

# SPORTS

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## Giants picked to win it all

By Andrew LaMartina  
Staff Writer

For the first time in 30 years, the Kansas City Royals are going into spring training as the defending World Series champions. But will the Royals be able to make it to their third straight World Series? I think they can win the weak American League Central Division, but they will not be able to make it back to the Promised Land.

In all sports, once a team wins a championship, the entire league instantly places a target on that team's back. Add to that the Royals' past two lengthy post-season runs, and they will not be able to muster the strength to make another championship run.

As a St. Louis Cardinals fan, it hurts to say we will not be hoisting the World Series trophy this year, either. Losing one of their best players, right fielder Jason Heyward, the Cardinals will have trouble filling his position. But you cannot count the Cardinals out, having made it to five straight post-seasons. Having an ace pitching staff led by arguably the best catcher in the game, Yadier Molina, doesn't hurt.

But with the young Chicago Cubs looming as a huge contender for the National League Central Division, and the steady Pittsburgh Pirates right behind them, it will be difficult for the Cardinals to repeat as division champs. St. Louis most certainly will get a wild card spot in the playoffs, and the team might be able to bring some magic back from the 2011 Cardinals team.

I think the two teams that will compete in the World Series this year will be the San Francisco Giants and the Boston Red Sox. The Red Sox will be looking to turn things around after having the worst record in the American League East the last two years. Boston is known for winning consistently, and the Red Sox will come into this year with something to prove. The Red Sox added one of the best pitchers in professional baseball, David Price, to their roster. Price has won the Cy Young Award once and been nominated three other times. He might have struggled during past post-seasons, but his regular season numbers are some of the best, which adds major depth to the Red Sox pitching lineup.

If Boston third baseman Pablo Sandoval gets back to his normal self after his injury, then the batting lineup will be exciting with second baseman Dustin Pedroia, and of course, designated hitter David Ortiz. Ortiz said this is his last year, so Boston should be even more motivated to send him out on a good note. The concern defensively for Boston is at first base, because the team is moving Hanley Ramirez from left field to first base, according to the Boston Globe. If all that works out, I think the Red Sox will have a great chance to make it to the World Series, but I don't think they will win.

I truly believe the winner of 2016 World Series will be the San Francisco Giants. The Giants have won three of the last six World Series. The team missed the playoffs last year, which many people think is a concern for the Giants. But the last three of the franchise's championships, the Giants missed the playoffs the year before they won the World Series.

Giants pitcher Johnny Cueto, who helped lead the Royals to victory last year, is a good addition for San Francisco, and so is pitcher Madison Bumgarner as the current ace who every team fears because of what he did to teams during the 2014 playoffs. I think the Giants will win because right fielder Hunter Pence will be back and healthy from an Achilles tendon injury. Having played only 52 of last season's 162 games, his consistent presence in the upcoming lineup will be huge for the Giants. I think the Giants will be too good to beat, and their only competition for the National League West division is the Los Angeles Dodgers. So it would appear the trend will continue and the Giants once again will be crowned World Series champions.



Submitted Photo

## Women's swim team tops GLVC

BY DEVIN GILLESPIE/SPORTS EDITOR  
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After coming from behind to defeat the two-time GLVC champions, eight members of the Truman State women's swim team are preparing to take the national stage next week in Indianapolis, Indiana.

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Photo submitted by Ed Pretre

Top: Members of the Truman State women's swim team pose with the championship banner after winning the 2016 GLVC Women's Swimming & Diving Championships. Above: Sophomore Jamie Fitzpatrick competes in the finals of the 100 freestyle during the GLVC Championships in Crawfordsville, Indiana. Nine Bulldogs will be swimming at the NCAA Swimming & Diving Championships next week.



### Kelsea Dorsey

Senior pitcher Kelsea Dorsey struck out eight and earned her fifth win of the season Sunday, shutting out Hillsdale College 4-0. A third-inning bunt with two outs left kept Dorsey from pitching a no-hitter, but the win capped the Bulldogs' undefeated weekend, keeping all opponents scoreless.

# PLAYER of the WEEK