

Wrigley's confines await Atlanta

Wrigley Field and its unpredictable winds await a new victim on Friday

By Paul Sullivan
Chicago Tribune (KRT)

ATLANTA — The Cubs come home for Game 3 on Friday night at Wrigley Field, where they should have a real home-field advantage after the pseudo advantage of playing at Wrigley South, also known as Turner Field.

"The Wrigley confines are not going to be too friendly," Atlanta closer John Smoltz said. "And neither is the weather."

That's just the way the Cubs want it. A cold, blustery forecast means the conditions will be ripe for pitching duels, and that's the Cubs' best chance of beating Atlanta.

Cubs manager Dusty Baker said he doesn't care what the weather is "as long as the wind is blowing in. No one can match them in home runs. Aren't they first in both leagues? When you have Vinny Castilla with 22 home runs batting eighth, that's a home run team."

In Baker's first year of managing the Cubs, they finished 44-37 at home after going 11-3 at Wrigley in September. Baker said he likes managing at Wrigley, for the most part.

"I'm not crazy when the wind is blowing out," Baker said. "I like it when the wind is blowing in. The weather changes unlike anywhere else, other than Colorado. I like Wrigley Field. I like it a lot now. I used to not like it, but now it's my home."

Why didn't he like it as a player?

"I didn't hit well there," he said. "My depth perception was off there. It looked like (the pitcher) was too close, and the grass was too thick. There are a lot of reasons why."

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VOLLEYBALL

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Leading Oregon's attack tonight will be Jones, who has led the team in points for three consecutive matches. She started her streak against Portland with 19.5 points and continued it against UCLA (16) and USC (10.5).

"For (Jones), it's all about confidence," Ferreira said. "When she's confident, she's a physical finisher. She's got a terminating arm, and she can end plays for us."

Sophomore Kelly Russell led the Ducks with 14 kills the last time they ventured to Corvallis. Junior Lauren Westendorf added 13 kills and two blocks.

The Beavers are led by junior Allison Lawrence, who is averaging 3.65 kills per game. Junior Anne Watts-Roberts is second in kills with 3.25 and leads the team in digs with 3.39 per game.

The Ducks are hoping to maintain the high energy level with which they've competed lately. This confident energy is evident in the play of Mason. The 6-foot-3-inch outside hitter is routinely seen exciting her teammates and letting her opponents know she won't be intimidated.

"Picking yourself up, picking the team up, putting the other team down, getting in their face, throwing them off — (my excitement) brings a lot of energy to the team," Mason said. "It's always good to play with energy."

Contact the sports reporter
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THOMAS

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Washington State head coach Mike Price.

Maybe if Price and Rick Neuheisel show up at a women's soccer game wearing Oregon hats, the team would get proper publicity. Please.

The Ducks are a squad that consists of more than two-thirds underclassmen while facing 10 NCAA tournament veterans from

the previous season. Now, after losing a national caliber goalkeeper in Sarah Peters to graduation last season, the Ducks return two seniors, only one of whom starts.

But here is the good news: Picture a team in two years that could potentially have 10 seniors, all of whom will have plenty experience under their belts. Forward Nicole Garbin will be in her final year and probably in her athletic prime. Goalkeeper Dominique Lainez will also be a senior and have finally had the chance

to establish herself.

And what is currently a group of seven freshmen that doesn't have much more than the hope and desire to win will soon be mature upperclassmen with a real feel for collegiate soccer.

Just be patient. Give it some time.

Remember, great programs aren't built overnight.

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 1). Let your curiosity lead you toward amazing discoveries this year. You're cute and have better-than-average intelligence, so this will be fun. To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) _ Today is a 7 _ Work gets in the way of travel and other things you'd rather be doing. Don't complain. Get friends with technical expertise to help.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) _ Today is a 5 _ It seems like the more you make, the more you spend. Try giving priority to your savings account first.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) _ Today is a 9 _ Somebody you care deeply about feels the same way back. You suspected as much, but don't take this love for granted. It's precious.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) _ Today is a 5 _ You're still in that awkward learning phase where some of the things you try don't work. Do your best to minimize costs, though some of them are unavoidable.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) _ Today is a 9 _ Your relationship may be somewhat puzzling, but that's not always bad. It gives you motivation to learn, and that adds to the fun.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) _ Today is a 5 _ You're not only working your regular job, but also doing a renovation just for the fun of it. If you aren't then get started.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) _ Today is a 10 _ You're looking good and learning fast, and there's not much better than that. Don't overlook a promise you made, however. Better scan your lists.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) _ Today is a 5 _ Money may be slipping through your fingers much faster than anticipated. Buy something substantial for your home. It'll be a good investment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) _ Today is an 8 _ You don't usually set out to be controversial, but sometimes things turn out that way. Be gentle with someone who has a lot to learn.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) _ Today is a 6 _ Muses are whispering in your ear, telling you to count your money. If you need more cash, simply ask for it, although work will be required.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) _ Today is a 9 _ You look marvelous! And you're lucky now. There's also a brilliant idea right on the tip of your mind. You can make it happen if you visualize it in detail.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) _ Today is a 5 _ To avoid frustration, get your partner to do all the talking. You can sit there, quietly raging, providing the motivation.

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