

Plotlines remain thick entering season

The Angels, Phillies and Astros improved the most during the offseason

By Larry Stone
The Seattle Times (KRT)

SEATTLE — With spring training about to be sprung, baseball desperately needed a diversion from its brewing steroids scandal. Sure enough, one dropped from the sky this week.

Be careful what you wish for.

A-Rod in pinstripes? So much for the notion that competitive balance is returning to the game. The acquisition of Alex Rodriguez, if it is completed, would be the ultimate statement by the Yankees that the rules don't apply to them. Not to mention the ultimate "in your face" to the Red Sox, who spent all winter trying to land Rodriguez.

For now, of course, teams are hard at work mustering the usual optimism of spring, when even Detroit sincerely believes it has a chance to win it all. As a public service to understandably listless Yankee-haters, here are a couple of lists to kick off the impending season.

Three teams that had very, very good winters ...

1. Anaheim Angels. Under aggressive new owner Arte Moreno, the Angels signed the best player on the free-agent market (Vladimir Guerrero) and the best pitcher (Bartolo Colon), not to mention Jose Guillen, who hit .311 with 31 homers and 86 RBI last

year, and Kelvim Escobar, who won 13 games for the Blue Jays.

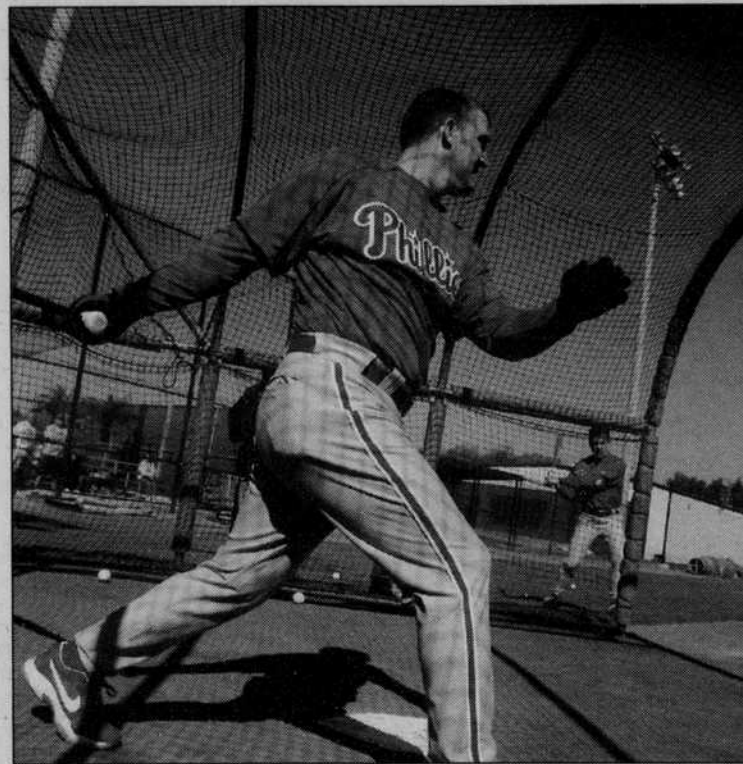
2. Philadelphia Phillies. After too many Jose Mesa meltdowns to bear, they needed a closer, and they got a great one from Houston, Billy Wagner. They retained free-agent Kevin Millwood, added a quality starter in Eric Milton and strengthened their bullpen even more with Tim Worrell and Roberto Hernandez.

3. Houston Astros. It didn't start off well, with the loss of Wagner, who publicly questioned the team's commitment to success. But that was followed by one coup after another — the signing of Andy Pettitte, which coaxed Roger Clemens out of retirement, and the return of Nolan Ryan to the organization.

... and three teams that had very, very bad winters.

1. Milwaukee Brewers. Popular team president Ulice Payne resigned in protest of ownership's mandate to slash the payroll to \$30 million; the team's best and most popular player, Richie Sexson, was traded to Arizona for a pile of lesser, cheaper players; the team was pressured by legislators to open its books for scrutiny; and, as a nice capper, pitcher Luis Martinez, a member of the 40-man roster, was arrested last week in the Dominican Republic for allegedly shooting a man three times.

2. Los Angeles Dodgers. While the crosstown Angels were creating all



Eric Mencher Philadelphia Inquirer

Jim Thome's Phillies are expected to fight for the World Series crown this season.

the excitement, the Dodgers were forced to sit on their hands, unable to improve the league's worst offense. 3. Atlanta Braves. Their remarkable streak of 12 straight division titles is in severe danger after losing Gary

Sheffield, Javier Lopez and Greg Maddux en route to trimming payroll by \$15 million.

(c) 2004, The Seattle Times. Distributed by Knight Ridder/Tribune Information Services.

MEN

continued from page 7

then the NCAA Tournament.

Arizona has lost just twice at home this year, both to top 10 ranked teams. With its final three home games against the Washington schools and Arizona State, will the Wildcats win the rest of their regular season games?

"Most definitely, we're going to try to," Adams said. "We're going to go out there and just play Arizona basketball — play aggressive, play tough, just go out there and try and get a win."

Arizona should have little problem against Oregon State on the road. The Beavers have one of the worst records in the conference.

The Wildcats hold down the second position in the conference, behind Stanford, and are a for sure bet come end of March.

If the Wildcats manage to bring the same emotion and energy to the court as they did against the Ducks, they will be tough to stop.

"This was a very emotional game," Arizona sophomore Andre Iguodala said. "The way things were being called, we just had to play through it."

Senior Salim Stoudamire, a Portland native, was very satisfied with his performance after saying he's never had a good game in his home state since being at Arizona.

"I was really feeding off the energy," Stoudamire said.

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.

\$2 OFF

GIANT or LARGE

PIZZA

\$1 OFF

MEDIUM

Present coupon. Not valid with other offers. Good through 3-19-04.



FREE DELIVERY

1809 FRANKLIN BLVD

284-8484 or 484-2799

Les'

Barber Shop

Price Reduced To

\$10.00

Save \$2.00!!

485-6757

130 E. 13th Ave

Pocket Playhouse Productions present

Better

SAYD

FEBRUARY 19-21

5pm

The Bible:

The Complete Word of God Abridged

MARCH 4, 5 & 6

5pm

\$1 suggested donation • 102 Villard Hall

Guide to Spiritual Programs

Christian Science ORGANIZATION

Meets weekly in EMU
Learn & discuss healing
344-5693

St. Mark's Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

Oldest Black Church in Eugene
Welcomes All Races
"St. Marks is a church where everybody is somebody, and Christ is All."
Services: Sunday-school 10 AM
Worship Hour 11 AM
Wednesday - Bible Study 7 PM
Located at 1167 Sam R Rd. (off W. 11th)
683-2588

Oregon Hillel:

The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life
SHALOM! Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming the day of rest) services and dinner Fridays at 6:00 p.m.
1059 Hilyard, 343-8920
Check our website for a full listing of events: www.oregonhillel.org

Come and See!

Episcopal Canterbury Fellowship
1329 E. 19th
ecm@oregon.uoregon.edu
686-9972
www.uoecm.org
Student Fellowship and Dinner
Thursdays 5:30



ST. THOMAS MORE NEWMAN CENTER

Campus Ministry Grace Lutheran Church

18th & Hilyard (just west of campus)

Sundays at Grace

Worship services:
8:30 am & 11:00 am
Student Fellowship Hour:
10:00 am

Thursdays:
ESL 5:30, Free Weekly Student Dinners: 6 pm
Bible Study: 7 pm

Contact Dave at 343-4844 or david@glchurch.org
www.glchurch.org

F.N.B.S

Friday Night Bible Study
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. BS 7:30 p.m. - 1 Hangtime
RIVERIA BAPTIST CHURCH
3071 River Rd. 688-2915
www.rivierabaptist.com

If you like books by:

Gary Zukav, Deepak Chopra & Wayne Dyer — you'll love us!

Spiritual Growth Center

Sunday 8:30 am & 10:30 am
390 Vernal St., Eugene • Coburg Rd. @ Rustic St. (turn @ Blockbuster Video)
485-0035 • www.sgeugene.org

Feathers ruffled? Duck into Newman.

St. Thomas More Newman Center...

Catholic Campus Ministry

- Social Connections
- Coffeehouses
- Student Dinners
- Sports Events
- Faith Community
- Engaging Masses
- Meaningful Retreats
- Guest Speakers
- Societal Commitment
- Alternative Spring Break
- Charity Fundraisers
- Social Service Projects

Midweek Social & Student Mass Wednesdays 9:00pm

Sunday Student mass 7:30

1850 Emerald Street (south of Hayward Field) • 346-4468
Visit our Web site at newmanctr-uoregon.org
or send us an e-mail to newman@newmanctr-uoregon.org

Central Presbyterian Church

We Welcome You

8:30 & 11:00 AM worship
www.centralpresbychurch.net
555 E. 15th Ave. • 345-8724

Students Have Spirit!

Let them know about your programs with an ad here.

Call 346-4343.

Fellowship of the Living Word

"Where excitement hugs truth!"
Sundays at 10 AM
Agate Hall, 18th & Agate
Worship, Fellowship and Food

Christians at U of O

Dinners, Wednesdays
6:00 - 7:30 PM
1851 Onyx St.
Christiansatufo@hotmail.com