

Baseball season starts amidst controversy and optimism

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The beginning of the 2006 Major League Baseball season resembles the 2005 season in its major stories: a defending champion having won the World Series after many years without a title, the New York Yankees adding big-name players to their already loaded roster, the New York Mets trying to become a contender by trading for high-profile players, and fans outraged over players' use of steroids.

While the controversy surrounding Barry Bonds' possible steroid use has put baseball in a negative light, there is still optimism. In Chicago, the White Sox hope to repeat as World Series champions after winning their first title since 1917. The White Sox added slugger Jim Thome and pitcher Javier Vazquez to the roster over the offseason, and resigned first-baseman Paul Konerko, making them the favorite to repeat as champions. There was some controversy in Chicago

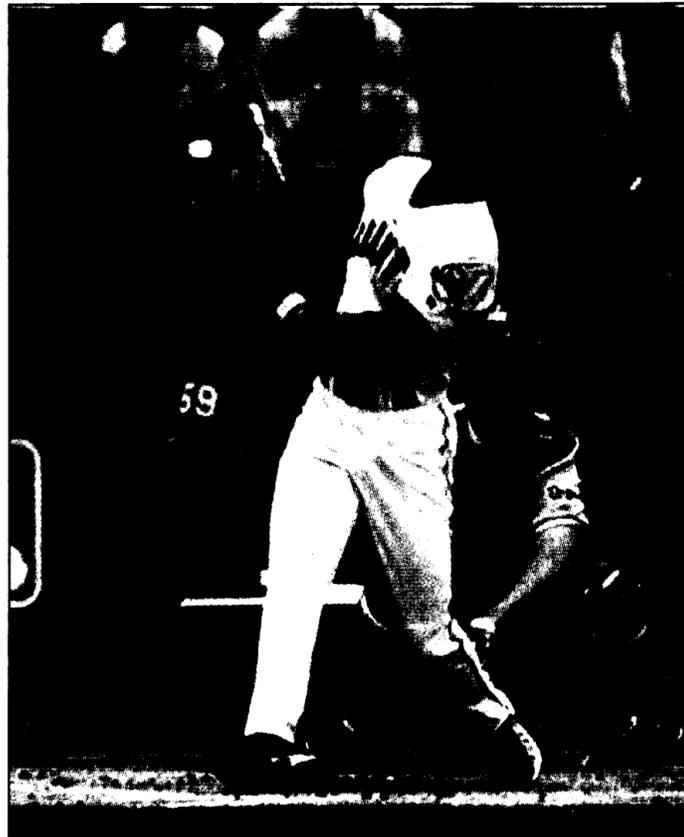
when the White Sox released long-time player Frank Thomas, who has since criticized his former team, which in turn caused a feud between him and White Sox general manager Kenny Williams. Thomas has joined the Oakland Athletics, who have become a strong World Series contender with their strong pitching rotation.

Meanwhile, both New York teams looked like they were in a money spend-

After years of big spending and poor results, the Mets hope these players will finally get them into the playoffs, while the Yankees hope these additions will be what it takes for them to become champions again.

Although many teams around the league are looking forward to the upcoming season, Major League Baseball officials are faced with the prospect of Barry Bonds passing Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron on the all-time home run list. Two new books, "Game of Shadows" and "Love Me, Hate Me: Barry Bonds and the Making of an Antihero," present detailed evidence that Bonds used steroids and performance-enhancing drugs. This has led to a public outcry for Bonds' record to be removed from the record books, or possibly for the Major League Baseball to suspend him. This has left Commissioner Bud Selig in a difficult position.

The 2006 season promises to be exciting, with many teams looking like they have a chance at a playoff spot. The season gets underway on April 2.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

San Francisco Giants slugger Barry Bonds enters the season amidst controversy with the publication of a new book about his possible use of steroids. As he approaches Hank Aaron's record of 755 homeruns, he hopes to shatter the rumors.

Major League Baseball Calendar

- March 29** - Last day to request unconditional release waivers on a player without having to pay his full 2006 salary.
- April 2** - Opening day: Cleveland at Chicago White Sox. - Active rosters reduced to 25 players.
- July 11** - All-Star game, Pittsburgh.
- July 30** - Hall of Fame inductions, Cooperstown, N.Y.
- July 31** - Last day to trade a player without securing waivers.
- Sept. 1** - Active rosters expand to 40 players.
- Oct. 3** - Playoffs begin.
- Oct. 10** - League championship series begin.
- Oct. 21** - World Series begins.

Source: ESPN.com

ing contest, as both the Yankees and Mets made sure they added high-priced, big names to their rosters. The Yankees added former Red Sox outfielder Johnny Damon as well as infielder Miguel Cairo. The Mets traded for first baseman Carlos Delgado and catcher Paul Lo Duca.



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Gonzaga forward Adam Morrison looks to lead his Bulldogs to the Final Four and prove to critics that his team is more than just the Cinderella team from the past.

Sports Trivia 101

On April 2, 2006, Major League Baseball opens for the 2006 season with the Chicago White Sox hosting the Cleveland Indians. Sox pitcher Mark Beuhrle will face C.C. Sabathia of the Tribe next Sunday night. Who was the only pitcher in MLB history to pitch a no-hitter on opening day?

Last Week's answer:
Oklahoma State University
(Answered by Patrick Webster)

The answer will be posted in next week's Beacon issue. Email your answers to csl5005@psu.edu. The first person to answer correctly will have their name printed next week. Good Luck!

Behrend Sports Schedule

- March 24-25** Women's Water Polo @ Grove City Tournament TBA
- March 25** Track and Field @ Slippery Rock 10:00 a.m.
- March 25** Men's Tennis Seton Hill 11:00 a.m.
- March 25** Baseball La Roche (DH) 1:00 p.m.
- March 25** Softball @ La Roche (DH) 1:00 p.m.
- March 29** Softball Thiel (DH) 3:00 p.m.

