

Blue Jays are for real

It seems that some people, both in baseball and media circles, are expecting and in fact predicting, that the Toronto Blue Jays, will fall flat on their collective faces.

Their comments and copy on Jay triumphs always seem to end with the ever-present "But". Perhaps it is because it is easier to write about a loser (the Toronto media has had eight years of experience in this situation and in fact can get downright nasty when a predicted loser performs an about-face or perhaps it's just that winner's tend to be portrayed as the bad guys.

Regardless, and although statistics don't tell the full tale, through their first month of operation, the fledgling Jays, have to be considered a success.

Only one other expansion team in the American League, the Kansas City Royals have compiled a better first month won-lost record than the Jays 12-15 .444 percentage mark. In fact, in all of baseball, the Jays only trail the Royals and the National League's San Diego Padres in expansion team first month won-lost records.

In terms of attendance, the Blue Jays are well on their way to an expansion team Major League record. The Montreal Expos, in their first year of operation attracted 1.2 million fans. If the Blue Jays keep their average home attendance mark of upwards of 20,000 (and all indications are that they will) then by season's end, they will have attracted 1.6 million patrons, well above the current record held by the Expos.

In April, the Blue Jays designated hitters were barreling along at a .313 clip, second only to the Kansas City Royals, .376 average.

The Blue Jays pinch hitters came through in fine style, going 10 for 15 for a .625 average, to nearest rival Oakland A's .364 average.

The Jays pitching was ranked seventh in the league and now that veteran Bill Singer appears to be rounding into form, should be even stronger as the summer campaign wears on.

In the month of April, three men carried the Blue Jays offensive department. Otto Velez tore up the league, the Jays first round draft choice, Bob Bailor was hitting at a respectable pace and Doug Ault batted over .300 through the month.

Otto Velez, however, has been the big story for the Jays in their American League debut.

Velez was voted American League Player of the Month for the month of April, finishing ahead of established stars, Joe Rudi, of Oakland and Richie Zisk of Chicago. The Jays rookie lefthander, Jerry Garvin, finished fifth in the Player of the Month voting sporting a 4-0 won-lost record for the month of April.

In the month of April, Velez was a terror at the plate. He had an .587 slugging percentage, more than 200 points ahead of second place Mitchell Page of Oakland. He was third in doubles, with eight, had the second highest number of total bases, tied with Zisk at 55, behind Page who has 58; was fourth in the league in RBI's with 20, had the fifth number of bases on balls, 13 and lead the major leagues in batting, with a .419 average.

Yes, statistics can be misleading, but the Jays have more than numbers to throw at their detractors. They have hustle, talent, a love of the game and of perhaps more importance, time at their disposal.

Time to iron out youthful mistakes, time to adjust, time to adapt to various situations that undoubtedly will arise.

The Blue Jays have arrived and if their Month of April efforts can be used as a yardstick, they can definitely here to stay.



Anyone for Cards? A favorite form of relaxation for ballplayers is the seemingly endless game of cards. Last Wednesday when inclement weather forced a curtailment of

pre-game warmups, the cards surfaced and a different sort of game got under way. Whiling away the time before the Wednesday tilt

against the Milwaukee Brewers are Blue Jays, in foreground, from left to right, Al Willis, Sam Ewing, Phil Roof and Bill Singer.



The Ruler of the Roost, Blue Jay Manager, Roy Harrisfield. The Blue Jay Managerial appointment, represented Harrisfield's advancement to major league baseball. He accumulated an impressive minor league managerial record and to many knowledgeable baseball people, Roy's debut in the majors was long overdue.



Doug Ault, the Blue Jays designated hero. Ault won the hearts of the Jays fans in Toronto when he stroked two home runs in leading the Blue Jays to their home-opener win over the Chicago White Sox. Although his bat has cooled down somewhat, of late, Doug is still second behind Otto Velez (Double 00) in team batting.



Toronto Argonauts, Chuck Ealy and Peter Meuller have been working out at Exhibition Stadium, in preparation for the upcoming 1977 CFL season for several weeks. The Toronto football stars mixed freely with baseball players on both teams last week and exchanged lighthearted banter with the fans in attendance.



Tom Check (Left) and Early Wynn share a joke in the broadcasting booth at Exhibition Stadium. The pair broadcast the Blue Jays games for CFMT radio station and the combination of the veteran broadcaster and the ex-major league pitching star who mixes baseball knowledge with homespun wit - in equal parts - has attracted countless number of new fans to the fledgling Toronto team.



Allan Ashby fulfills one of a major leaguer's duties, signing baseballs for the fans. Ashby is a member of the Blue Jay catching troika, that also includes Rick

Cerone and veteran Phil Roof. He is one of the Blue Jays prized possessions and knowledgeable baseball people have tagged him with the "future star" label.



Rod Carew, five time American League Batting Champion, goes through the batrack prior to a game between the Minnesota Twins and the Blue Jays last week. Five players on the Blue Jays roster were once in the Minnesota organization. They include, Dave McKay, Phil Roof, Al Woods, Jerry Garvin, and Bill Singer.

NAME THE BLUE JAYS

RULES:
Three Player's Names will appear in the following Ads.
How to Win: In order to be eligible for the draw, Readers must send in the Players Names and Position to: Blue Jay Editor, c/o The Herald
There will be 1 Draw weekly. A total of 2 tickets to be won.

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Boston	14	11	.560	1 1/2
Toronto	13	17	.433	3
Detroit	10	15	.400	5 1/2
Cleveland	8	16	.333	7
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	18	10	.643	-
Chicago	17	10	.630	1/2
Texas	13	11	.545	2
Kansas City	15	13	.538	2
Oakland	14	14	.500	4
California	11	17	.393	7
Seattle	9	23	.281	11

Georgetown & District
Minor Hockey Association

GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY, MAY 15th.
at 2:00 P.M.

ALL GDMHA COACHES AND MANAGERS TO ATTEND. ALL PARENTS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES INVITED.

AN ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE 1977 /78 SEASON WILL TAKE PLACE PLUS

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES.

GORDON ALCOTT
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