

World Champions!

SWEEP! The Cincinnati Reds, under newly hired coach Lou Piniella, swept the former World Champion Oakland Athletics in the 1990 World Series, four games to none.

The world class Reds played world class ball all season long; the team led the National League Western Division the entire 162 game season.

The season had started out on a bad note as the owners "locked-out" the players from spring training camps due to grievances. As a result, spring training was only three weeks long, as opposed to the normal six. The media was critical of Piniella, as they did not think that he would be able to manage a team in a new division (Piniella came directly from the American League.) Yet Piniella obviously proved the skeptics wrong.

Talk of bringing back the Big Red Machine grew in Cincinnati as the Reds won their first National League Pennant since 1976 beating the Pittsburgh Pirates before more than 56,000 fans at Riverfront Stadium.

"We played our best in the biggest games of the year. We deserve to be champions."

-Lou Piniella

The Reds continued to display their talent as they chopped the A's down to size in a 7-0 romp in game one of the World Series. The second game was much closer, but the Reds still prevailed 5-4. In Oakland, the story was much the same. The team won the third game, 8-3.

In the fourth and what was to be the final game, center fielder Eric Davis severely bruised his kidney, forcing him out of the game and into an Oakland hospital. Davis missed the celebrations, including a rally on Fountain Square. Davis ended up chartering a private medical flight home, as the Reds refused to pay the \$14,000 cost of his trip. The controversy continued to fester until the owner Marge Schott met with Davis to clear the air.

Although some of the celebration was hindered by the Davis incident, overall the season went well. In fact, they were the first team to do so after finishing the season wire to wire (remaining in first place all year). As Piniella stated, "We played our best baseball in the biggest games of the year. We deserve to be champions."

by Rick Juneja



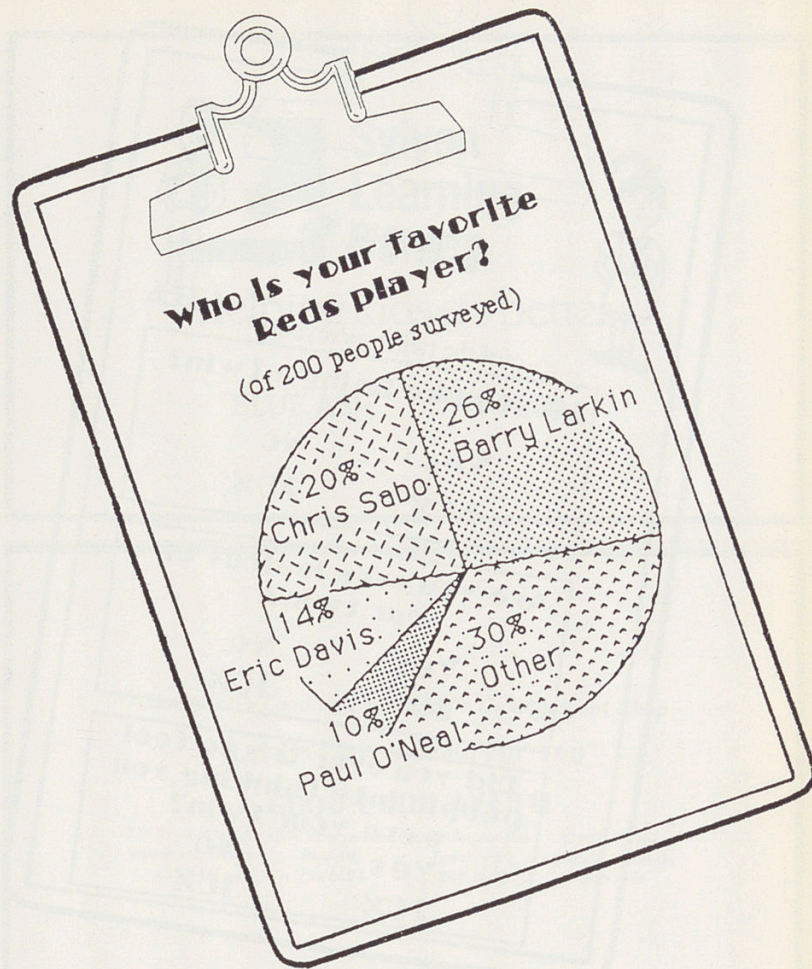
Surrounded by thousands of loyal fans, the World Champion Reds await the start of a World Series Game against the Oakland A's.



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