

# Indians class of A.L. Central; Chicago, Detroit jockey for Wild Card



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Sports editor



**CENTRAL**  
Part 5 in a 7-part series



**CLEVELAND INDIANS**  
86-75; 1st in AL Central; Lost World Series to Marlins

They have done in the last few seasons the Indians gave themselves another season face lift. They shipped off an up of All-Stars and brought in more to replace them.

Cleveland lost the veteran leadership of Williams and Orel Hershiser, but one original members of the Indians' early rebuilding plan, Kenny Lofton, is still on a year in Atlanta.

The closest thing the Indians have to an ace is Charles Nagy, and with Ben McDaniels sent back to Milwaukee, Cleveland's rotation has emerged as its weak spot.

And down the order the Indians can't hit. Webster should put this lineup in the definition of "baseball's perfect batting order" in his next edition. They have

**1998 INDIANS**

	AVG.	HR	RBI	SB
Wandy Alomar	.324	21	83	0
Jim Thome	.285	40	102	1
Carlos Garcia*	.220	3	23	11
Travis Fryman*	.274	22	102	16
Omar Vizquel	.280	5	49	43
David Justice	.329	33	101	3
Kenny Lofton*	.333	5	48	27
Manny Ramirez	.328	26	88	2
Brian Giles	.268	17	61	13
B-Enrique Wilson*	.333	0	1	0

**Garcia with Blue Jays; Fryman with Tigers; Lofton with Braves; Wilson in 5 games with Marlins**

	W-L	ERA	IP
P Charles Nagy	15-11	4.28	227
P Jarret Wright	8-3	4.38	90.1
P Chad Ogea	8-9	4.99	126.1
P Dwight Gooden*	9-5	4.51	106.1
P Bartolo Colon	4-7	5.85	94

	W-L	SV	ERA
P Jose Mesa	4-4	16	2.40
P Mike Jackson	2-5	15	3.24

**Gooden with Yankees**

speed where they need it, power where they need it and smart hitters throughout.

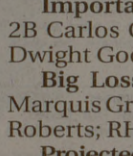
Look for newly acquired second baseman Carlos Garcia to have a big year. Ever since his rookie season with Pittsburgh, Garcia has been expected to carry part of the offensive load, but now he doesn't need to worry about it. He might explode this year.

They have a great bullpen and one of the better defenses in the league, but the Indians will have to get solid seasons from some young arms if they want to repeat as AL Central champions.

**Important Additions:** 3B Travis Fryman; 2B Carlos Garcia; OF Kenny Lofton; RHP Dwight Gooden.

**Big Losses:** LHP Brian Anderson; OF Marquis Grissom; 3B Matt Williams; OF Bip Roberts; RHP Orel Hershiser.

**Projected Record:** 89-73; 1st in AL Central.



**CHICAGO WHITE SOX**  
80-81; 2nd in AL Central

Last year was a fluke. There is no reason for this team not to have been in the playoffs. But instead of sucking it up and fighting through 1997, when, in fact, they were never really getting blown out of contention

**1998 WHITE SOX**

	AVG.	HR	RBI	SB
C-Charlie O'Brien*	.218	4	27	0
1B-Frank Thomas	.347	35	125	1
2B-Ray Durham	.271	11	53	33
3B-Robin Ventura	.262	6	26	0
SS-Benji Gil*	.224	5	31	1
LF-Albert Belle	.274	30	116	4
CF-Mike Cameron	.259	14	55	23
RF-Magglio Ordonez*	.319	4	11	1
DH-Chris Snopce	.218	5	38	3
SUB-Mario Valdez*	.243	1	13	1

**\*O'Brien with Blue Jays; Gil with Rangers; Ordonez in 21 games with White Sox; Valdez in 54 games in White Sox**

	W-L	ERA	IP
RHP Jaime Navarro	9-14	5.79	209.2
RHP James Baldwin	12-15	5.27	200
RHP Jason Bere*	4-2	4.71	28.2
LHP Scott Eyre*	4-4	5.04	60.1
LHP Mike Sirotko*	3-0	2.25	32

	W-L	SV	ERA
RHP Matt Karchner	3-1	15	2.91
RHP Carlos Castillo	2-1	1	4.48

**\*Bere in 6 games with White Sox; Eyre in 11 games with White Sox; Sirotko in 7 games with White Sox**

by Cleveland, the White Sox cleaned house and gave up. That move cost them a shot at the playoffs in 1998.

Anyone who thinks Albert Belle is going

to go through another year like last season better rethink. Robin Ventura is the key to this team and he is healthy this season after suffering a horrendous break to his lower leg last spring.

This season baseball will finally get to see what it was expecting last year when Chicago brought in Belle to protect Frank Thomas. They may both hit 50 home runs this season, drive in 130 runs and hit .330, but even that won't be enough for Chicago to contend.

The White Sox really don't have the defense to make up for all of the balls that will be drilled to the fielders. Benji Gil, Thomas and Belle are contenders for the worst defensive players at their respective positions.

New Manager Jerry Manuel has spent the last seven years under the tutelage of Felipe Alou and Jim Leyland. He should be the perfect person to help along Chicago's budding young stars. He should also help to bring some peace of mind to a thin starting rotation.

**Important Additions:** C Charlie O'Brien. **Big Losses:** OF Dave Martinez; OF Lyle Mouton.

**Projected Record:** 83-79; 2nd in AL Central.



**DETROIT TIGERS**  
79-83; 3rd in AL East

The Tigers are dangerously close to becoming a legitimate contender for a Wild Card spot. Buddy Bell did an amazing job last season reviving the worst team in baseball to almost .500.

The Tigers probably won't see the playoffs this season, but if Detroit's management can sign the core of young players to long-term deals, as Cleveland did earlier this decade, Detroit will be a powerhouse in the new century.

The big question in Motor City is the rotation. Willie Blair is gone and leaves 24-year-old Justin Thompson as the ace. He will be the anchor of a staff which is full of once-predicted All-Stars, like himself, who have been around the block a few times and not had much success.

But overall the Tigers are one of the more exciting stories of this season. They should entertain all year with a good combination of speed and power throughout their lineup.

If a couple of second-year guys have big seasons, the Tigers might jump ahead of the clock and win the Wild Card.

**Important Additions:** OF Trey Beamon;

**1998 TIGERS**

	AVG.	HR	RBI	SB
C-Raul Casanova	.243	5	24	1
1B-Tony Clark	.276	32	117	1
2B-Damion Easley	.264	22	72	28
3B-Joe Randa*	.302	7	60	4
SS-Deivi Cruz	.241	2	40	3
LF-Luis Gonzalez*	.258	10	68	10
CF-Brian Hunter	.269	4	45	74
RF-Bobby Higginson	.299	27	101	12
DH-Bip Roberts*	.271	3	8	3
SUB-Trey Beamon*	.277	0	7	1

**\*Randa with Pirates; Gonzalez with Astros; Roberts in 23 games with Indians; Beamon in 43 games with Padres**

	W-L	ERA	IP
LHP Justin Thompson	15-11	3.02	223.1
RHP Brian Moehler	11-12	4.67	175.1
RHP Scott Sanders*	3-8	5.33	74.1
RHP Frank Castillo*	6-3	5.42	86.1
RHP Tim Worrell*	4-8	5.16	106.1

	W-L	SV	ERA
RHP Todd Jones	5-4	31	3.09
RHP Doug Brocail	3-4	2	3.23

**\*Sanders in 14 games with Tigers; Castillo in 14 games with Rockies; Worrell with Padres**

OF Luis Gonzalez; 3B Joe Randa; RHP Tim Worrell.

**Big Losses:** 3B Travis Fryman; OF Phil Nevin; OF Bubba Trammell; RHP Donnie Wall.

**Projected Record:** 80-82; 3rd in AL Central.



**KANSAS CITY ROYALS**  
67-94; 5th in AL Central

Nothing has worked for Kansas City. It seems that ever since George Brett decided to hang up his spikes, the Royals have lingered down at the bottom of the no-hope list of American League teams.

It's hard to figure out — the Royals have as much talent as some of the better teams in baseball, but Kansas City has become a black hole for players trying to win a championship. In contrast to a lot of the cellar-dwellers in the AL, Kansas City has actually tried to make some big moves and get back into the race.

Maybe this will be the season with Dean Palmer, Jeff Kent, Jermaine Dye and Jeff Conine, that they improve on their 12th-place finish in runs and 10th-place finish in home runs they suffered in the 14-team AL in 1997.

The pitching is there — Kansas City has a good group of starters and an excellent closer but hasn't gotten the run support it needs to win close ballgames.

With the right breaks and good years from some key power hitters, Kansas City is

a team that has the pitching to make it to the playoffs — but don't count on it.

**Important Additions:** 1B Jeff Conine; 1B Hal Morris; SS Orlando Miller.

**Big Losses:** SS Jay Bell; DH Chili Davis.

**Projected Record:** 78-84; 4th in AL Central.

**1998 ROYALS**

	AVG.	HR	RBI	SB
C-Mike Sweeney	.242	7	31	3
1B-Jeff King	.238	28	112	16
2B-Jose Offerman	.297	2	39	9
3B-Dean Palmer*	.278	9	31	1
SS-Felix Martinez*	.226	0	3	0
LF-Jeff Conine*	.242	17	61	2
CF-Johnny Damon	.275	8	48	16
RF-Jermaine Dye	.236	7	22	2
DH-Hal Morris*	.276	1	33	3
SUB-Jed Hansen*	.309	1	14	3

**\*Palmer in 49 games with Royals; Martinez in 16 games with Royals; Conine with Marlins; Morris with Reds; Hansen in 34 games with Royals**

	W-L	ERA	IP
RHP Kevin Appier	9-13	3.40	235.2
RHP Tim Lincecum	13-12	5.02	213.1
LHP Jose Rasado	9-12	4.69	203.1
RHP Jim Pittsley	5-8	5.46	112
LHP Chris Hammond*	3-4	5.92	65.1

	W-L	SV	ERA
RHP Jeff Montgomery	1-4	14	3.49
LHP Matt Whisenant	1-0	0	2.84

**\*Hammond with Red Sox**



**MINNESOTA TWINS**  
68-94; 4th in AL Central

What's wrong with the Twins? After winning a World Series in 1987, they fell to last place by 1990, but rebounded again to win the Series in 1991. Since then, however, it's been one blow after another for Minnesota that has kept them down and led to five consecutive losing seasons.

The big news out of Minnesota this spring was the trade of Chuck Knoblauch, the Twins' best player, to the Yankees. But there are a few other disturbing things making their way out of Twins camp.

Paul Molitor, one of the most respected players in the game, has said this is the worst attitude he has witnessed from a team in his career. Molitor seriously considered retirement simply because the game just wasn't fun in Minnesota. But Manager Tom Kelly talked him into staying, grooming him for a managerial position he should take in the near future.

PLEASE SEE FURTICK ON PAGE 6.

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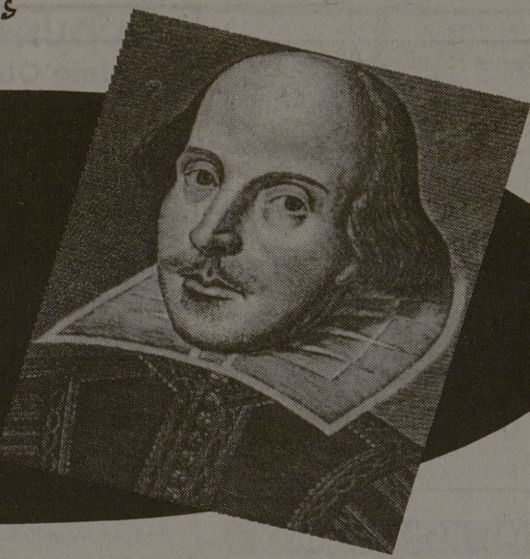
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**Sunday, March 29**  
Kenneth Branagh's Hamlet  
with lecture by Dr. Paul Parrish  
2 p.m. Biochemistry Building Room 107

**Monday, March 30**  
Did Shakespeare really write Shakespeare?  
lecture by Joseph Sobran,  
author of *Alias Shakespeare*  
7 p.m. Rudder Theater

**Tuesday, March 31**  
Second Folio Tour  
3 p.m. 204B Evans Library  
Printing Press Tour  
3:45 p.m. 210 Evans Library (Cushing)

Shakespeare = Shakespeare  
The Other Side of the Authorship Issue  
lecture by Dr. Earl Dachslager, University of Houston  
7 p.m. Rudder Theater

*Comedy of Errors*  
A stage reading by the Aggie Players  
8:30 p.m. Sweet Eugene's

**Wednesday, April 1**  
World Shakespeare Bibliography Tour  
2nd floor Blocker 2 p.m.

The Director and The Dream:  
A Stage of History of  
A Midsummer Night's Dream  
lecture by Dr. Michael Greenwald  
7 p.m. Rudder 707

*Macbeth*  
A stage reading by the Aggie Players  
8:30 p.m. Sweet Eugene's

**Thursday, April 2**  
*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*  
with lecture by Dr. Kate Kelly  
7 p.m. Biochemistry Building Room 107

**Friday, April 3**  
Second Folio Tour  
12:30 p.m. 204B Evans Library  
Printing Press Tour  
1:15 p.m. 210 Evans Library (Cushing)

King Lear, Royal Authority, and Single Parenting  
lecture by Dr. Douglas Brooks  
6 p.m. MSC Flagroom

*All Lear's Children: A Parody of King Lear*  
presented by Aggie Players  
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**Saturday, April 4**  
Acting Workshop presented by Aggie Players  
2-5 p.m. MSC 027

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\*Score improvement based on 1997 ICR study. The Princeton Review is not associated with Princeton University nor ETS.