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# BLEACHER CREATURE

A Monthly Conversation Among Baseball Fans

Issue # 138

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

APRIL, 2006

## Zephyrs Season Helps Bring Sense of Normalcy

By Bill Catalanello

Not quite as Big, not nearly as Easy: that's our hometown these days. If you live in New Orleans area, you've gone through an off-season like no other. If you're a baseball fan from the Crescent City, you're probably ready for some hardball right about now, and not the kind played by the insurance companies.

The 2005 season never had a proper ending, as most in the area, including the Zephyrs, fled ahead of Hurricane Katrina. The team embarked by bus on the final road trip of the season. The rest of us scattered to the north and the west, anywhere away from the destruction. Most of us were away from home for at least weeks while the city drained and services were slowly restored. The 2006 season begins with optimism and the spirit of rebuilding. After the storm, the Zephyrs pledged early and often to stay and play in their home town and take part in the rebuilding effort. Some residents have completed repairs and rebuilding, some are still very much in the process, and some have not even returned to the New Orleans area. The disaster touched everyone living here, but to varying degrees.

For those of us in the rebuilding mode, anything and everything that resembles our pre-K normalcy is a welcome sight. The Zephyrs' season as it begins for 2006, is one of those "normal" and therefore comforting occurrences. That the Zs never wavered in their determination to stay is a credit to Owner/President Donald Beaver, who announced just weeks after the hurricane that the team would play its entire 2006 season at its Metairie home. The Zephyrs staff, headed by general manager Mike Schline, worked months to make it happen.

*continued on page 5*



**Signs of the times:  
The Zephyrs' new scoreboard (above)  
begins to take shape.  
Afternoon shadows during a spring  
Tulane baseball game (below) reveal  
the skeleton of a roof in progress**





Brandon Watson



Daryle Ward



Ryan Church

## Watson, Ward with Washington, Church Starts Year in New Orleans

**Brandon Watson** has made the Washington opening day roster and is projected to be the everyday lead-off batter. Watson hit .355 as the Zephyrs' starting centerfielder for most of last season and was very dependable defensively. To make room for Watson, outfielder **Ryan Church**, who spent the entire 2005 season with Washington, will start the 2006 season as a Zephyr.

**Daryle Ward**, a former Zephyrs hero and a major league veteran, was given a chance to make the Nationals out of spring training. Washington manager **Frank Robinson** chose Ward over **Michael Tucker** as a power-hitting lefthanded bat off the bench. Tucker, also a longtime major league veteran, was given his release just before opening day.

## BLEACHER CREATURE

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*Bleacher Creature* is a monthly conversation among baseball fans. It has been published since 1993. It is independent of the New Orleans Zephyrs ballclub and is made possible by our wonderfully loyal subscribers, supporters, contributors and friends.

## 2005 Season's Top Major League Hitters in Total Run Production

By Jack Hebert

Total Run Production is the sum of a hitter's runs scored plus his runs batted in minus his home run total. (TRP=R+RBI-HR)

Here are the top hitters in each major league in this category for the 2005 season:

### AMERICAN LEAGUE

Player, Team	R	RBI	HR	TRP
David Ortiz, Bos.	119	148	47	220
Mark Teixeira, Tex.	112	144	43	213
Manny Ramirez, Bos.	112	144	45	211
Alex Rodriguez, NY	124	130	48	206
Hideki Matsui, NY	108	116	23	201
Gary Sheffield, NY	104	123	34	193
Johnny Damon, Bos.	117	75	10	182
Richie Sexson, Sea.	99	121	39	181
Michael Young, Tex.	114	91	24	181
Derek Jeter, NY	122	70	19	173
Vladimir Guerrero, LA	95	108	32	171
Grady Sizemore, Cle.	111	81	22	170
Alfonso Soriano, Tex.	102	104	36	170
Travis Hafner, Cle.	94	108	33	169
Carl Crawford TB	101	81	15	167

### NATIONAL LEAGUE

Player, Team	R	RBI	HR	TRP
Albert Pujols, StL	129	117	41	205
Miguel Cabrera, Fla.	106	116	33	158
Bobby Abreu, Phi.	104	102	24	182
Derek Lee, Chi.	120	107	46	181
Jason Bay, Pit.	110	101	32	179
Jeff Kent, LA	100	105	29	176
David Wright, NY	99	102	27	174
Andruw Jones, Atl.	95	128	51	172
Chase Utley, Phi.	93	105	28	170
Adam Dunn, Cin.	107	101	40	168
Carlos Lee, Mil.	85	114	32	167
Carlos Delgado, Fla.	81	115	33	163
Pat Burrell, Phi.	78	117	32	163
Brian Giles, SD	92	83	15	160
Felipe Lopez, Cin.	97	85	23	159

# Joe McGinnity's "Iron Man" Feats are Legendary

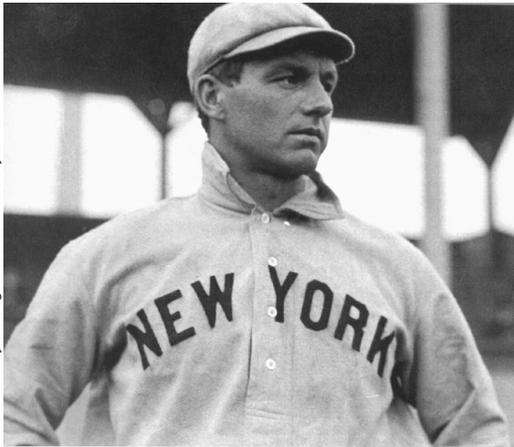


Photo courtesy Chicago Historical Society

New York Giants Hall of Fame righthander Joe "Iron Man" McGinnity had a month in the season of 1903 that any other pitcher could only dream about. Three times in August of that year, McGinnity pitched and won both games of a doubleheader.

On August 1, against Boston, McGinnity won twice by scores of 4-1 and 5-2. One week later, on August 8, he pitched another doubleheader, this time against Brooklyn. The "Iron Man" went the distance in both games once again, winning by scores of 6-1 and 4-3. On August 31, McGinnity stifled the Phillies twice, 4-1 and 9-2, to put his name in a unique niche in baseball history.

1903, it must be pointed out, was not the first time McGinnity pitched both ends of a twin bill. He did it twice for Baltimore in the American League in 1901, splitting the pair of games each time.

1903 was, however, a big year for Joe McGinnity and his teammate and fellow Hall-of-Famer Christy Mathewson. They were 1-2 in the National League in most games, wins, innings pitched, complete games and strikeouts. They combined for 61 of the Giants total of 84 victories. That was only good enough for second place, as manager John McGraw's Giants finished 6-1/2 games behind Pittsburgh.

Joe McGinnity's career with the Giants reached another peak the following year, 1904, when he led McGraw's team to the National League pennant putting up a record of 35-8, a winning percentage of .814, and an ERA of 1.61. His 408 innings pitched for 1904 season gave a him a 2-year total of 842 innings on the mound. Of his 35 victories in 1904, 9 were shutouts.

When McGinnity was finally released by the Giants after the 1908 season, he headed back to the minors, where he pitched for 14 more seasons, including some in which he functioned as player/manager. Throughout his career, McGinnity developed a reputation as a tough guy, getting involved in an occasional altercation, some of them on the field. His minor league playing career finally came to a close in 1925, when at age 54, he compiled a 6-6 record with Dubuque of the Mississippi Valley League. McGinnity died four years later, in 1929, at age 58.

Here are some of the Iron Man's major league stats:

Year	Club	IP	Won	Lost	Pct.	ERA
1899	Balt. (NL)	366	28	17	.622	2.68
1900	Brook. (NL)	343	29	9	.763	2.94
1901	Balt. (AL)	382	26	19	.578	3.56
1902	Balt. (AL)	198	13	10	.565	3.44
	NY (NL)	153	8	8	.500	2.81
1903	NY (NL)	434	31	19	.620	2.43
1904	NY (NL)	408	35	8	.814	1.61
1905	NY (NL)	320	21	15	.583	2.87
1906	NY (NL)	339	27	12	.692	2.25
1907	NY (NL)	310	18	18	.500	3.16
1908	NY (NL)	186	11	7	.611	2.27
<b>Totals</b>		<b>3441</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>.633</b>	<b>2.66</b>

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# The Forgotten Pelicans

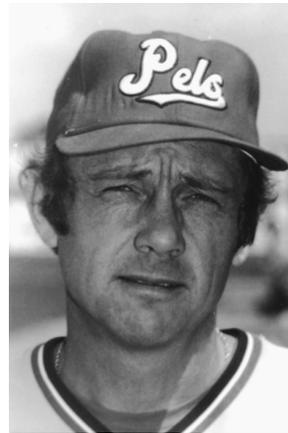
## The 1977 Team

When the failing New Orleans Pelicans franchise was sold to Little Rock in the fall of 1959 it marked the end of professional baseball in New Orleans for the first time in 72 years. It also led to the eventual collapse of the Southern Association after the 1961 season.

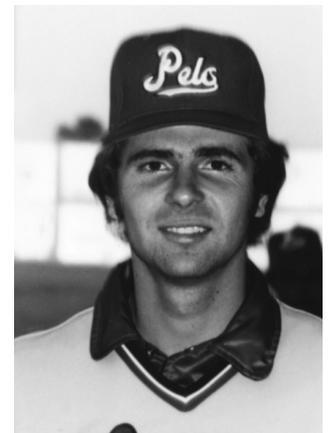
In 1976, Oklahoma businessman A. Ray Smith took a gamble on the future of professional baseball in the Crescent City when he announced that he would relocate his AAA American Association franchise, the Tulsa Oilers, to New Orleans for the 1977 season. The team would appropriately be renamed the New Orleans Pelicans and the recently christened Superdome would be their home field. In its baseball configuration the Superdome could seat 62,000 fans.

Owner Smith assembled quite a management team, with former major leaguers Billy Martin as Chairman of the Board and Satchel Paige as Vice President for Public Relations. Lance Nichols was named the field manager. There were serious discussions at the time about expanding major league baseball, and New Orleans had already made the short list of cities for consideration. Smith hoped that a winning team and huge fan support would give him the inside track to ownership of a future major league team in New Orleans.

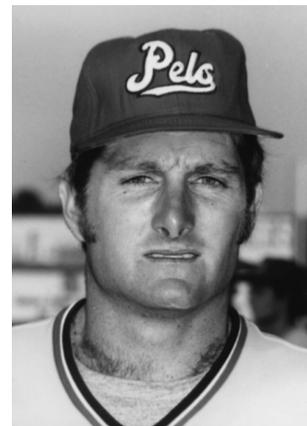
The club was the AAA affiliate of the St. Louis Cardinals, and



Lance Nichols



Mike Bass



Steve Dunning



Pat Scanlon

Position Players	Pos.	Avg.	HR	RBI
Jesus Alvarez	IF	.248	8	31
<b>Benny Ayala</b>	OF	.298	18	73
<b>Rick Bosetti</b>	OF	.310	7	21
Leon Brown	OF	.162	1	9
<b>Manny Castillo</b>	IF	<b>.167</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>
Charlie Chant	OF	.157	5	22
Ron Farkas	IF	.158	1	4
Tom Harmon	C	.272	3	29
<b>Dane Iorg</b>	OF	.330	9	48
Tony Larussa	IF	.188	3	6
Tom McMillan	IF	.260	0	2
Nyls Nyman	OF	.276	3	38
<b>Ken Oberkfell</b>	IF	.251	4	32
Marty Parrill	IF	.196	3	14
Brock Pemberton	IF	.241	3	41
Mike Potter	OF	.263	15	87
Jim Rigglesman	IF	.240	17	52
Tom Sandt	OF	.259	10	29
<b>Pat Scanlon</b>	IF	.363	6	22
<b>John Tamargo, Sr.</b>	C	.254	10	42

Pitchers				
Al Autry	4-6	4.97	Barry Raziano	0-1 4.65
Mike Bass	10-10	3.56	Bill Rothan	5-10 6.16
Mike Beard	0-4	6.21	Ramon de los Santos	3-6 7.03
Stan Butkus	5-3	3.95	<b>Randy Scarbery</b>	2-1 4.32
<b>Doug Capilla</b>	3-4	4.50	<b>Charles Schultz</b>	1-0 3.00
Pat Darcy	0-1	12.60	John Sielicki	1-3 5.66
Tom Detorre	3-4	5.34	<b>Eddie Solomon</b>	4-2 4.20
Dave Drumright	0-0	6.00	<b>John Sutton</b>	5-4 3.32
<b>Steve Dunning</b>	8-8	3.92	<b>Randy Wiles</b>	6-4 3.60
<b>Pete Falcone</b>	2-5	4.91		
<b>Bob Galasso</b>	1-2	2.70		

Players shown in **BOLD** denote future major leaguers

nine of the players from the 1977 Pelicans would eventually be called up to the Cardinals. In all, sixteen players would make it to the majors.

Among the hitters, Benny Ayala led the team in home runs (18) while Mike Potter took the honors for RBIs (87) and Pat Scanlon led all hitters for average (.363). The pitching staff was led by Mike Bass (10 – 10, 3.56 ERA) and Steve Dunning (8 – 8, 3.92 ERA). Ayala was the only member of the team named to the All-Star squad.

The club struggled to finish in last place in the American Association West division with a record of 57 – 79 (.419), 14 games back. It was not for lack of fan support, however, as attendance was 217,957 for the season, second only to the 288,167 posted by Denver. Smith once again relocated the team to Springfield (IL) for the 1978 season.

New Orleans never did receive a major league expansion team, but Denver did in 1993. This meant that the Denver minor league franchise would have to relocate their team. In a strange twist of fate, the Denver franchise moved to New Orleans, becoming the New Orleans Zephyrs and returning professional baseball back to the city for good.

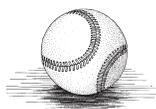
As the Zephyrs begin the 2006 season, their 14th in New Orleans, Tim Foli will be back to manage the club for his second season. New Orleans' 2005 record under Foli was 64-71.

Rick Eckstein will be Foli's hitting coach for the 2006 season, his first with the Zephyrs. Steve McCatty is making his New Orleans debut as Zephyrs pitching coach.

Fans will remember many of the names on the Zephyrs roster from the 2005 season. The major league affiliate Washington Nationals now appear to be a team on the rise, and we are likely to see some talented players here at the Triple-A level.

After several months (it seemed longer) thinking about all kinds of issues that were unimaginable before last August, it sure feels good to be talking about baseball again.

We look forward again to seeing friends in the ballpark, talking baseball, and sitting back to take in a ballgame. When you're thinking about runs, hits, stolen bases, and RBIs, for a short time the game is all that matters. For those three hours or so that we immerse ourselves in the game, we can almost forget ourselves and believe that everything here is OK.



## 2006 New Orleans Zephyrs Roster

### Pitchers

No.	Name	Pos	Bat	Thw	Ht	Wt	Age	DOB
4	Roy Corcoran	P	R	R	5' 10"	170	25	05-11-1980
25	Josh Karp	P	R	R	6' 5"	210	26	09-21-1979
12	Brian Powell	P	R	R	6' 2"	200	32	10-10-1973
44	Travis Hughes	P	R	R	6' 5"	235	27	05-25-1978
18	Chris Schroder	P	R	R	6' 3"	210	27	08-20-1978
42	Donnie Bridges	P	R	R	6' 4"	220	27	12-10-1978
	David Gil	P	R	R	6' 4"	215	27	10-01-1978
	Bill Bray	P	L	L	6' 3"	215	22	06-05-1983
	Kip Bouknight	P	R	R	6' 0"	190	27	11-16-1978
	Jose Sanchez	P	R	R	6' 1"	202	24	10-11-1981
	Josh Perrault	P	R	R	6' 3"	205	23	06-11-1982
	Billy Traber	P	L	L	6' 5"	205	26	09-18-1979
	Kevin Gryboski	P	R	R	6' 5"	255	32	11-15-1973

### Catchers

No.	Name	Pos	Bat	Thw	Ht	Wt	Age	DOB
19	Hector Ortiz	C	R	R	6' 0"	200	36	10-14-1969
8	Craig Kuzmic	C	S	R	6' 0"	180	28	05-02-1977
	Alberto Castillo	C	R	R	6' 0"	215	36	02-10-1970

### Infielders

No.	Name	Pos	Bat	Thw	Ht	Wt	Age	DOB
29	Larry Broadway	1B	L	L	6' 4"	230	25	12-17-1980
23	Brendan Harris	2B	R	R	6' 1"	200	25	08-26-1980
6	Jason Bowers	IF	R	R	5' 10"	183	28	01-27-1978
14	Wesley Carroll	SS	R	R	5' 11"	180	27	01-05-1979
36	Juan Melo	3B	S	R	6' 1"	160	29	10-11-1976
	Brandon Powell	2B	L	R	6' 0"	191	25	08-15-1980
	Bernie Castro	2B	S	R	5' 10"	165	26	07-14-1979

### Outfielders

No.	Name	Pos	Bat	Thw	Ht	Wt	Age	DOB
24	Tyrell Godwin	OF	L	R	6' 0"	200	26	07-10-1979
	Dee Haynes	OF	R	R	6' 0"	205	28	02-22-1978
	Cristian Guerrero	OF	R	R	6' 7"	175	25	07-12-1980
	Reginald Fitzpatrick	OF	L	L	5' 11"	180	23	02-28-1983
	Ryan Church	RF	L	L	6' 1"	190	27	10-14-1978

# Zephyrs Rebuild, Help Kids' Club Do the Same

*The following is from a story that appeared on MiLB.com, the Official Site of Minor League Baseball. Our thanks to MiLB.com for allowing us to print an excerpt here.*

By Jonathan Mayo / MLB.com

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, there was one thing the New Orleans Zephyrs wanted to make sure of: that they find a way to play the 2006 season at home.

"The Zephyrs sent out a press release less than two weeks after the storm where [owner] Don Beaver said we would be back in New Orleans," Zephyrs GM Mike Schline said. "As far as committing to the city, I can't think of a better example I've seen post-Katrina than the effort of Don Beaver."

That effort led to a long process in getting Zephyr Field renovated in time for Opening Day.

The Zephyrs have been there for the city every step of the way, from immediately after Katrina when the parking lot of Zephyr Field was used as a staging area to Beaver's commitment to stay and now to its continued involvement in the community and the rebuilding process.

In conjunction with Opening Day, the Frank Foundation's Magical Builders ([www.magicalbuilders.com](http://www.magicalbuilders.com)) organization will be coming to New Orleans to renovate the West Bank Boys & Girls Club. While not demolished by the post-Katrina floods most saw on TV, the club was greatly damaged by the hurricane. Many of New Orleans' citizens who were forced to evacuate relocated to this area, so the Club will be providing summer programs for a very large number of kids who would otherwise have no place to go.

"That's the one thing we have to keep on reminding people," said Christy Frank, co-founder of the Frank Foundation with her husband, Jon. "Even though this club wasn't completely [demolished], it was greatly damaged. We have to get in there and not gut it, but we're going to re-do the entire bathrooms, their kitchen, their computer labs. We're getting help from FEMA to re-do their roof and gym floor. This is very important for the kids to have something to go to this summer."

The Boys & Girls Club, needless to say, can't wait to get the ball rolling and start extending the services kids deserve in the area. Bobby Smith, the president and CPO of the Boys & Girls Club of Southeast Louisiana, has stopped by the closed club frequently and was saddened to watch busloads of kids from school, who used to be dropped off there for after-school programs, drive by looking at the club longingly. Now, thanks to the efforts of Magical Builders, the Zephyrs and many others, Smith sees a bright future ahead.

"What this means is there's going to be over 250 kids in that neighborhood that at one time belonged to that club who will be able to come back home," Smith said. "I call it their second

## Club Involved with Magical Builders to Renovate Boys & Girls Club

home and, for some, it's their first home. It'll help return some sense of normalcy. We're extremely appreciative. It provides a needed service in the community."

The Zephyrs were more than willing to extend their reach to the West Bank region. According to Frank, the Triple-A affiliate of the Washington Nationals has been astounding in their aid to get things going on this project. "The Zephyrs have had open arms to us the entire journey," Frank said. "They've welcomed us and said, 'Our home is your home. Tell us what you need and we're here to help out.' They really want this project to be a full success for everybody. We couldn't ask for a more incredible partner than the Zephyrs."

The Zephyrs are eager to participate in this renovation project, not only to continue to rebuild the city, but to show there is still much work to be done and that baseball can play a large part in that effort.

"We've wanted to do everything we could to get involved and help rebuild this city," Schline said. "This is just another example of being able to do that and we're real excited about that."

"This city has come a long way since August 29-30, September 1, but anybody who's stepped foot in this city in the last six months knows it's still a long way from where it needs to be. We feel strongly that baseball has always been a stabilizing force in this country. I think the fact that we're going to have a baseball season in New Orleans and that the team is coming back is going to go a long way in the recovery effort."

This project gives everyone involved, and those who are looking for a way to continue to help, a chance to directly contribute to the city's long-term recovery. Magical Builders will soon have a "gift registry" up on their site, allowing people to make direct donations in terms of materials and goods to this project.

People are also encouraged to do more than open their checkbooks. While there has been an effort made to rely on people outside of New Orleans for obvious reasons, people in the city are already stepping up to help out. The Pyramid Construction Company in New Orleans, a family business operated by three generations, has basically told Frank to tell them when and where to be and they'll provide as much support on the construction end that they can.

"We're spreading the word out to people, saying if you want to come out and help us, we have a place for you to stay, we have a place for you to come down to volunteer," she said. "We're accepting materials of all kinds. So far, we've gotten a lot of help, a lot of volunteers, a lot of materials donated. We're looking for more."

Jonathan Mayo is a reporter for MLB.com.

Dear Bleacher Creature,

It's the opening of another glorious season of baseball, and what do I have my mind? The commissioner's investigation into the steroids issue. Over the past couple of seasons, with allegations coming out of everywhere, baseball finally put in meaningful testing to ensure enforcement of its drug policy. Then it toughened the penalties for use of the restricted drugs. The public and even the more hysterical elements in the media seemed satisfied that the game was cleaning its own house.

Then came news of a book outlining the steroid abuse of some high profile athletes including Barry Bonds, who is in hot pursuit of baseball's iconic home run numbers: the Babe's 714 and Henry Aaron's 755. Apparently in an attempt to head off potential meddling from the U.S. Congress, baseball announced just before the season an investigation into who did what and when, in the recent past. George Mitchell, a former senator was chosen to head up the probe.

The irony of the whole steroids issue is the manner in which the paying customers, the baseball fans, are reacting to all this mess: with a yawn. They're buying tickets to ballgames in record numbers, TV ratings are up, baseball merchandise and collectibles have never been more popular, and the game seems headed for better times. So why the investigation? I believe there's fear in the commissioner's office and in the boardrooms of major league baseball's ownership that the politicians in Washington can do serious damage to the game if they air its dirty laundry before a curious public and a ravenous press. Thus, baseball launches its own investigation to package its findings in its own way, so as not to hurt the game at a pinnacle of its popularity.

That's the way I see it. Let me know what you think.

Rose

## ***EVERYBODY Reads the***

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From Zephyrs owner Don Beaver to Boudreaux the Nutria, and everyone in between...

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APRIL 2006						1
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9 Round Rock 2:00	10 Memphis 7:00	11 Memphis 7:00	12 Memphis 12:00	13 Memphis 7:00	14 At Albuquerque 8:05	15 At Albuquerque 8:05
16 At Albuquerque 2:35	17 At Albuquerque 7:35	18 At Round Rock 7:05	19 At Round Rock 7:05	20 At Round Rock 7:05	21 At Round Rock 7:05	22 Albuquerque 7:00
23 Albuquerque 1:00	24 Albuquerque 7:00	25 Albuquerque 12:00	26	27 Nashville 7:00	28 Nashville 7:00	29 Nashville 6:00
30 Nashville 2:00						Postgame Fireworks

MAY 2006						
	1 At Memphis 7:10	2 At Memphis 7:10	3 At Memphis 1:10	4 At Memphis 7:10	5 At Nashville 7:00	6 At Nashville 6:00
7 At Nashville 2:00	8 At Nashville 10:30	9 Fresno 7:00	10 Fresno 7:00	11 Fresno 7:00	12 Fresno 7:00	13 Sacramento 7:00
14 Sacramento 7:00	15 Sacramento 7:00	16 Sacramento 12:00	17	18 At Colo. Springs 8:05	19 At Colo. Springs 8:05	20 At Colo. Springs 8:05
21 At Colo. Springs 2:05	22 At Salt Lake 7:30	23 At Salt Lake 11:30	24 At Salt Lake 7:30	25 At Salt Lake 7:30	26 Oklahoma 7:00	27 Oklahoma 6:00
28 Oklahoma 2:00	29 Oklahoma 7:00	30 At Omaha 7:05	31 At Omaha 7:05	Postgame Fireworks		

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