

Tigers' Anderson steps down



AP Photo

Detroit Tiger Manager Sparky Anderson chats with a young fan before a game at Detroit Stadium during the 1995 season. Anderson resigned from his position Monday after 17 years as the Tigers' manager.

Anderson is the winningest manager in Detroit's history.

DETROIT (AP) — Sparky Anderson will always follow the Detroit Tigers. He just won't manage them again. Anderson, the winningest manager in Tigers' history, resigned Monday after 17 years that included a World Series championship in 1984 and the AL East title in 1987. Anderson, his eyes welling, made the announcement at a news conference packed with media, coaches, players and friends. He would like to manage another club, but only a contender. "I think it would be good to go inside with a W," said Anderson, whose Tigers compiled a 60-84 record this year. "We were having one (win) maybe every three weeks. I was forgetting how to shake hands."

His resignation had been expected, but with Anderson it wasn't certain until he officially announced it. "To be around me, you have to be a little bit cuckoo," Anderson said. "One day it's written in concrete, the next day it's written in sand. I always felt if I didn't change my mind every 24 hours, people would find me boring." With his wife Carol in attendance, Anderson spent nearly seven minutes thanking everyone from fans to vendors to owners for his wonderful stay in Detroit. It was vintage Anderson, a man of the people. "People are more important than yourself," he said. "The last 12 years, I learned to give of myself and not worry about yourself." Tigers president John McHale called Anderson "one of a handful of the greatest managers in baseball history." "He came, he gave and he nev-

er stole," McHale said. "He leaves today as he came: his own man. Cherish him, remember him. We will not see his like again." Anderson, 61, will wait at least 30 days to look at his options for the future. He hopes to manage again next year, but if he's not working by spring training, he'll stay in retirement. "Anybody who thinks they can just pick up the phone and go to work is crazy," he said. Anderson, who compiled a record of 1,331-1,248 with the Tigers, urged Detroit fans not to lose faith in the struggling club. He said it would take time to build a winner again, but it would happen. "Just stick with 'em," he said. Anderson, who completed a two-year contract extension worth \$1 million per year, has been a winner almost everywhere he has managed. He led the Cincinnati Reds into the World Series four times.

Rangers form strong '95 nucleus

□ Texas finished in third place this year.

ARLINGTON (AP) — The dust hadn't even settled on another unfulfilled season for the Texas Rangers and manager Johnny Oates already was spewing the wait-til-next-year mantra that has become the franchise's motto. "We've got a lot of work to do," Oates said, "but I think we have the nucleus for a very good ballclub." That nucleus of Will Clark, Juan Gonzalez, Ivan Rodriguez and Dean Palmer also was there this year, yet all they could muster was a 74-70 record that left them in third place in the AL West, four games from first.

The Rangers were in first place as late as July, they remained in contention for the playoffs until the fourth-to-last game of the season and they had a winning record for the fifth time in seven years. But these baby steps of progress won't cut it. Not in a town where the Dallas Cowboys are king and especially not when Seattle, Cleveland and Colorado all make the playoffs before Texas.

If Seattle defeated California in their one-game showdown for the AL West title, the Rangers would be the only AL team never to make the playoffs. Texas and Florida are the only teams never to reach the playoffs and the Marlins have been around for three seasons. Next year will be the 25th in Arlington for the Rangers, and the 36th for the franchise that used to be the Washington Senators. Without as much as a division title to show, that silver anniversary will be tarnished.

Just like each of the last few springs, this was supposed to be the year. Oates and general manager Doug Melvin had come over from the Baltimore Orioles and were to bring over the winning attitude that had been lacking here. They established exactly that in Port Charlotte, Fla. The only problem was they did it with replacement players. Things got a lot harder once the strike ended, although Melvin did a great job of loading Oates' bench with solid, dependable veterans he had managed before. Mark McLemore and Mickey Tettleton ended up being saviors who kept the team together in many phases. Texas' downfall, though, was its longtime nemesis: injuries. Next to that wait-til-next-year motto the team logo could be a Band-Aid.

Mariners cap amazing run, 9-1

Seattle beat California enter the postseason.

SEATTLE (AP) — With a crowd of 52,356 wildly cheering for Randy Johnson as if it were the seventh game of the World Series, the Seattle Mariners finally got the opportunity to get there Monday. The Mariners reached the postseason for the first time in their 19-year history, winning the AL West title by beating the California Angels 9-1 in baseball's first one-

game playoff since 1980. Johnson (18-2), maintaining his menacing stare on every pitch, was perfect for 5 2-3 inning and finished with a three-hitter and 12 strikeouts. Leading 1-0, the Mariners broke open the game in the seventh when Luis Sojo's bases-loaded double — aided pitcher Mark Langston's throwing error — turned into a four-run play. The victory finished off a rollercoaster season for Seattle, which trailed California by 13 games on Aug. 2. The Mariners missed a

chance to wrap up the division by losing Saturday and Sunday while California won twice for a tie. The Mariners will play wild-card winner New York in the best-of-5 first round. The series begins Tuesday night at Yankee Stadium with Chris Bosio likely to start for Seattle against David Cone. Seattle was 9-4 against the Yankees, including a 3-3 mark in New York. Johnson, who won on three days' rest, will not be ready to pitch until at least Game 3 Friday night at the Kingdome. The

Mariners hoped to save their ace for Game 1, but needed him to win the most important game in franchise history. Johnson, the leading candidate for the AL Cy Young Award, led the majors with 294 strikeouts. He walked just one, and lost his shutout when Tony Phillips homered to open the ninth. The Kingdome fans were on their feet screaming and shouting encouragement from the first inning on, chanting "Randy, Randy," when he struck out the side in the third and fifth.

Ideal Cotton Bowl is domed

□ A consultant's report said the game would be better suited indoors.

DALLAS (AP) — To counter its "Ice Bowl" image, the Cotton Bowl ideally should be played in a domed stadium, a consultant's report released Monday says. The most frequently mentioned weakness of the Cotton Bowl in a national study of the Tier 1 selection process,

the 60-year-old New Year's Day classic and the future of post-season football was the perception of cold weather on game day.

"Most people think of the 'Ice Bowl' when they think of the Cotton Bowl," according to the study by Arthur Anderson commissioned by the Cotton Bowl Athletic Association. The company interviewed conference commissioners, athletic directors, coaches, media, agents, civic leaders and sponsors.

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LEFT FIELD Ron Gant, Cin. AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 410 276 29 88	RIGHT FIELD Reggie Sanders, Cin. AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 484 306 28 99
Roberto Kelly, L.A. AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 504 278 7 57	Raul Mondesi, L.A. AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 536 285 26 88
CENTER FIELD Thomas Howard, Cin. AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 281 302 3 26	Brett Butler, L.A. AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 513 300 1 38
SHORTSTOP Barry Larkin, Cin. AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 486 319 15 66	SECOND BASE Bret Boone, Cin. AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 513 267 15 68
Chad Fonville, L.A. AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 320 278 0 16	Delino DeShields, L.A. AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 425 256 8 37
THIRD BASE Jeff Branson, Cin. AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 331 260 12 45	FIRST BASE Hal Morris, Cin. AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 359 279 11 51
Tim Wallach, L.A. AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 327 266 9 38	Eric Karros, Los Angeles AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 551 298 32 105
CATCHER Benito Santiago, Cin. AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 266 286 11 44	GAME 1 STARTER Pete Schourek, Cin. W L IP ERA '95 Season 17 7 206 1 3.66
Mike Piazza, Los Angeles AB AVG HR RBI '95 Season 434 348 32 93	FIRST BASE Ramon Martinez, L.A. W L IP ERA '95 Season 17 7 206 1 3.66

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Friday	5:00pm - 7:15pm	9:00pm	LVA-Elks
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