

Magic number is down to two

By THE CANADIAN PRESS
The American League division races have become a matter of simple mathematics for managers Earl Weaver of Baltimore Orioles and Jim Fregosi of California Angels.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	62	.522	—
Milwaukee	59	.522	1 1/2
Boston	57	.522	2 1/2
Detroit	57	.522	3 1/2
New York	57	.522	4 1/2
Cleveland	57	.522	5 1/2
Toronto	57	.522	6 1/2

W	L	Pct.	GB
California	50	.522	—
Kansas City	49	.522	1 1/2
Minnesota	47	.522	3 1/2
Chicago	46	.522	5 1/2
Seattle	45	.522	7 1/2
Oakland	44	.522	9 1/2

Weaver preters multiplication. "We're on our way home, trying to start a one-game winning streak," he said after the Orioles defeated Detroit Tigers 8-7 Thursday night. "That's all we need: two more one-game wins to break it." Two times in two, which just happens to be the "magic number" for clinching the East Division crown. If multiplication is Weaver's strength, try subtraction: every time the Orioles win or the second-place Detroit Tigers lose, subtract one from Baltimore's magic number. Fregosi's forte is addition by subtraction. His first-place Angels arrived in Kansas City three games ahead of the Royals, then played four games, and left exactly three games behind. "And that's the magic number of the schedule," he noted, even if three of the Angels' remaining nine contests are against Kansas City. "I'd say if we win five out of nine, we've got it," said California's Bobby Grich, an associate on the Angels' Kansas City's George Brett wouldn't divulge the specifics of his favorite equation. After the Royals lost an 11-9 decision to the Angels Thursday night, he put it this way: "From now on, each game becomes more important than the last. We need a little help from Texas and California next. We need to sweep in Oakland."

It remains to be seen if that's as simple as it sounds. In the other games in an abbreviated schedule Thursday, Toronto Blue Jays topped Boston Red Sox 6-2 and Minnesota Twins trimmed New York Yankees, 3-1.

The Orioles' Eddie Murray swatted a 6-4 tie with a seventh-inning homer off Jack Bullinger, then hit All Bumbury double in the eighth as Baltimore beat Detroit.

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JUNIOR LEAGUE STARTS TONIGHT

VANCOUVER (CP) — The British Columbia Junior Hockey League begins a new season tonight with two new teams and without four others from last season.

The 10-team circuit has added North Vancouver Caps and Richmond Sockeyes from the former Pacific Junior League, but has lost Delta Suns, Langley Canadians, Powell River Bruins and Vernon Canadians for financial reasons.

A new format has a sixteen Coastal Division — Chilliwack Colts, Abbotsford Flyers, Bellingham Blazers, Nanaimo Clippers, North Vancouver and Richmond Sockeyes and a four-team Interior Division consisting of Kelowna Buckaroos, Penticton Knights, Kamloops Rockets and Merritt Centennials.

League play begins tonight with Bellingham travelling to Kelowna, while on Saturday, Bellingham plays at Penticton and Nanaimo at Chilliwack. North Vancouver visits Richmond on Sunday and Kamloops plays at Merritt.

Coastal teams will play a 56-game schedule and Interior clubs just 40 games. All interior clubs will qualify for the playoffs and four of the six Coastal clubs will advance to post-season competition.

Bellingham won the B.C.J.H.L. championship last season, although runnerup Kamloops moved on to the Centennial Cup playoffs. The two junior teams because American teams can't compete for national championships at that level.

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Montreal alone on top

By THE CANADIAN PRESS
Montreal Expos have been so busy playing double-headers this month it's a wonder they've had the energy to do anything else.

After moving back into first place, however, Montreal found time for a little celebrating.

The Expos swept their second consecutive twinbill from New York Mets with 6-0 and 2-0 victories Thursday.

With Pittsburgh Pirates falling to Philadelphia Phillies 2-1, the Expos — who lost a 1-0 game to the Montreal Expos — moved a half-game ahead of Pittsburgh.

"I think we've got a right to be whooping and hollering a little bit," said Expos manager Dick Williams in the Montreal locker room. "It's great. We're really battled."

They've battled through six double-headers this month, winning 10 of the 12 games. They still have two more to go, including one during a four-game visit to Pittsburgh next week.

"I felt all along that those double-headers in front of us were our only obstacle," said catcher Gary Carter, whose run-scoring single in the ninth inning of the nightcap broke a scoreless battle between Scott Sanderson and the Mets' Mike Scott.

Sanderson, 3-7, threw a seven-hitter and struck out nine. Andre Dawson and Rusty Staub singled prior to Carter's RBI hit and Jerry White got another RBI single off Scott, 1-2.

In the opener, White led off the eighth with a home run and the Expos scored three more times in the inning. Two New York errors helped the rally.

Elsewhere in the National League, Cincinnati maintained its 2½-game lead over St. Louis.

The goal by Leach came four minutes after Sabre winger Rene Robert had given Buffalo a 3-4 advantage.

Goals by Richard Martin, Jerry Koras and Ric Selling gave Buffalo a three-goal lead by the time 3:30 was played in the second period.

The Flyers played catch up all night, getting goals from Bobby Clarke, Moe Dupont, Bob Kelly and Ken Linseman.

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Houston, the Reds beating San Diego Padres 8-5 and the Astros taking Atlanta Braves and pitched a nine-hitter. Los Angeles Dodgers blanked San Francisco Giants 3-0 and St. Louis Cardinals edged Chicago Cubs 2-1.



SCOTT SANDERSON ...hurts Shastek

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NATIONAL LEAGUE

W	L	Pct.	GB
Montreal	91	.592	—
Pittsburgh	91	.592	1 1/2
St. Louis	80	.522	11 1/2
Philadelphia	80	.522	12 1/2
Chicago	77	.500	15 1/2
New York	56	.371	35 1/2

W	L	Pct.	GB
Cincinnati	87	.567	—
Houston	84	.553	2 1/2
Los Angeles	75	.490	12 1/2
San Francisco	68	.453	19 1/2
Cincinnati	63	.413	24 1/2
Los Angeles	61	.397	26 1/2

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Merger problem becomes history

TORONTO (CP) — John Ziegler admits the National Hockey League still has some problems, but the merger with the World Hockey Association is now a done deal.

"It's nice to be looking ahead to this season and thinking I'm going to be able to watch more hockey games and focus more attention on the game, I hope, than a lot of the business problems, that have commanded so much of my time in the last couple of years," said Ziegler.

In a recent interview, Ziegler was asked to give a general assessment of the merger season which will see four new teams who came in from the now defunct WHA.

"I certainly don't see it as an end to all our problems," he said of the expansion that brought in Edmonton Oilers, Winnipeg Jets, Quebec Nordiques and Hartford Whalers.

"But I'm rather excited and am looking forward to this season. I think perhaps I share the fans' curiosity as to what the fans coming in. There's a number of players over there that I've heard a lot about and I'm looking forward to seeing them play. I'm looking forward to seeing the league operate as one league and seeing our support all the problem solving."

"We have the opportunity to get rid of Jackson."

"I don't think we can have it any longer, guys saying they don't want to play for the Yankees," he said. "It's an honor to be a Yankee. No West Coast team can match our tradition and our pride. The team doesn't want to be a Yankee — we'll oblige him."

Jackson has two years left on his five-year contract. Told of Martin's latest remarks, he responded, "I hope we sell a lot of tickets and I sell a lot of candy bars and we'll be sweet to each other."

Vernon and District Minor Hockey Assn.

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Martin, Yankees are at it again

NEW YORK (AP) — Manager Billy Martin of New York Yankees has, in effect, told Reggie Jackson to play baseball and quit making waves.

"Reggie or any other player," Martin told reporters covering the club before the Yankees left Cleveland to continue their current road trip in Minnesota. "Anyone who doesn't want to be in a team, we don't want on this club."

The manager's latest outburst came after The Associated Press reported from reliable sources that he had, twice within the last several days, urged that the volatile \$2.8 million outfielder be traded.

Martin denied that report, saying he had talked with general manager Cedric Tallis regarding trades with a number of players. He said this was routine.

However, he told The AP that he resented being confronted daily with headlines airing player's gripes against fellow players and management.

"These things ought to be handled behind closed doors face to face," Martin said. "All this kind of publicity is detrimental to team morale."

He made a point of not singling out Jackson, although Reggie has publicly said several times recently that he wants to be traded and in the last two weeks has criticized owner George Steinbrenner.

CITIZEN KACAL: STEINBRENNER had given him a racial slur when, during a meeting at which Jackson objected to Martin as manager, the owner told him, "You better get your head screwed on straight, boy."

Last Sunday, at a ceremony honoring the retiring Jackson (Catfish) Hunter, Jackson

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