Sports
Toronto, Oakland Will Conquer Their AL Divisions

Phil Platiar will get more playing time, and although Mike Greenwell, who has yet to win a home run this season, still has a lot of power. Although Joe Hieght finished with a 12-4 record last year, I don't expect him to last through the season. The last time he pitched over 100 innings was in 1983.

The bullpen may encounter some problems. Jeff Reardon had 40 saves last year, but his back could flare up anytime. Jeff Gray is recovering from a strikeout, and Danny Darwin's comeback is uncertain. Greg Harris may be ambidextrous, but he was overused last year and would not be another Bob Murphy.

1. Detroit Tigers
Detroit led the league in home runs and runs scored last year. The Tigers have no pitching. Their team ERA of 4.11 last year is not going to improve—they didn't add anyone new and lost John Curreri, Jerry Don Grantham, and Jeff Kramer.

2. New York Yankees
The person that will benefit the most from the signing of Danny Tartabull is Don Mattingly. Mattingly had his best seasons when Winnfield was batting behind him and protecting him. I look for Mattingly to return to all-star form. The Yankees are going to improve—most from the signing of Danny Tartabull.

3. Cleveland Indians
Although you can turn a fog into a presence in a fiery oven, you can't do it in real life. The Indians aren't going anywhere but the cellar.

American League West
The AL West is the toughest division in baseball. Last year, 14 games separated first place from last place. The best team had a .500 record. This year should be no different. Look for Oakland to take the division.

1. Oakland Athletics
The starting rotation of Dave Stewart, Bob Welch, Mike Moore, and Ron Darling is one of the best in the league this season. An out- standing defense of Jose Canseco, Dave Henderson, and Rickey Henderson provides both run prevention and power. The infield of Mark McGwire, who is having a very good spring, Lance Blankenship, Walt Weiss, Carney Lansford, and Terry Steinbach is solid defensively. Harold Baines will provide much needed power and consistency from the left side of the plate. The bullpen of Dennis Eckersley, Gene Nelson, Rick Honeycutt, and Joe Klink will not blow many leads. This team has talent, depth, and speed.

2. Chicago White Sox
The speed of Tim Raines, Lance Johnson, Gussie Gilman, and Steve Sax will score plenty of runs for the White Sox. The tandem of Frank Thomas and Robin Ventura is ready to put up numbers matching those of Bonds and Bonilla. The starting rotation is only average. But the bullpen is secure with Bobby Thigpen.

3. Texas Rangers
The Rangers led the league in runs scored last year with 814, but they also led the league in runs given up, also 814. Things won't change much this year. Last year the Rangers finished 10 games behind the Twins because Jeff Russell blew 10 save opportunities. They will catch the Twins this year, but they won't catch the A's.

4. Seattle Mariners
The Mariners gave up their bullpen for Kevin Mitchell. And they also paid the league in runs given up, also 814. Things won't change much this year. Last year the Rangers finished 10 games behind the Twins because Jeff Russell blew 10 save opportunities. They will catch the Twins this year, but they won't catch the A's.

5. Minnesota Twins
I don't think Chili Davis is going to repeat what he did last year. Neither will the Twins.

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