

Page 9  
Wednesday • October 30, 1996

**SPORTS**

**Power hitters dominate AP All-Star Team**

**1996 NBA Preview**

**Rockets hope big trade to snare Barkley brings results**

**Robinson, Spurs start season battered, bruised**

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# Power hitters dominate AP All-Star Team

NEW YORK (AP) — Mark McGwire, who connected 52 times in baseball's Year of the Home Run, slugging outfielders Juan Gonzalez of Texas, Ken Griffey Jr. of Seattle, and Albert Belle of Cleveland highlighted the team.

The American League dominated the voting, which was completed before the playoffs began. Piazza, San Diego third baseman Ken Caminiti and right-handed starter John Smoltz of Atlanta were the only National League players selected.

Left-handed starter Andy Pettitte and reliever John Wetteland, who both wound up pitching the New York Yankees to the World Series championship, also made the team.

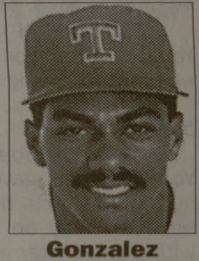
Paul Molitor was chosen for the fourth time in 10 seasons as the designated hitter.

The AP manager of the year will be announced Wednesday, with the AP player of the year on Thursday.

Texas catcher Ivan Rodriguez also received votes (25), as did teammate Dean Palmer at third base (2), and Houston Astros second baseman Craig Biggio (2).

In a record-breaking season for offense, power dominated the all-star team.

McGwire became the 13th



Gonzalez

player in major league history to reach the 50-homer mark. The Oakland first baseman got 80 votes to 33 for Frank Thomas of the Chicago White Sox.

Griffey hit 49 homers for Seattle, Belle had 48 for Cleveland and Gonzalez hit 47. They came in ahead of Burks, who hit .344 with 40 homers, 128 RBIs and scored a major league-high 142 runs.

Among the outfielders who finished farther back were San Francisco's Barry Bonds, only the second player to hit 40 homers and steal 40 bases in the same season, 50-homer man Brady Anderson of Baltimore and seven-time NL batting champion Tony Gwynn of San Diego.

Rodriguez, who hit 36 homers and had 123 RBIs and a major league-leading 54 doubles, was an overwhelming winner at shortstop. Baltimore's Cal Ripken, a role model for Rodriguez when he was growing up, was second with six votes.

Knoblauch hit .341 and scored 140 runs for Minnesota. Alomar batted .328, scored 132 runs and won the AL Gold Glove at second base for the Orioles.

Caminiti hit .326 with 40 home runs and 130 RBIs for San Diego. He received 139 votes to 15 for Cleveland's Jim Thome.

Piazza hit .336 with 36 homers and 105 RBIs, earning him 113 votes. Todd Hundley, who set a major league record for catcher with 41 homers for the New York Mets, was second with 34 votes.

Molitor, who led the majors with 225 hits and got the 3,000th hit of his career, got 108 votes. Edgar Martinez of Seattle was the runner-up at DH with 21.

Smoltz led the majors with 24 wins and 276 strikeouts for the NL champion Braves. He got 149 votes to 20 for Florida's Kevin Brown, who led the majors with a 1.89 ERA.

Pettitte, tops in the AL with 21 wins, got 132 votes as the lefty starter. Atlanta's Tom Glavine and Denny Neagle each received seven.

Wetteland, who had 43 saves for the Yankees and became the World Series MVP, drew 48 votes as the reliever. Todd Worrell, who had 44 saves for Los Angeles was runner-up with 42. Wetteland's setup man, Mariano Rivera, was third with 34.

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## 1996 NBA Preview

### Rockets hope big trade to snare Barkley brings results

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Rockets are beginning their quest for a third NBA title in four years with a point guard by committee and one-third of their supe- rstar trio on suspension.

"It's a tough way to start the season," Houston Rockets coach Rudy Tomjanovich said.

The Rockets are accustomed to adversity. They overcame all odds to win back-to-back titles in 1994 and 1995. When they were de- feated last year, they made major changes.

Charles Barkley joined Ha- keem Olajuwon and Clyde Drexler in Houston, while Sam Cassell, Robert Horry, Mark Bryant and Chucky Brown were sent to Phoenix.

"It's been a good learning process," Barkley said. "I've had a lot on my mind in the presea- son trying to learn the offense. I think I've learned it well, and I'm looking forward to playing."

He won't start immediately. Barkley was suspended for one game and fined \$5,000 Monday as punishment for retaliating in a Friday night brawl with New York Knicks forward Charles Oakley.

The Rockets also signed free agent Kevin Willis to back up

Olajuwon and help improve re- bounding, and Brent Price to be the point guard.

Tomjanovich is just anxious to get through the start of the season with his altered lineup.

"It puts a kink in your stride," he said.

Olajuwon, the acknowledged star of the show, isn't worried about losing some of the spot- light to Barkley and some playing minutes to Willis.

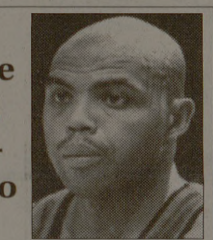
"I'd like to knock most of the play- ers' minutes down a little bit and keep people fresh during the season and definitely healthy by the end of the season," Tom- janovich said.

Olajuwon likes the concept.

"We know we have a lot of guys who can cause trouble for oppo- nents. This gives us an advantage over the other teams," he said.

A theory circulated after the trade that a team with so many su- perstars could never get along. Tomjanovich expects the opposite.

"The relationship of our three great players is very close," Tomjanovich said. "Clyde and Charles go back a long way and they've got a good relationship and Haakeem and Charles got to know each other from the Olympics."



Charles Barkley  
Houston Rockets forward

### Robinson, Spurs start season battered, bruised

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The San Antonio Spurs and their fans are about to get a glimpse of life in the NBA without All-Star David Robinson. And coach Bob Hill is warning it may not be a pretty sight.

"I might be the only person in San Antonio that completely understands how important David is to our team," Hill said. "I think we take him for granted to some degree."

When the Spurs open their season Friday at Min- nesota, Robinson will still be out with lower back pain. He is expected to miss at least the first two games and possibly the first 10 games of the regular season.

What's more, San Antonio has suffered a deluge of other injuries, making the season's start particularly gloomy for the bruised and battered Spurs.

"The injuries are unbelievable," Hill said. "We are snake bitten."

Along with Robinson's obvi- ous contributions, Hill predicts players and fans will miss the subtle ways he helps his team- mates shine.

"Other guys feed off of him all the time. We have guys score points off of David Robinson night in and night out, with his pick-and-rolls and his double teams and him setting screens and so on and so forth," Hill said.

Robinson, 31, who under- went hernia surgery in August, had experienced back pain earlier in his career and wore

lower back supports some last season. He traveled last week to the Kerlan-Jobe Clinic in Los Angeles for rehabilitation, and Spurs officials announced Oct. 22 he would be sidelined up to a month.

"We didn't have a good men- tal attitude ... when we really found out that Dave wasn't going to be here," said point guard Avery Johnson. "But I think it improved as the week went on."

San Antonio also embarks on the season without several other players.

Backup center Will Perdue fractured the top of his left thumb in Saturday's ex- hibition game with New York.

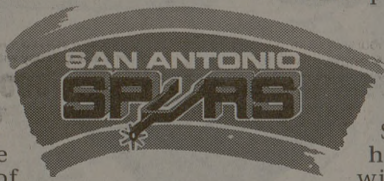
Chuck Person is having back surgery this week. Charles Smith has right knee inflammation. And Monty Williams has a nerve contusion in his forearm.

Two brighter spots for the Spurs right now are newcomers Vernon Maxwell and Do- minique Wilkins, both of whom turned in solid performances at the preseason concluded.

"They're involved players. They're active players, and they run the floor, they play defense, they go to the board and they're in action all the time. It's terrific," Hill said.

And the chemistry might get even better with a few victories and Robinson's return.

"Winning perpetuates chem- istry and the right attitude," Hill said. "It'll all be there."



### Trade draws 3.5 million Yankee fans

NEW YORK (AP) — An estimated 3.5 million New York Yankees fans are expected to show up in a pinstriped party in the Canyon of Heroes.

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani announced Monday that he would attend the "biggest grandest" ever, an estimate more on civic than reality.

Members aside, it was a chance for fans, many scarce World Series celebrators with players who played only 28 games averaging 4.9 points and 14.5 rebounds in his presea- son.

King, who will still be in an offseason deal with the Bulls, was acquired in a north Dallas suburb.

second-year guard King was outplayed in the by undrafted rookie King averaged 4.6 points and 14.5 rebounds in his presea- son.

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