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## Downing happy about his new role

ar man Asocined Prass
MESA, ARIZ. The California Angels are telling Brian Downing,
thein record-setting left fielder, $t \mathrm{t}$ their record-setting left fielder, to
burn his glove and go be the desint burn his glove and go be the designat-
ed hitter.
Is Downing screaming and rant Is Downing screaming and rant-
ing? No, he's going with a smile. ing? No, he's going with a smile.
"I realize this puts me in a minori Iy, beatilie cais pults me in a minori-
to it. I hope it happens," said forward Downto it. I hope it happens," said Down-
ing, who olas been hustling around and ing, who ohas ween husting a around and
banging into walls in left for the Angels since a sore arm ended his catch-
ing career in 1981 . It may be easy to get the impres
sion that Downing is a defensive

MOTEBOOK/Spring Training washout anxious to avoid continued public embarrasssment.
Quite the contrary. Holds the Quite the contrary. He holds the
major-league record of 244 consecu-major-league record of 244 consecu-
tive errorless games in the outfield. And he has made a total of less than 10 errors since his full-time conver-
sion to left. sion to left.
isn't a natural outfielder. For years he channeled most of his energy and concentration into defense. He'd like
to apply all that effort to hitting. The departures from last year's leam of Reggie Jackson and Rick Burleson, who'd shared DH duties, present him that opportunity. Jack
Howell, a natural third baseman, will take over in left.
The demands of
field hardly have kept Downing's bat silent. In 1986, in a season typical of his nine with California, he had 20 homers and 95 RBIs while hitting
.267 .

TOO MUCH PASTA. Texas Ranger pitcher Jose Guzman's visible prob
lems last season may have been named Wade Boggs, Don Mattingly and Joe Carter. But the unseen foes haizza, lasagna and double-meat
pirent cheeseburgers.
win a season ong the first rookie to Los Angeles' Fernando Valenzuela in 1981, Guzman went on a five-game
losing streak. He finished the season


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