

Sports

Saberhagen tops AL All-Star hurlers

NEW YORK (AP) — Bret Saberhagen of Kansas City, coming back royally from a season of injury and frustration, will lead a nine-man pitching staff chosen Thursday by Manager John McNamara for the American League All-Star team.

The staff has four left-handers, including Bruce Hurst, the only member of McNamara's Boston Red Sox's staff on the team. The other left-handers are Mark Langston of Seattle and relievers Dan Plesac of Milwaukee and Dave Righetti of New York.

The rest of the staff includes right-handers Jack Morris of Detroit and Mike Witt of California and relievers Tom Henke of Toronto and Jay Howell of Oakland.

Saberhagen won the American Cy Young award in 1985 with a 20-6 record, then slumped to 7-

12 last year with a sore arm. He was on the disabled list from Aug. 10 to Sept. 1, 1986. This year, Saberhagen has won 14 of his first 17 decisions with a 2.56 ERA.

Saberhagen, however, was Manager Billy Gardner's scheduled starter for Saturday at Toronto, probably leaving the starting job to Morris, 12-3 and 3.56. Morris has said Saberhagen deserves the starting job.

"There ain't no way I should start," Morris said last weekend. "Saberhagen deserves to start. Fourteen and two (at the time) and he's not going to pitch? C'mon.

"Tell them to change Saberhagen's schedule. Saberhagen is the best pitcher in the league this year. No one is supposed to have a first half like he's had."

McNamara will announce his

starting pitcher and batting order at a news conference Monday morning in Oakland.

At the same time, McNamara also named the reserves that will fill out the American League team, which plays the National League All-Stars Tuesday night in Oakland.

George Brett of Kansas City was selected to be the backup third baseman, behind Boston's Wade Boggs. This will be Brett's 12th consecutive All-Star game, making him the senior member on either squad. Brett's previous 11 All-Star selections were by fan vote.

Dave Winfield of New York, who was elected to start in the outfield, has been selected to 11 All-Star teams.

Rookie Mark McGwire, who led the major leagues with 31

home runs at the time of his selection, and Pat Tabler of the Cleveland Indians were selected at first base to play behind Don Mattingly of New York, who was elected in fan balloting to start.

Lou Whitaker of Detroit will back up starter Willie Randolph of New York at second base, and McNamara chose Alan Trammell of Detroit and Tony Fernandez of Toronto to spell Cal Ripken Jr. of Baltimore at shortstop.

Kirby Puckett of Minnesota, Larry Parrish of Texas, Harold Baines of the White Sox and Dwight Evans of Boston were the backup outfielders. The elected starters were George Bell of Toronto, Rickey Henderson of the Yankees and Winfield.

Matt Nokes of Detroit, another rookie, was selected as a reserve catcher.

Cubs' Sutcliffe leads NL pitching staff

NEW YORK (AP) — Rick Sutcliffe of the Chicago Cubs, the National League's only 11-game winner, heads the eight-man NL pitching staff named Thursday for major league baseball's All-Star game by Manager Davey Johnson.

Sutcliffe, who was 11-4 with a 3.54 earned run average going into Thursday afternoon's with Los Angeles, will be joined by 10-game winners Mike Scott of Houston and Orel Hershiser of Los Angeles, 9-game winner Sid Fernandez of the New York Mets and Rick Reuschel of Pittsburgh, who has a 7-4 record and leads the league with a 2.32 ERA.

Smith of Chicago and John Franco of Cincinnati. Fernandez and Franco are the only left-handers on the staff.

Omitted from the team was another 10-game winner, Neal Heaton of Montreal; Terry Leach of Johnson's own Mets, who is 8-0 with a 2.08 ERA in a mixture of starting and relief roles and Houston reliever Dave Smith, who has an ERA of 0.52 with 15 saves and has allowed just 11 hits in 34 2/3 innings.

Johnson also named backups for the eight starters, who were elected by vote of the fans.

They include catchers Ozzie Virgil of Atlanta and Bo Diaz of Cincinnati; first baseman Keith Hernandez of the Mets; second baseman Juan Samuel of Philadelphia; shortstop Hubie Brooks of Montreal and third baseman Tim Lincecum of the Expos.

The six backup outfielders are Pedro Guerrero of Los Angeles, Tony Gwynn of San Diego, Jeffrey Leonard of San Francisco, Willie McGee of St. Louis, Dale Murphy of Atlanta and Tim Raines of Montreal.

None of the pitchers has been on more than one previous All-Star roster. It will be the first appearance for Bedrosian and Hershiser, the second for the rest.

Johnson has not indicated who his starting pitcher will be for the game to be played next Tuesday in Oakland, Calif.

But Sutcliffe, who is not scheduled for any more starts before the All-Star game, is one possibility and Scott, last year's Cy Young Award winner, who is scheduled to start Friday against the Mets, is another.

The starters for the NL, announced Wednesday, include catcher Gary Carter of New York, first baseman Jack Clark of St. Louis; second baseman Ryne Sandberg of Chicago, currently on the disabled list; shortstop Ozzie Smith of the Cardinals; third baseman Mike Schmidt of the Phillies and outfielders Eric Davis of Cincinnati, Darryl Strawberry of the Mets and Andre Dawson of the Cubs.

Every team is required to have at least one player on the All-Star team.

The Mets and Cubs have the most players on the 28-man roster, with four each. The Reds, Expos, Cards and Phillies have three each; the Dodgers and Braves two and San Diego, San Francisco, Pittsburgh and Houston one.

NL's Giamatti says severe steps will be taken to halt player fights

NEW YORK (AP) — National League President Bart Giamatti warned all teams in the league Thursday that he will take severe measures, including suspensions, against players involved in "acts clearly intended to maim or injure another player."

Reacting to the rash of beanball incidents in both leagues, Giamatti sent a message to all National League team presidents, general managers and managers with the warning.

"Any act that in my opinion is intended to cause severe physical harm to an opposing player... will henceforth result in the most severe penalties, possibly including suspension," he said.

Among those acts, Giamatti listed "throwing intentionally at a batter's

head, fighting on the field, or sliding with a 'rolling block.'"

On Tuesday, Andre Dawson of the Chicago Cubs was hit in the face by a pitch from Eric Show of the San Diego Padres, resulting in a bench-clearing brawl and a succession of brushback incidents. Five Cubs players, Manager Gene Michael and bullpen coach Johnny Oates all eventually were ejected from the game.

Dawson took 24 stitches around his mouth and sustained a contusion of his left cheekbone. He sat out Wednesday's game with a swollen face.

Show said the beaming was unintentional.

In the American League, the Kansas City Royals and Cleveland Indians got into their second fight in two nights over beanballs Wednesday.

"The Royals-Indians fight began in Cleveland when Kansas City pitcher Danny Jackson threw two pitches near Brett Butler's head. The two teams also fought over an alleged beanball Tuesday night, and there were charges of beanballs in Monday night's game — all in response to home runs.

"The game of baseball is, of course, a physical one, highly competitive, involving contact," Giamatti said in his communique. "It must be played hard and aggressively. It must also remain baseball and not become something else.

"Beanballs and similar acts are highly unprofessional," he said. "Acts clearly intended to maim or injure another player have no place in a profession that wishes to maintain its dignity and its credibility with the general public," Giamatti said.

Dave Smith gets snubbed from All-Stars

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston's Dave Smith, one of the most dominant relievers in the majors this season, said he doesn't know why he was left off the National League All-Star team.

"Unless you're voted in by the fans, you can never be sure," Smith said Thursday, soon after the NL's eight-man pitching staff was announced.

Smith has 15 saves and a 0.52 earned run average without any victories or losses. In 34 2/3 innings, he has allowed just two runs on 11 hits, and has struck out 48.

"I'm not going to put up any better numbers than I have," Smith said. "I don't think I can do any better."

"Not everybody is going to make the All-Star team. A lot of players are going to be disappointed this year."

New York Mets Manager and NL President A. Bartlett Giamatti announced the pitching staff that included relievers Steve Bedrosian of Philadelphia, John Franco of Cincinnati and Lee Smith of Chicago.

"He (Dave Smith) should be on it. He deserves it, but so does Lee Smith and Bedrosian, and Franco has a couple more saves and about the same ERA," Johnson said.

Bedrosian, who set a major-league record earlier this season with saves in 13 straight appearances, is 3-2 with 23 saves and a 2.89 ERA. Franco is 5-3 with 17 saves and a 1.52 ERA and Lee Smith is 2-5 with 22 saves and a 2.94 ERA. Bedrosian and both Smiths are right-handers and Franco is left-handed.

Dave Smith tried to downplay his disappointment and said he was focusing on the Astros' four games against Johnson's Mets that precede the All-Star break.

Ueberroth says baseball will take lead in hiring minorities for management posts

NEW YORK (AP) — Baseball Commissioner Peter Ueberroth pledged on Thursday that baseball would surpass the other major sports in hiring blacks and other minority group members to high-level off-the-field jobs.

"Baseball will get it job done," Ueberroth said at a joint news conference at the NAACP convention with Benjamin Hooks, the civil rights group's executive director.

"It's our job to say 'look at us. We're ahead of the law of the land and ahead of everyone else.'"

Hooks said that he has met with the owners of more than 20 of the 26 teams, although he acknowledged that there had been some resistance from three, who he did not name. He said later that they agreed to meet with him.

"Let's admit it, it's not a perfect world out there," Ueberroth said. "There is some resistance. It's my job to intervene when it's proper."

Hooks has been meeting with the commissioner's of all the major sports in an effort to open up off-the-field jobs for blacks.

But baseball remains in the most sensitive situation because of the remarks in April by Al Campanis, then the vice-president of the Los Angeles Dodgers, who said on ABC-TV's "Nightline" that blacks lacked "the necessities" for front-office jobs. Campanis was forced to resign shortly afterwards.

Both Ueberroth and Hooks noted that even before Campanis' remarks, the commissioner was interested in enhancing the off-the-field role of blacks. Hooks noted that last Decem-

ber, Ueberroth proposed celebrating this year as the 40th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's becoming the first black player in baseball.

Ueberroth acknowledged that the number of off-the-field jobs is limited. He said the 26 teams average 110 employees among them, about 90 of those in the non-baseball category ranging from secretary to attorney. He said his office would make sure that a representative number of blacks and Hispanics would fill jobs in both those categories in the next few years.

Ueberroth denied suggestions that some teams have declined to hire losing managers this season because they are afraid they would be pressured into naming blacks to succeed them.

"More than anything else, I want him handling the ball. I know he can shoot it."

"Basically, I told him, 'Steve, I don't care where you're playing the YMCA, on a playground, in a pickup game I want you bringing the ball up the floor.' I don't care if he has to steal it from his own teammate, that's what I want him to do."

Under Indiana's motion offense, Alford mostly ran his defender into a bigger body, then popped out for a jump shot. He rarely created his own shots and averaged fewer than five trips a game to the foul line.

As a point guard in the NBA, he'll be expected to create offensive opportunities for the other players on

Alford's shot in NBA will be as backup

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Steve Alford, who made his reputation as a shooter, has been told he'll likely spend most of his first two years in the NBA on the bench and then become the Dallas Mavericks' backup point guard.

Alford, a two-time All-American who led Indiana to the NCAA championship last spring, was a second-round draft pick by Dallas.

"Steve would do well to look at films of (Boston's Jerry) Sichting and (San Antonio's Jon) Sundvold if he's looking for role models," said Rick Sund, the Mavericks' vice president for basketball operations.

"Those are the kinds of players at least that he should be trying to emu-

late. Neither one of them are your classic point guards, but they've accepted a kind of hybrid role where they run the offense and still get some shots."

Sund told Len Pasquarelli of the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel that Alford will likely see little playing time his rookie year. He'll play more his second year, but won't see regular action until the 1989-90 season, when he should be prepared to be the backup point guard.

Veteran Brad Davis now is the backup to starter Derek Harper.

"Since I'm pretty much convinced that he's accepted this change mentally, I've told Steve he's now got to accept it physically, too," Sund said.

the floor and pass the ball, something he didn't always do well at in IU, where he averaged only 3.1 assists a game in four years.

"I honestly think he's been underrated in some ways," Sund said.

"In person, you get so caught up, kind of mesmerized actually, in watching him do the things he does well, like shooting the ball, that you tend not to concentrate on the other aspects of his game. Then, you go home and your perception is that he can't do the other things because you don't remember him doing them."

"I think he's got the potential to make the transition, mostly because he's got a mental toughness about him that's just tremendous."

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