



DESIGNATED DIS-ASTRO AREA

Most everyone expected a tough year for the Astros this season, but the past few weeks have been *brutal*. Embarrassing sweeps by the Brewers, the Yankees and the Orioles. Barely staying out of last place in the NL Central as we write this. Who are these guys?

Player	What he was	What he's been lately	Comment
Brandon Backe	Scrappy hometown hero with balls like Tony Montana	Scrappy hometown hero with an ERA like Jose Lima	"Say hello to my little friend!! I call him 'Gopher Ball.'"
Miguel Tejada	Hard-hitting shortstop possibly disgraced by steroid allegations	Light-hitting shortstop possibly disgraced by comparisons to Adam Everett	Plus he lied about his age! We may never trust ballplayers again
Lance Berkman	The guy who's hitting .400	The guy who's hitting .300	His trendline makes newspaper stock look healthy
Cecil Cooper	Rock-steady manager whom the team respects	Panicky manager whose odd moves the team laughs at	Pretty soon he'll have the now-divided team united. Against him