

HIGGINS the Handicapper brings to you the top picks of the season.

NL EAST

Phillies- easily the class of the division. They have too much of everything that the others wished they had.

(3-5 odds on winning)

Pirates- once again bridesmaids, with the honeymoon soon to be over between Dave Parker and friends with the city of Pittsburgh. The Pirates may hit an all-time low on the mediocrity scale.

(8-1)

Cardinals- still need a power hitter and two more pitchers.

(15-1)

Cubs- people will be ready for them this year; they need pitching and depth.

(15-1)

Expos- 2 to 3 years away.

(50-1)

NL WEST

Dodgers- still have too much pitching for the Big Red Machine. They can match up with Reds in any other category, big edge for them is pitching.

(2-1)

Reds- still need a starter & reliever. Awesome line-up (just like Delco baseball?) hitting & fielding. They need more than Tom Terrific.

(3-1)

Astros- have the pitching the Reds need. A few more quality players & a happy Cedeno make them look good in a few years.

(20-1)

Giants- tallest pitching staff around.

(30-1)

Padres- sizzle faster than owner Ray Kroc's Big Macs. Look for Gaylord Perry & Mickey Lolich's pacemaker to give out by mid-August.

(100-1)

Braves- from the same state that brought you the other comedy team of Lance & Carter. Need I say more?

AL EAST

Boston- more, yes more power than any team in baseball. Two new flame throwers (Torrez & Eckersley) help the cause. The boys from Beantown will be gassing the rest of the division.

(2-1)

Yankees- Billy, Thurmon, Sparky & Lou are in there last year in New York. The Yankees take a lesson from the Rangers and choke on the big one this year. I've seen better shoulders on I-95 than on their pitching staff.

(4-1)

Orioles- the best manager in baseball, but the rest of the league is ready for the Birds. They need 2 more pitchers.

(7-1)

Brewers- not this year. Sober up and try in a few years.

(20-1)

AL WEST

Royals- two top rookies, experience, fairly good pitching staff make them the logical choice. Look for them to be bridesmaids again to the AL East winner.

(3-1)

Angels- best lefty-righty combo in baseball in Ryan & Tanana. Could make a closing rush if all their free agents come through. That could get owner Gene Autry singing again (that's one reason why I hope they lose it)

(6-1)

Rangers- should stick the Cowboy Cheerleaders in the opponents locker room to tire them out.

(12-1)

Chicago- best announcer in baseball (Harry Carry) - it's a shame he can't play

(30-1)

Playoffs

Philly over L.A. In 4
Boston over K.C. In 5

Series

Philly over Boston in 7 in a Series that will take up back to the old Boston-Philly basketball wars.