How Earl Weaver views it

By Earl Weaver

The Baltimore Orioles have the best record in the major league over the last 25 years, and it has been the team's trademark to perform better as the season progresses. We usually play our best baseball down stretch in September and October, when it really counts.

The events of last season did not give us the chance to employ our usual strategy, yet we finished just two games out of first place in each half and for the overall season were just one game behind Milwaukee with the fewest losses of any team in the Eastern Division.

But it was a strange year for the Orioles. Our pitching staff, normally the club's major strength, was hampered by injuries, resulting in Baltimore's second highest team earned run average in that 25 - year period. The club's home run power fell off considerably from 1979 and 1980, and several people we had counted on for "Dr. Long Ball" had off - years.

I am confident we can avoid these problems in 1982.

In addition, we have made several helpful changes, and with a full season of baseball ahead of us, I believe that the Orioles are serious contenders for the A.L. Eastern Division title.

While our infield will have a new look, the right side is one of the best in the game. First baseman Eddie Murray is coming off an outstanding year when he was the Orioles' "most valuable player" while leading the league in rbi and tying for the top spot in home runs. At age 25, he is one of the stars in the majors today. Second baseman Rich Dauer is a fine fielder and a tough out in the batting order.

The outfield has been strengthened considerably by the addition of Dan Ford from California. Ford supplies additional power to out lineup and will improve us defensively.

Introducing new catcher

Here's a brief introduction to catcher Joe Nolan, obtained March 26, in a trade with Cincinnai.

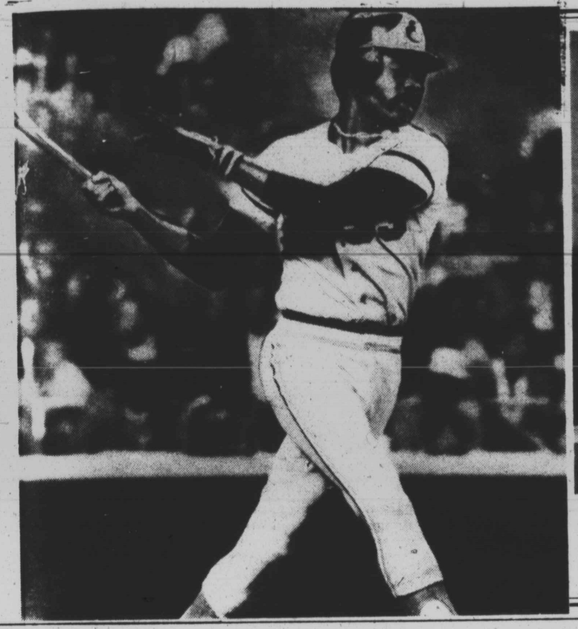
Born in St. Louis, he'll reach his 31st birthday on May 12.

His previous major league experience includes four games with the New York Mets in 1972, after which he spent three of the next four years in the minors at Tidewater and Richmond. In 1975, he was up for four late - season games with Atlanta.

Last year, in 70 games split between the Braves and Reds, Joe hit .307 with eight doubles, no triples and three home runs.

His career batting mark is .267.

SECOND LOVE IN FIRST HOME — Earl Weaver loves the prize tomatoes he nurtures along with groundskeeper Pat Santarone. Except for his family, Earl holds baseball — especially baseball as played by the Orioles — as the thing most dear to him. And in Memorial Stadium, he derives his greatest pleasure.



HIT AND RUN — Mainstays of the club, as usual, will be Eddie Murray, "the big stick" and Al Bumbry, "the quick feet." Aside from their wondrous defensive talents — Murray at first base and Bumbry in either center or left field — both may be counted on in the nature of offensive weaponry. Eddie is a consistent long ball threat and Al creates excitement with his flawless baserunning.

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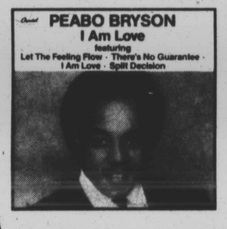

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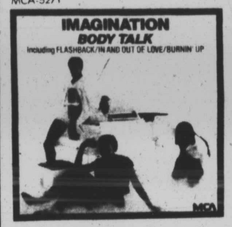

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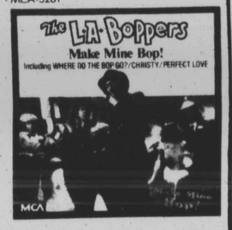

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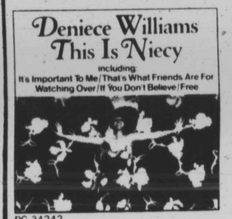

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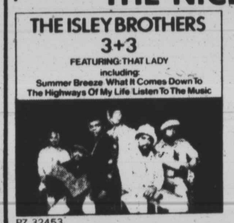

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