

## Star power

### Fan favorites not always best All-Stars

Today is the day starting lineups as selected by the fans will be announced for this year's Major League Baseball All-Star game. This year's game at Boston's Fenway Park will mark the 66th edition of the midseason event. Unfortunately, it also will mark the return of Bob Costas behind the microphone — another horrible side effect of the NBA lockout. Aren't the fans entitled to more than three weeks of peace?



MARK PASSWATERS

As usual, there will be players elected to the All-Star Teams whose statistics do not merit their selection, as well as players whose numbers will be overlooked by the fans. Here is the fan's ballot of who he thinks should be starting.

#### AMERICAN LEAGUE

**First Base — Mo Vaughn, Anaheim**  
(.286, 16 HR, 49 RBI)

Vaughn was the heart and soul of the Red Sox until Boston general manager Dan Duquette ran him out of town in one of the most classless moves of the decade. It is only fitting he should start. Maybe he can hit Duquette with a foul ball.

**Second Base — Roberto Alomar, Cleveland**  
(.333, 10 HR, 53 RBI, 20 Steals)

Get out your spit shields — Alomar is once again playing like the best second baseman in the game.

**Shortstop — Nomar Garciaparra, Boston**  
(.354, 14 HR, 55 RBI)

This game is in Garciaparra's home ballpark and is having a great year. He is the sentimental choice.

What about Derek Jeter? No way he could get this vote, for two reasons. First, there has to be some law against starting a Yankee in Fenway Park. Second, he hit on my ex-girlfriend before Game 1 of the 1996 World Series. No soup for him.

**Third Base — Cal Ripken Jr., Baltimore**  
(.315, 10 HR, 30 RBI)

This is not a sentimental choice. Since his return from the disabled list, Ripken has been by far the best third baseman in the American League. And to think some moron wrote in this very paper this spring that he was washed up.

**Catcher — Ivan Rodriguez, Texas**  
(.315, 13 HR, 46 RBI)

Pudge is the best all-around catcher in the game, and maybe the best of all time. This is a no-brainer.

**Outfield — Ken Griffey Jr., Seattle**  
(.311, 27 HR, 74 RBI)

"Do you know me? I'm the best player in baseball."

**B. J. Surhoff, Baltimore**  
(.341, 17 HR, 56 RBI)

Surhoff has been the Orioles' offensive spark all season long. He has better numbers than big-money free agent Albert Bell, and has done so with fewer tantrums.

**Manny Ramirez, Cleveland**  
(.348, 19 HR, 81 RBI)

At the moment, Ramirez is putting up numbers that will make him the American League MVP.

**Designated Hitter: Harold Baines, Baltimore**  
(.348, 15 HR, 52 RBI)

The 40-year-old Baines has put up these remarkable numbers in only 61 games. However, it is a wasted vote, since Jose Canseco will win out.

#### NATIONAL LEAGUE

**First Base — Jeff Bagwell, Houston**  
(.320, 24 HR, 67 RBI)

Bagwell is putting up MVP-type numbers, but this is another wasted vote. Mark McGwire will start here.

**Second Base — Jay Bell, Arizona**  
(.284, 22 HR, 55 RBI)

Excuse me, please take down the "reserved for Craig Biggio" sign. In this year of the rabbit

### Lone Star All-Stars

Texas Rangers and Houston Astros players among top five vote-getters by position as of June 29:



**TEXAS RANGERS:**  
C Ivan Rodriguez  
1B Rafael Palmeiro  
OF Juan Gonzales  
OF Rusty Greer

**HOUSTON ASTROS:**  
1B Jeff Bagwell  
2B Craig Biggio  
3B Ken Caminiti  
OF Derek Bell

ball, Bell has taken advantage by putting up the best numbers of any NL second baseman.

**Shortstop — Barry Larkin, Cincinnati**  
(.312, 9 HR, 50 RBI)

Healthy once more, Larkin has returned to his role as the NL's best shortstop.

**Third Base — Matt Williams, Arizona**  
(.324, 21 HR, 70 RBI)

You were expecting Chipper Jones? A look at the stats shows Williams leads in every offensive category in spite of the fact he is 161 years old.

**Catcher — Mike Piazza, New York Mets**  
(.317, 16 HR, 44 RBI)

Piazza is the best hitting catcher around. Another no-brainer.

**Outfield — Larry Walker, Colorado**  
(.380, 19 HR, 65 RBI)

This is the one guy who can make a run at the triple crown.

**Sammy Sosa, Chicago Cubs**  
(.288, 29 HR, 66 RBI)

Sosa has become the power threat in the NL with 30 homers before the All-Star Game.

**Luis Gonzalez, Arizona**  
(.370, 13 HR, 49 RBI)

A quiet candidate, Gonzalez is having a career year, including a 31-game hitting streak.

Don't like these choices? Please use all the options available to fans to make sure your will is done for next year. And have some fun doing it.

Mark Passwaters is a graduate student in electrical engineering.

## BCS announces formula change

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (U-WIRE) — Bowl Championship Series (BCS) coordinator Roy Kramer said Wednesday one of the major changes in the new formula that decides which football teams will play for the 2000 national championship is actually quite simple.

Instead of adding three numbers and dividing by three, simply add seven and divide by seven.

While the 1999 BCS formula still will consist of subjective polls, computer rankings, schedule strength and number of losses to determine a national championship matchup, Kramer announced a few minor changes to the system.

One difference in effect for next season is the addition of five computer rankings that will join the three already in place in 1998. Seven of those rankings will be added together and divided to formulate one quarter of a team's BCS standing.

Computer rankings by Richard Billingsley, the Dunkel Index, Kenneth Massey, David Rothman and the Matthews/Scripps-Howard join the *New York Times*, Jeff Sagarin's *USA Today* and the *Anderson-Hester/Seattle Times* in the formula.

"If you have a disease it's always good to get a second, third, fourth or fifth opinion," Kramer said. "What this does is give us a broader diversity of opinion and ranking system, and I think it does add credibility to that by giving us a broader spectrum of information."

However, only the seven highest computer rankings for a team will count in the formula, with the lowest being dropped.

Though the new rankings will provide five extra opinions, Kramer

### Rank and file

Sources to contribute to the 1999 BCS ranking formula:

- COMPUTER RANKINGS:**  
Richard Billingsley  
Dunkel Index  
Kenneth Massey  
Matthews/Scripps Howard  
David Rothman
- NEWSPAPERS:**  
*New York Times*  
*USA Today*  
*Anderson-Hester/Seattle Times*

said the result of the 1998 final rankings still would have remained the same with the University of Tennessee, Florida State University, Ohio State University and Kansas State University occupying the top four spots.

The BCS, which will not release standings until the seventh week of the season on Oct. 25, also will require teams to have nine regular season victories and a top-12 ranking at the end of the season, to have a chance to receive an at-large bid.

Kramer said beginning with the 2003 standings, a conference whose champions in four previous seasons do not average a top-12 ranking could lose their automatic bid.

The conferences that currently have automatic berths include the Atlantic Coast, Big East, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-10 and Southeastern Conference.

The 1999 national championship game will be at the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans Jan. 4 at 8 p.m.

Robbie Neiswanger writes for the *Independent Florida Alligator* (University of Florida).



ANTHONY DISALVO/THE BATTALION

Texas A&M Archery Team coach Frank Thomas will serve as an assistant coach for the U.S. Men's and Women's Archery Teams this summer at the Pan American Games in Winnipeg.

## A&M archery coach to assist Pan American Team

BY REECE FLOOD  
The Battalion

One of the coaches of the Texas A&M Archery Team will be heading to this year's Pan American Games as an assistant coach for the U.S. Archery Team.

Frank Thomas, who also is chair of A&M's Physical Education Activity Program, said he is looking forward to the opportunity to coach in the Games.

"It's very exciting," he said. "The tournaments that I've been to at this point have just been archery tournaments. One of the exciting things about this though is it's not just archery."

"It's going to be athletes in all kinds of sports, so that is really going to be fun."

Both the men's and women's teams will be attending the Games, from July 23 to August 9 in Winnipeg.

This will not be Thomas' first appearance as a coach on the international level. In 1997, he was an assistant coach in the World Championships and the Russian

Grand Prix. Thomas also served as assistant coach in the 1998 German Grand Prix and worked as the archery competition manager for the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta.

**"It [the Pan American Games] is going to be athletes in all kinds of sports, so that is really going to be fun."**

— Frank Thomas  
Texas A&M archery co-coach

Thomas credits A&M for helping him become a nationally recognized archery coach. He said he only had a little experience with the sport before coming to A&M and learned most of what he knows about it here.

"It (A&M) has really devel-

oped me into what I am as an archery coach," he said.

Thomas already has met with the U.S. team once during opening trials and is familiar with one of the players. Junior wildlife and fisheries sciences major Vic Wunderle will join the U.S. men's team in Winnipeg. Wunderle played under the direction of Thomas while on the Texas A&M Archery Team, winning the Collegiate National Championship three times. He also has won two Junior World Championships.

Although the Games' opening ceremonies will be July 23, the team will not arrive in Winnipeg until July 31 for three days of practice.

The competition begins Aug. 4, and will last until Aug. 8. The first day of the competition will be what Thomas calls a "ranking round," in which players are seeded into brackets according to their total score.

Thomas said each shooter can

SEE ARCHERY ON PAGE 4.

A Central Texas Managed Health Care Program  
**Makes More Sense**  
Than Traditional Health Insurance

That's why Bryan-College Station has **FIRSTCARE.**

No annual deductible

No claim forms to complete

Low co-payments

Brazos Valley Physicians Organization

Quality health care and controlled costs

Bryan-College Station employers have an affordable solution to their group health care needs: **FIRSTCARE**, a health care program created to help control your rising medical costs.



Your Partner in Health.  
254-202-5300  
1-888-817-2273

FIRSTCARE is a service of Hillcrest.

More than 100,000 Texans depend on **FIRSTCARE**, available in Bryan-College Station. Ask your employer about it. For affordable, quality, convenient and comprehensive health care, choose **FIRSTCARE.**

FIRSTCARE is a service mark of SHA, L.L.C.