



Getting a Piece of the Midsummer Classic

A Look at the 2005 All-Star Game

By Hansel Wei

Baseball's best will match up on Tuesday in the 2005 edition of the MLB All-Star Game. The game is always fun (provided there's a winner of course), but this year is shaping up to be a dandy. While a few of the usual stars are missing – Curt Schilling, Barry Bonds, and Randy Johnson were not selected due to injury or mediocrity, and Pedro Martinez will not play because he pitched Sunday – there will still be enough star power to make this one well worth watching.

The game will be held at Detroit's Comerica Park, home of the Tigers and an AL stadium, meaning there will be a designated hitter. This should let the starting pitchers get at least three innings of work in each, if not four. I like Mark Buehrle in this one, although original starter Roy Halladay would have been better had he not broken his leg. Chris Carpenter has put up 13 wins but is not as used to seeing the designated hitter in the lineup, and this could be reflected on the scoreboard.

In the end, the American League is just going to out-muscle the National League. The American League has not lost since 1996, and is 11-3-1 since 1990. This year should be no different—the AL lineup is stacked. Their leadoff man, Boston's Johnny Damon, is hitting .343, and out of the other eight men in the lineup, the lowest home run total is 13. The lowest batting average? Manny Ramirez's .275. Now find me a pitcher who looks forward to facing Manny Ramirez. Exactly. The National League has a solid team, but the American League squad is truly the all-star team: a squad completely made up of stars.

This should be a high-scoring, exciting affair. Take the **American League on the Runline**, and take **Over 9.5 runs**.

Until next time, do yourself a favor...

Keep Doing Things Hansel's Wei.