

**Martinez or Ramirez**  
**Who's the MVP?**

# Sports Illustrated



**“We’re Finished”**

**THE BRONCOS' SEASON IS OVER**

**JUST ASK THEM**

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per. In late September, Spencer called commissioner Bud Selig to find out if, as an African-American, he was among baseball's recognized pool of minority candidates for managerial openings. (Since April the commissioner's office has required clubs to submit lists of all candidates under consideration for managerial and certain front-office positions as a way of ensuring minority representation.) "Bud told me I wasn't listed," says Spencer, 48, who this season led the Charlotte Knights, a White Sox affiliate, to the Inter-

national League title. But Spencer says he was assured that he would not be overlooked in the future.

A winner of three league titles in his eight seasons as a minor league manager, Spencer has been interviewed for just one big league managerial post, with the White Sox two years back. It's frustrating, he says, to hear the term *minority candidate* and then read the same old list of names—Braves hitting coach Don Baylor, Yankees coaches Chris Chambliss and Willie Randolph, Reds bench coach Ken Griffey Sr., Padres

first base coach Davey Lopes.

"I hate to complain," says Spencer, "but I think it hurts that I'm not a, quote, celebrity name. I've proven that I can manage at the highest level." On Sept. 29 Spencer resigned from the White Sox organization when the front office said it could not accommodate his request to be added to the major league staff or be given a roving position that would allow him to spend more time at his Tucson home.

Spencer is extremely light skinned and, even he concedes,

may not be widely recognized as a minority. "But what difference does it make?" he asks. "Black, white, red, purple—if you can manage, you can manage. I can manage."

**Anaheim's Bavasi Departs**

**Angels Had Better Duck**

Last Friday, Angels general manager Bill Bavasi, a respected baseball man with six years on the job, resigned. Although most everyone in the game agrees that Anaheim's disastrous 70-92 season was a result of injuries and poor chemistry, not a lack of talent, Angels president Tony Tavares (also chairman of the NHL's Mighty Ducks) is planning to gut a club that finished three games out of first in the American League West only a year ago.

Shortstop Gary DiSarcina and outfielders Tim Salmon, Jim Edmonds and Garret Anderson could well be traded, and left-hander Chuck Finley could leave as a free agent. Bavasi was an ardent supporter of his players; Tavares—who in addition to seeking a successor for Bavasi is also looking for a manager to replace Terry Collins, who resigned last month—is not. "We obviously have some fine players," Tavares says, "but I don't know if they have any idea what a team is. Someone told me you can't trade 25 players. I said, 'Why not?'"

In 1997 Tavares, then president of the Ducks, oversaw the firing of coach Ron Wilson just after Wilson took Anaheim to its first playoff appearance. Wilson, like Bavasi, wanted to build on many of the players Anaheim already had. Tavares preferred to add more younger players. In 1996-97 the Ducks finished 36-33-13. The next two years they were 26-43-13 and 35-34-13. □

For complete scores and stats, plus Tom Verducci's mailbag, go to [cnnsi.com/baseball](http://cnnsi.com/baseball).



**Home Run Standouts**

Despite their big numbers, McGwire and Sosa aren't that far ahead of the crowd

SURE, MARK MCGWIRE (above) and Sammy Sosa finished one-two in another record-breaking home run race, but when measured against past home run champs, Big Mac and Sammy were ordinary—at least by one man's calculation. The Home Run Power Ratio (HRPR), a statistic developed by writer Matt Baron of Oak Park, Ill., compares the number of at bats per home run for a player to the frequency of homers for all other players in his league (or, since interleague play began in 1997, to all other players in the majors). McGwire had 65 home runs in 521 at bats this year, or a homer every 8.02 at bats; the rest of the majors hit 5,463 homers in 166,615 at bats, or one every 30.50 at bats. Dividing 30.50 by 8.02 yields an HRPR of 3.80. (Sosa, with 63 homers in 625 at bats, had a 3.07.) Over the past 50 years the average HRPR for home run champs has been 3.26. The alltime king was Babe Ruth, who had 11 of the top 14 HRPRs since 1918. Here are the top 10 HRPR full seasons for the past half century, as well as the best single-season performances in each of the last eight decades.

CHUCK SOLOMON

**TOP 10 HRPR PERFORMANCES SINCE 1950**

PLAYER, TEAM	YEAR	HR	HRPR
1. Mike Schmidt, Phillies	1980	48	4.82
2. Dave Kingman, Mets	1976	37*	4.74
3. Hank Aaron, Braves	1971	47*	4.66
4. Willie Stargell, Pirates	1971	48	4.61
5. Mark McGwire, Cardinals	1998	70	4.59
6. Willie McCovey, Giants	1968	36	4.38
7. Dave Kingman, Cubs	1979	48	4.29
8. Kevin Mitchell, Giants	1989	47	4.29
9. Willie McCovey, Giants	1969	45	4.20
10. Willie Mays, Giants	1965	52	4.04

**TOP HRPR PERFORMANCES BY DECADE**  
AMERICAN LEAGUE

DECADE	PLAYER, TEAM	YEAR	HR	HRPR
1920s	Babe Ruth, Yankees	1920	54	15.54
1930s	Babe Ruth, Yankees	1931	46	7.01
1940s	Hank Greenberg, Tigers	1946	44	5.76
1950s	Mickey Mantle, Yankees	1956	52	3.96
1960s	Mickey Mantle, Yankees	1961	54*	3.86
1970s	Dick Allen, White Sox	1972	37	3.93
1980s	Reggie Jackson, Yankees	1980	41	3.42
1990s	Cecil Fielder, Tigers	1990	51	3.89

**NATIONAL LEAGUE**

DECADE	PLAYER, TEAM	YEAR	HR	HRPR
1920s	Cy Williams, Phillies	1923	41	6.58
1930s	Mel Ott, Giants	1931	29*	5.34
1940s	Mel Ott, Giants	1944	26*	5.05
1950s	Ralph Kiner, Pirates	1950	47	3.42
1960s	Willie McCovey, Giants	1968	36	4.38
1970s	Dave Kingman, Mets	1976	37*	4.74
1980s	Mike Schmidt, Phillies	1980	48	4.82
1990s	Mark McGwire, Cardinals	1998	70	4.59

\*Did not lead league in home runs.