Expansion Marlins Will Edge out Cubbies and Pirates

Let’s Argue More, from Page 14

ter, the Phils will provide competitiveness and hustle for the locals, which will be a pleasant surprise. 4. St. Louis Cardinals. The pitching is respectable, with Bob Walk. They are not the second best outfield in the league, and this team continues to hang on with the second best lineup in the NL.

6. Pittsburgh Pirates. While Jim Leyland is the best manager in the league, even his hands are tied this year. The loss of Doug Drabek leaves the Bucs with a rotation of Zane Smith, Randy "Lil" Tomlin, and Bob "Intentional" Walk. The lineup has household names such as Kevin Young and Al Martin. While Leyland will work some magic for a while, as the August heat balls in the Bucs will start to fade.

7. Chicago Cubs. Sorry, Harry, but the Cubs are going nowhere this year. With Shawon Dunston on the DL and Ryne Sandberg's broken hand still a problem, the Cubs have no "O" to speak of against star such as Willie Wilcox and Candy Maloney (who won't do). The loss of Greg Maddux is a killer, so let's hope the beer is flowing nice and cold for the Blisner Bums.

Bonchold Play Of The Week

The final minute of the NCAA Championship game provided enough fodder for this feature that we will be handing out four awards this week.

1. To Michigan's Ray Jackson whose foot was 2 inches off the three-point line when he buried the Wolves down only 3 (72-69) with 40 seconds left. Had he made a three-pointer, Chris Webber's rebound hoop would have tied the game, the Wolverines would not have fended, and awards III and IV would not have occurred.

2. To North Carolina's Brian Reese who stepped out of bounds with 45 seconds left following Jackson's jumper, turning the ball over to Michigan.

3. To referee Ed "Officer" Righthover for being the only one out of 65,000 people in the Superdome to miss Weibber's walking violation after grabbing the rebound off of Sullivan's missed free throw.

4. Because he's already getting so much flack we won't mention his name (but it rhymes with "This Schlebber"), for imitating Dicky Pride, who's 2 inches over the three-point line when he buried his three-pointer, Chris Webber's rebound hoop would have tied the game, the Wolverines would not have fended, and awards III and IV would not have occurred.

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Heard it here first

China will be awarded the 2000 Olympics. The community in Beijing, smelling the green that comes from the television rights to the Games, has purchased 1 trillion jail keys in preparation for the IOC visits. IOC chief Juan Antonio Samaranch is certainly not one to ignore a good kissing up to...