



The season was winding down, and The Big Sleep was kicking in, the necessary hibernation before spring training. I was poolside at Kah-Ne-Tah, with a pitcher of Rob-Roys and a FedEx from Caracas when out of nowhere I was blind-sided by a wolverine, all fur and fingernails. It was screaming "You swine! So this is what you do with all that expense money!" I was entangled in deck furniture, but managed to extricate myself from my deranged editor after several frightening moments. As we squared off on the concrete deck, I could see he was obviously unbalanced. "You crazy inkhead! Now you've gone too far!" I shouted. "The season's over, I'm on vacation, so take a powder!"

"Oh, No, No, No, my little cash cow. You still owe me one." With that he picked up an empty Tequila bottle and babbled ominously, "And I've come to collect." He then took a swing at my melon that looked much like Derrick May trying to fight off a curveball. He sprained his wrist on the forehead of the waiter who had just showed up for a cocktail order. As he began bounding about the pool keening in pain and despondency, I knew it was no good. I was locked in.

"My advertisers! My creditors!"

"Never mind that," I snarled, "We have work to do."

National		
West	Central	East
Colorado	Chicago	Atlanta
Los Angeles	Cincinnati	Florida
San Diego	Houston	New York
San Francisco	Pittsburg	Montreal
	St. Louis	Philadelphia

American		
West	Central	East
California	Chicago	Baltimore
Oakland	Detroit	Boston
Seattle	Kansas City	Cleveland
Texas	Milwaukee	New York
	Minnesota	Toronto

This is your game next year; what do you think?

<b>NL West</b>	<b>AL West</b>
Atlanta	Chicago
<b>NL East</b>	<b>AL East</b>
Montreal	Toronto

These are the same picks I had in August, so why change? As far as individual awards go, how about....

	NL	AL
<b>MVP</b>	<b>Fred McGriff</b> (the operative word here is valuable, not valued. Bonds has been great, but McGriff has been better.)	<b>Frank</b> (The Big Hurt) <b>Thomas</b>

<b>Cy Young</b>	<b>Glaverdux</b>	<b>Black Jack McDowell</b>
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<b>Rookie</b>	<b>Mike</b> (take-out) <b>Piazza</b>	<b>Tim</b> (I'd like that poached in a court-bouillon with the green peppercorn hollandaise and a nice Chardonnay) <b>Salmon</b>
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<b>Comeback</b>	<b>Andres Gallaraga</b>	<b>Bo Jackson</b> (This maniac is playing ball on a plastic hip. One false move and he could virtually tear his leg off. Fernando's recovery has been remarkable, but nothing like this.)
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#### Baseball Quiz

- Who is the only player to hit .400 and 40 homers in the same season?
  - Nap Lajoie
  - Rogers Hornsby
  - George Sisler
  - Mario Mendoza
- Who is the only player to collect 3000 career hits but no 200 hit seasons?
  - Carl Yastrzyski
  - Al Kaline
  - Lou Brock
  - Eddie Collins
- Every sap knows Ray Washburn and Gaylord Perry hurled consecutive opposite team no-hitters in 1968. However, the feat was duplicated the

next year. Who were these guys?

- Bill Stoneman and Rick Wise
  - Mike McCormick and Ken Holtzman
  - Jim Maloney and Don Wilson
  - Dal Canton and Ray Sadecki
- 4) Who received the most votes on the initial Hall of Fame ballot?
- Christy Mathewson
  - Babe Ruth
  - Honus Wagner
  - Ty Cobb
  - Walter Johnson
- 5) Which teams did these players begin their careers with?
- Joe Adcock
  - Rob Deer
  - Norm Cash
  - Lew Burdette
  - Tommy John
  - Roger Maris
  - Graig Nettles
  - Bill Madlock
  - Nellie Fox
  - Mordecai "Three Finger" Brown

"If you're not having fun in baseball, you miss the point of everything."

-Chris Chambliss

I know, winter is a pretty scary thing, what with all those foot and basket and hockey type objects and people flailing about out there. But there's a stout fellow, spring will come, and before you know it. In the meantime, I suggest the following ice-season reading list:

"The Glory of Their Times"  
Lawrence S. Ritter (Quill-Morrow)

"The Ultimate Baseball Book"  
Daniel Okrent and Hariss Lewine (Houghton Mifflin/Hilltown)

"The Fireside Book of Baseball" -- Highest recommendation  
Charles Einstein (Simon & Schuster)

And if that's not enough, develop a personal research project, something like, "Curt Flood vs. The Vagaries of The Supreme Court."  
Have a good winter. I remain yours,

Mr. Baseball

Sandy Stembler

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- Baseball Answers
- 1) B
  - 2) A
  - 3) C
  - 4) D
  - 5) A Reds
- B S.F. Giants  
C White Sox  
D Yankees  
E Indians  
F Indians  
G Twins  
H Rangers  
I Athletics  
J Cardinals