bonds finally ends his postseason woes and hits four dingers in the series). Diamondbacks over Cardinals (two wins each from Arizona's Big Two is all it takes in a 5-game series).

ALCS: Mariners over A's (in the seventh game, Seattle's bullpen is the difference).

NLCS: Giants over Diamondbacks (Bonds' homers provide the difference in two wins over the Big Two). World Series: Giants and

Mariners tie.

Just kidding. In another thriller, the M's edge the Giants in Game 7 due to the clutch hitting of Ichiro in the 12th inning.

By the way, this article was in no way tainted by my equal love for the Giants and Mariners. Ha ha. Ha. Right. And Derek Jeter can fly.

So, until next season, buy me some peanuts and cracker jacks. I know you don't want me to come back.

Don't worry, I'll be at the ballgame.

E-mail sports reporter Peter Hockaday at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com.

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5. Reds. 6. Brewers.

NL West

1. Giants. San Francisco is off to a blazing start, and it's not just be-

chemistry. And one of the most loveable, well-respected managers

in the business. Boo to the Yan-

21-32 years of age

Non-Smokers

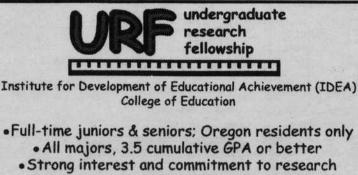
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