

Battalion Classifieds

NOTICE

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- * muscle spasms
- * cramped toe
- * rigid muscles
- * weary achy legs
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G&S STUDIES, INC.
846-5933

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G & S studies, inc.
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- * infected cuts
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\$200 \$200 \$200 \$200

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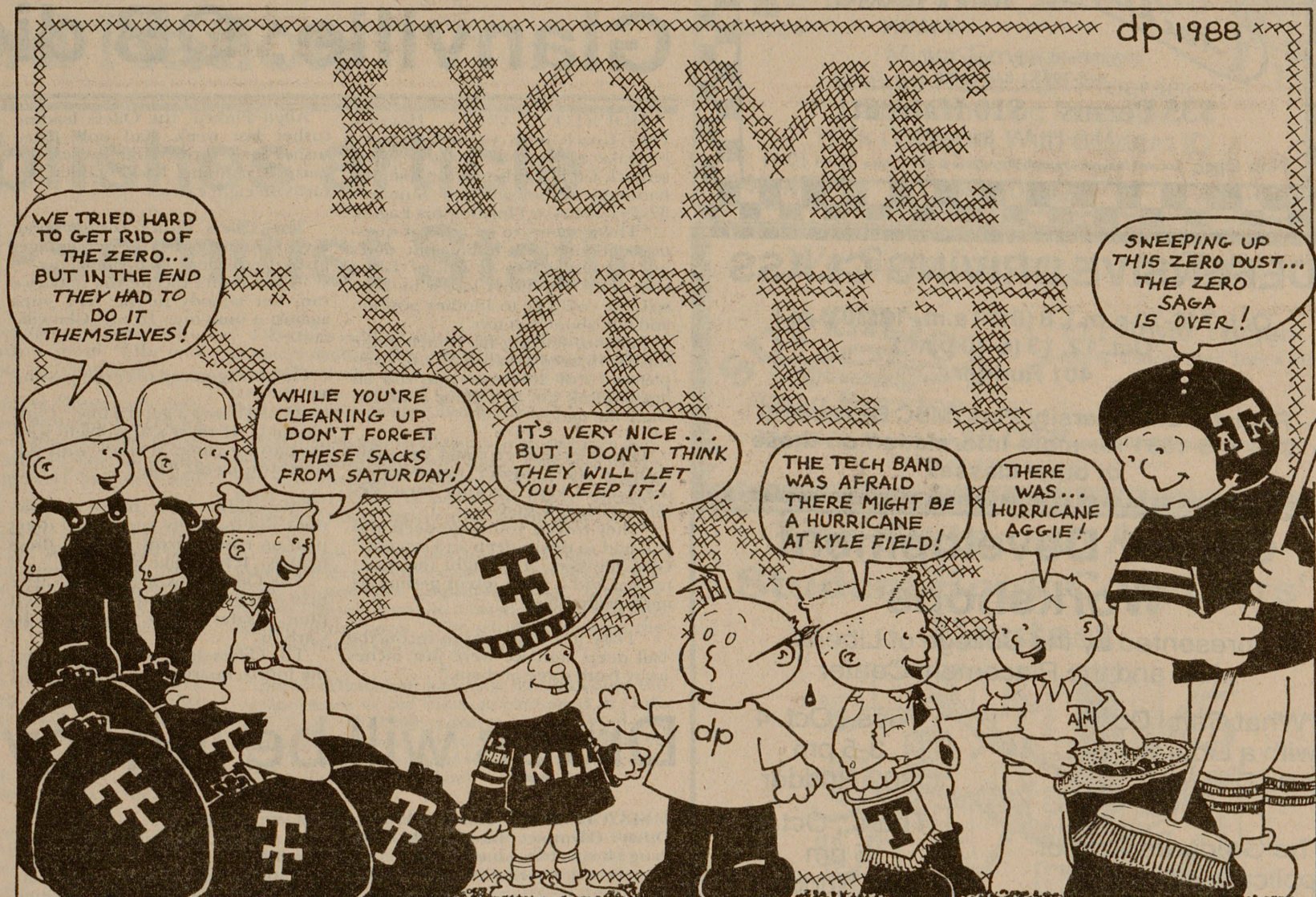
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Mets picked for NL pennant

Hersheiser advantage not enough for Dodgers

The numbers game indicate the New York Mets should beat the Los Angeles Dodgers for the National League pennant.

The Mets beat the Dodgers 10 of the 11 games the teams played this season, including all six at Dodger Stadium.

New York starters were 8-1 against the Dodgers with a 1.58 earned-run average. In 85 1/3 innings, Mets starters allowed 65 hits and struck out 71.

Lately, however, it's been hard to beat the numbers Dodgers right-hander Orel Hershiser is posting.

Hershiser, 23-8, has not allowed a run in 59 innings to set a major-league record. His last loss was a 2-1 setback by the Mets on Aug. 24 at Dodger Stadium.

Hershiser will start Game 1 Tuesday night at Dodger Stadium against Dwight Gooden, 18-9.

Gooden is 8-1 lifetime against Los Angeles, including 4-0 at Dodger Stadium with a 0.34 ERA.

Mets catcher Gary Carter likes his team's chances.

"I'll take Darryl Strawberry over (Kirk) Gibson," he said. "I'll take Kevin McReynolds over (John) Shelby, I'll take Keith Hernandez over (Franklin) Stubbs, Howard Johnson over (Alfredo) Griffin, (Gregg) Jefferies over (Terry) Woodson or (Jeff) Hamilton. I'll take Backman-Teufel over (Steve) Sax, me over (Mike) Scioscia. Man for man, we have the edge."

First base

Mets: Keith Hernandez

Hernandez missed about two months with a hamstring pull in his right leg and the Mets were a .500 team without him. The 10-time Gold Glove winner is the team leader on and off the field. Hernandez is one of the best two-strike hitters in the game and can hit left-handed pitching.

Dodgers: Franklin Stubbs

Stubbs has power but has not lived up to expectations. In 1985, he hit 32 homers for Class AAA Albuquerque. He hit 16 homers for the Dodgers last season but slipped to eight this year. Stubbs made 13 errors this season and is slow around the bag. In his career, Stubbs' average is less than .200 after the All-Star break. Edge: Mets.

Second base

Mets: Wally Backman

Backman started the season as Tim Teufel's backup but played his way back into the starting lineup by hitting around .300 since May. Manager Davey Johnson didn't think Backman was getting on base enough in 1987. Considered only an average fielder, Backman has been solid in 1988 and has made only four errors. His 49 strikeouts are too much for a No. 2 hitter and Johnson has been batting him eighth lately. Edge: Steve Sax

Dodgers: Steve Sax

Sax is the key player on offense for the Dodgers in this series. The Dodgers need to get the lead early and Sax figures to be the man to get them going. Sax struck out 51 times, too high for a leadoff batter. Sax was 10-for-46 against the Mets this season but stole only one base against a team that has lots of trouble throwing out runners. Edge: Dodgers.

Shortstop

Mets: Howard Johnson-Kevin Elster

NEW YORK METS

EASTERN DIVISION

LOS ANGELES DODGERS

WESTERN DIVISION

Starters

Mets

The Mets, who led the majors in ERA, will go with Gooden, David Cone, Ron Darling and Sid Fernandez. Cone has emerged as the best of the group and finished the season with a 20-3 record with 213 strikeouts and a 2.22 ERA. Darling is much tougher at home and will start Game 3 at Shea. Fernandez allowed only 127 hits in 187 innings and fanned 189. As a staff, the Mets averaged just more than 2 1/2 walks per game.

Dodgers

After Hershiser, it's John Tudor (if healthy) Tim Leary and rookie Tim Belcher. Tudor had to leave Friday's start in the second inning with muscle spasms in his hip and it is uncertain. Fernando Valenzuela looked good in two appearances after coming off the DL with a sore shoulder and could be a factor in long relief. Leary has been in a slump, allowing 22 earned runs in his last 25 innings, and may start Game 4 with Belcher moving up to Game 3. Edge: Even.

Center Field

Mets: Mookie Wilson-Len Dykstra

Dykstra, a hero of the Mets 1986 championship team, was named a regular in July, but Wilson got hot and took over. Along with Jefferies, Wilson was given credit for sparking the Mets in late August. He drove in six runs against the Dodgers this season but also struck out 10 times in 47 at-bats.

Dodgers: John Shelby

Shelby, acquired from Baltimore for reliever Tom Niedenfuer in May 1987, has been a pleasant surprise for the Dodgers. He hit 21 homers in 1987 but slipped to 10 this year. Still, he has home run potential and good speed. The Mets think his weakness is off-speed pitches. Edge: Even

Right Field

Mets: Darryl Strawberry

Along with McReynolds and Gibson, a strong candidate for MVP. Strawberry seemed a cinch for the award but had a slump in late July and August. Still, he led the league in homers (37). Strawberry is a streak hitter and picked up the last few weeks of the season. He has a strong arm but most of his throws to the plate are off-line. Edge: Even

Dodgers: Mike Marshall

The Dodgers need better production from Marshall against the Mets. During the regular season, he was 5-for-26 with one double. Marshall enjoyed a relatively healthy year and led the Dodgers in RBI. Like Strawberry, he'll never win any awards for fielding. Edge: Mets.

Catchers

Mets: Gary Carter

Carter, 34, seemed to have spent most of the summer looking for his 300th homer. He finally got it, but the season was a personal disappointment. The combination of New York pitchers not holding runners on and Carter's throwing problems makes the Mets an easy target to steal against. The Dodgers were 12-of-16 during the regular season and need to exploit this weakness more. Edge: Mike Scioscia

Dodgers: Mike Scioscia

Scioscia is a great defensive catcher who is tough to strike out. Scioscia bats second and is often used in hit-and-run situations. He is slow and will have problems scoring from second on a single. Against left-hander Sid Fernandez, the

Relievers

Mets

If the Mets have the lead late in the game, Randy Myers usually is a good bet to keep it. Myers was 7-3 with 25 saves and a 1.75 ERA. Roger McDowell, 16 saves, has been inconsistent the last few weeks. The Mets rely on his sinker when they need a double play. Terry Leach (7-2, 2.54) is the Mets' long reliever.

Dodgers

The Dodgers knew they needed a better bullpen to win and they found it with the acquisitions of Jay Howell (21 saves) and Jesse Orosco. Former starter Alejandro Pena has also been strong in long relief (1.93 ERA). Orosco was the winning pitcher for the Mets in Game 6 of the NL playoffs against Houston in 1986 and got the save in Game 7 of the World Series. Edge: Even.

Bench

Mets

By starting Jefferies, Davey Johnson has all sorts of options in the infield. Among the infielders, he has Teufel, Elster and Dave Magadan. The top pinch hitters are Mackey Sasser and veteran Lee Mazzilli.

Dodgers

The Dodgers can't match the Mets bench, but in low-scoring games they may not need to. Best pinch hitters are former Met Danny Heep and Mike Davis. Davis was signed to a big contract as a free agent but had a poor season, hitting .198 with two homers. Tracy Woodson can play first and third and has some power. Edge: Mets.

Managers

Davey Johnson

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Prediction

The Dodgers will be tougher for the Mets than during the regular season, but New York should win in six.

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