

# THE METS IN FIVE

By David Bruce  
Collegian Sports Editor

## A.L. EAST

**New York-** The Yankees were perhaps the busiest team this winter. They acquired Rafael Santana, Don Slaught, Jose Cruz, John Candelaria, Lee Guetterman and Jack Clark. If these players perform well, especially the pitchers, they will win the East, just like Mattingly has predicted.

**Boston-** They made the biggest single move, trading Calvin Schiraldi and Al Nipper to the Cubs for Lee Smith. This move will likely solve the Red Sox's major problem; late-inning losses and they will challenge the Yankees down to the wire.

**Toronto-** Their only new arrival is veteran hurler Mike Flanagan from Baltimore. Most of the talk has centered on a possible trade of M.V.P. George Bell, who is unhappy about his new position-D.H. Also, the downhill slide of former ace Dave Stieb doesn't help.

**Detroit-** Light hitting Gary Pettis and journeyman Ray Knight are the newest Tigers, and both of them could be on the bench by May. The loss of Kirk Gibson will not be handled as well as Lance Parrish's departure was last season.

**Milwaukee-** A strong, young team who didn't take part in any off-season trades. Their weakness is stability, but with the most talented starting staff in the division, the brewers could finish higher than fifth.

**Cleveland-** After the disappointing '87 season, the Indians acquired Ron Kittle, Greg Harris, Bill Caudill and Bill Laskey; all role players or washed up stars. The Tribe still has several young good players; Joe Carter, Cory Snyder and Julio Franco, and could surprise a few people, even with the loss of Brett Butler—who never really fit into the team's plans.

**Baltimore-** The Orioles received

Joe Ersulak from Pittsburgh, but what they really need are starting pitchers. They are currently undergoing a massive reorganization of their farm system, but that won't help them this season.

## A.L. WEST

**Oakland-** The A's are the critic's darlings of 1988. They obtained Dave Parker, Bob Welch, Matt Young, Don Baylor, Glenn Hubbard and Ron Hassey to strengthen an already competitive team. They are definitely the best team in the West, but the best team doesn't always win the West.

**Minnesota-** The Twins weren't involved in any major deals and the defending champs are still weak in starting pitching. If rookies Jeff Bumgarner and Steve Grasser don't help, they will not be able to stop the A's.

**Seattle-** This season's surprise team, the Mariners dealt heavily during the winter, getting Glenn Wilson and Mike Jackson from the Phillies, Steve Trout and Henry Cotto from the Cubs, and Ken Dixon from the Orioles. If these players contribute as much as the front office hopes, and they will, this will be the most talked about team of the season.

**Kansas City-** The Royals traded for Kurt Stillwell and Floyd Bannister, but the bullpen is still a question mark. If either Ted Power or Dan Quisenberry succeed, they will contend, otherwise they will drop.

**California-** The Angels acquired Dan Peiry and Joe Johnson to boost their pitching staff and Devon White is an emerging star. But with Donnie Moore still rehabilitating from a serious arm injury, the bullpen is hurting and it could spell disaster for the aging squad.

**Chicago-** The White Sox are in the middle of a massive youth movement, especially with the pitching staff. Youngsters Rick Horton, Jack McDowell and Melido

Perez will all be given a chance to start this season. Dan Pasqua, obtained from the Yankees, will give them added power, but they are still a few years, and a few players, away.

**Texas-** How things change. Last season the Rangers were a first place pick, but due to an almost unbelievably wild pitching staff, they never got off the ground. New players Steve Kemp and James Steels won't help much and nobody is picking Texas to win this year.

## N.L. EAST

**New York-** The eighties version of the Yankees, the Mets' only weakness is internal turmoil. If their clubhouse remains happy and injuries don't strike every starting pitcher, the Mets will win the East as easily as in 1986. Only change is at shortstop, where rookie Kevin Ister replaces Rafael Santana.

**Pittsburgh-** The Pirates were the most improved team last season, but now they are expected to do well and their young, talented pitching staff will feel pressure for the first time. Though they are predicted second, the Pirates could easily finish anywhere from first to fifth.

**St. Louis-** The Cardinals are hurting. Bob Horner is no replacement for Jack Clark who went to the Yankees. However, pitcher Jose DeLeon will help and you can never count Whitey Herzog out of any pennant race.

**Montreal-** Many critics are saying that the Expos' weren't for real last season and that they won't be as good this season. Rookie infielders Luis Rivera and Johnny Paredes will answer that question as they will be in the spotlight this spring. Also if Pascual Perez and Dennis Martinez have seasons anything like last year the Expos will contend.

**Philadelphia-** The Phillies acquired Phil Bradley from Seattle and brought back Bob Dernier from Chicago. But Cy Young Award

winner Steve Bedrosian is hurt and their starting staff will suffer.

**Chicago-** The Cubs traded their bullpen savior, Lee Smith to Boston for two troubled pitchers; Calvin Schiraldi and Al Nipper. They also gave up Steve Trout and Keith Moreland but gained Goose Gossage. Their are too many holes and questions for the Cubs to win.

## N.L. WEST

**San Francisco-** Obtained Brett Butler to replace Chili Davis, who went to California. The Giants are strong in every department and will win if they stay healthy.

**Cincinnati-** The Reds got pitchers Danny Jackson and Dennis Rasmussen to help solve their only problem, starting pitching. If either Mario Soto or Jose Rijo pitch effectively this season, and they both have thrown well this spring, the Reds will contend, if they both pitch well they will win.

**Los Angeles-** Another team who is undergoing a facelift, the Dodgers have acquired Alfredo Griffin, Jesse Orosco, Jay Howell, Don Sutton, Kirk Gibson and Mike Davis all without giving up Pedro Guericero. The defense will still be woefully weak and Bob Welch will be missed, but L.A. will start the comeback this season.

**Houston-** The Astros will have a new starting shortstop this season, Rafael Ramirez. They also regained pitcher Joaquin Andujar, but the offense is still non-existent. They will lose too many games on the road to contend.

**San Diego-** The Padres traded Goose Gossage for Keith Moreland, who promptly landed in manager Bowa's doghouse. Their question mark is pitching, if youngsters Mark Grant and Jimmy Jones improve, the Padres will also.

**Atlanta-** Manager Chuck Tanner has again found himself managing the worst team in the majors. The Braves are praying that rookies Ron Gant, Tommy Greene and Derek Lilliquist (what a name) will make immediate contributions or WTBS will become the cable equivalent of Sominex.

But that's not all. More predictions...

A.L. Champ- Oakland

N.L. Champ- New York

# INTRAMURALS

By Ray Van Dusen  
Collegian Staff Writer

Intramurals Director Bob Peck has high hopes for the rest of the intramural season. He has the sports and events planned and ready to go.

A host of different sports events will be held including; tennis, badminton and fast-pitch softball.

A lot of emphasis will be placed on these three events, hopefully showing some great competition. Mr. Peck hopes to have a lot of public participation in

these events.

Participation has been moderately high thus far and this trend continued with volleyball. "I feel participation is going real well, I had forty-five volleyball teams," said Peck, "that's about four hundred people."

Ending out the semester, ultimate frisbee and a ping-pong tournament are being planned, exact dates have not been set.

All of the sports except co-ed volleyball and mixed doubles in tennis will be separate men's and women's teams.

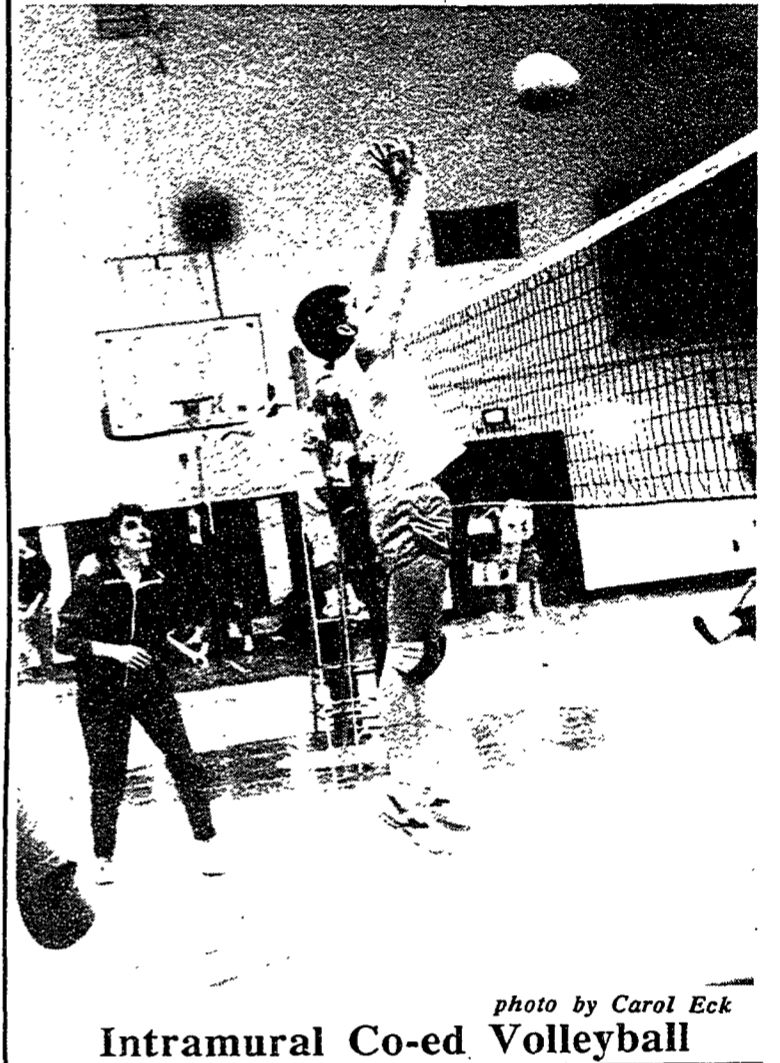


photo by Carol Eck

## Intramural Co-ed Volleyball

World Series- New York in five... A.L. Cy Young- Teddy Higuera

A.L. M.V.P.- Don Mattingly

N.L. M.V.P.- Tim Raines

N.L. Cy Young- Mike Scott

# ON TO KANSAS CITY!

by Jack Grow  
Collegian Sports Writer

The 1988 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament has always been a source of great upsets. A team's regular season record means nothing in the tournament, one loss and your out. This goes for everyone from the number one team in the nation to the last seed in the tournament. Every year it seems that one or two of the favored teams get upset early in the tournament. No matter what the rankings or the computer picks predict, there is always a surprise team in the Final Four. This year is no different.

The only region that went according to plan was the West where number one seeded Arizona played number two seeded North Carolina in the regional final. Both teams had little trouble getting there, but Arizona (which had one all of its tournament games by an average of 24 points) had no problem controlling the Tarheels and won the game going away, 70 - 52.

The Southeast region did not go as smoothly. The first round showed Auburn defeating Bradley despite Hersey Hawkins usual performance. Bradley was not seeded

very high, but many thought they would be the "dark horse" of the Southeast Region. The second round provided another upset when number six seed Villinova beat number three seeded Illinois, 81 - 72. The third round saw Villinova winning another shocker when they defeated number two seed Kentucky, 80 - 74. Villinova senior Mark Plansky played exceptionally well and Rex Chapman of Kentucky was effectively controlled. Villinova's underdog run at the Final Four was finally stopped by number one seeded Oklahoma. The Sooners' run and gun offense was too much for Villinova as they fell 79 - 59.

In the East, the first upset came in the first round when defending national champion Indiana lost to number thirteen seeded Richmond. Richmond then pulled off another upset in the second round by defeating fifth seeded Georgia Tech, 59 - 55. In the same round, Rhode Island shocked number three seeded Syracuse. The surprises stopped in the next round when Temple and Duke took care of the underdogs to set up the predicted final game. Duke's Billy King proved why he is the best defensive player in the country by holding Temple star Mark Macon to six for

29 shooting, to help Duke advance to the Final Four, for the second time in three years, with a 63 - 53 victory.

There were two major upsets in the Midwest Region. In the first round, number three seeded North Carolina State was beaten 78 - 75 by number fourteen seeded Murry State. In the second round, number two seed Pittsburgh lost to seventh seeded Vanderbilt, 80 - 74. These two upsets allowed sixth seeded Kansas to reach the regional championship by defeating Vanderbilt, 77 - 64. The final upset of the region came when number four seeded Kansas State took out number one seeded Purdue 73 - 70. This set up a showdown between Kansas and Kansas State, Kansas, led by Danny Manning's 20 points, one the game, and the right to play in front of the home crowd in Kansas City, 71 - 58.

The Final Four match-ups are Kansas vs Duke, and Oklahoma vs Arizona. Both pairs are fairly equal, and those last few games should be the best of the tournament. After picking Syracuse to win the championship, the only prediction that I will make now is that the winner of the Kansas - Duke game will go on to be the National Champion. Both teams have previous Final Four experience, and I think this experience will be the deciding factor in the championship.

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# HOW DARE WE STIR FANS' EMOTIONS WITH FACTS.

## Editor's Note

The following is an article by "The Sporting News" columnist Art Spander. The Collegian Sports Editors decided to print this article because it clearly defines the purpose of a sports journalist. This purpose, of course is to tell the facts no matter who gets hurt. We, the editors, hope this brilliant bit of journalism clears up any misconceptions you may have had about what gets printed and why we print it.

**SAN FRANCISCO--** Journalism, an Englishman contended, largely consists of saying "Lord Jones is dead" to people who never knew Lord Jones was alive.

Sporting journalism, on the contrary, largely consists of saying "the Yankees are alive" to people who already know the Yankees are dead last.

There aren't many surprises in the sporting world.

A schedule is made up months in advance. Minds are made up years in advance. A majority of fans never wants to be confused with facts.

The intricate framework on which spectator sports is constructed consists entirely of emotion. Try persuading a Cubs fan, for example, to change his loyalty to the White Sox.

Television feeds on these emotions. It shows us what we want to see and tells us what we want to hear.

The home team trails, 6-0, in the eighth. While the writers are composing obits in the press box, the TV announcers are having a hard time composing themselves. "Never over until the last out," someone advises.

A few weeks ago, Debi Thomas, a.k.a. America's Sweetheart, went out to win the

Olympic gold medal in women's figure skating. She was competing not only for herself, but, according to the guys trying to sell automobiles and soup on the tube, for the good old USA.

In the fantasyland of Hollywood, Thomas would have achieved perfection, and the country would have gone to sleep that night dreaming of how she kept the world safe from communism and lascivious East Germans.

But Thomas stumbled early on. Our "oohs" changed to "args." The gold changed not to silver, but to bronze.

So? So nothing. Third in the world isn't exactly chopped liver.

The trouble began the next morning. Newspapers throughout the land published a photograph of Thomas looking something like a cross between Buster Keaton and Goldi Hawn.

The appropriate caption might have been inelegant.

The picture was taken at the exact moment when Thomas lost her balance and, in turn, her opportunity.

If the average picture is, indeed, worth 10,000 words, this one is worth 10 million. No long explanations were required. You didn't have to know your axel from a hole in the ice. It was the skating equivalent of being caught with your hand in the cookie jar.

Television could dress up the error in sequins and excuses. Print journalism gave it to us bluntly. And the public was outraged.

The seminal thought was this: "How dare you show us what took place. We want to see what should have taken place. Off with your heads."

It was an old story. If you don't like the message, shoot the messenger. Even sporting columnists working in Calgary were indicted for the choice of a picture which they didn't even see until it was printed.

and broken hearts, of infielders failing to pick up ground balls and linemen failing to pick up a quarterback's signal.

Sorry, folks, but it's time to grow up. Television executives may feel it is their place in society to make the news, but newspapers, magazines and their ilk are compelled to report it--as it happens.

Editors who selected the Thomas photo were not the ones who nearly fell down. No more so than the writers who explain why the Cubs will finish last are the ones who throw the pitches.

Debi Thomas had nothing to be ashamed of. Neither did the people who made the decision to run her unflattering picture.

Sport is full of broken plays

I know the way Debi Thomas sacrificed and worked. I know she's from northern California and was enrolled at Stanford. I know she wants to be a doctor. But she missed her triple jump.

And until a revisionist history of the XV Winter Games is published, she'll always miss it.

What we're missing is reality. If Debi Thomas or John Elway or any other athlete comes up empty on his or her biggest day, what's left but consolation and explanations?

The belief here is that before the women's free skating program, the ultimate performance, Americans were prepared to fault the imperious judges in this most subjective of all Contests.

Katarina Witt would beat Debi Thomas, and there was nothing we could do except castigate those who made another judgement, that of printing a photo which left nothing for the imagination.

Lord Jones may be dead, but our misconceptions of property will live forever.

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