



**Mark
Clairmont**

Sports Editor

Maybe today?

Today at 4 p.m. I will be down in Toronto at Exhibition Stadium for the second time in three days hopefully for the 1980 home opener of the American (baseball) League Blue Jays. Monday I and a few hundred others tried to get the fourth major league season underway in Toronto but, the weatherman couldn't have been in the mood for it. The game was rained out and the opener was postponed until today and the game against the Milwaukee Brewers was re-scheduled for later in the season where it will become part of an evening doubleheader.

As was reported in this space last week, due to the unusual winter weather we experienced this year it was safe to bet that the fourth major league Jays opener would not be cold and snowy.

It was close, though. In fact the weather was worse than other years, according to the umpires of the day anyway. They called the game.

Was it worse, and was it necessary. I would say they made the right move. Down on the field at the original game time start of 1.30, the groundskeepers were almost literally blown away as they stood around the edge of the infield tarpolin trying to hold it down against the near gale force gusts of driving wind and rain. The rain and wind just kept sweeping up from Lake Ontario in short bursts which eventually, by what would have been mid-game, became a steady downpour.

As Steve Milton, sports editor of our sister paper The Packet in Orillia, said, "Baseball has arrived in Toronto when a home opener can be called."

Rightly so, as was also noted in this column seven days ago, the weatherman has never fully co-operated with the Jays and their fans on any of the three previous opening days. However, the first pitch always managed to get thrown, despite wind, sleet, snow, cold and rain.

This year it didn't. And, it is just as well. The opening pitch was to have been thrown by a lucky fan in the crowd. There seemed to be more players, officials and media personnel on the field for the appointed time of the opener than there were fans in their seats. (To their credit, there were several hundred brave, dedicated or foolish fans huddled in the stands until the game was called at two o'clock.)

The Jays, just back from Seattle, and the Brewers, just back from Milwaukee, were ready to play ball. They weren't too excited by the conditions but, like everyone (except maybe the umpires) opening day is something special and the show must go on. Unfortunately the players don't run the show. Maybe they know more about the impending players strike, which could take place this Sunday, than we do.

If the weather today proves acceptable to the umpires, then the Jays will have their hands and gloves full trying to defend their three-time home opener undefeated record. (In 1977 they beat the Chicago White Sox 9-5. In 1978 they beat the Detroit Tigers 10-8 and last year they edged out Kansas City Royals 4-1.) The Brewers have three wins and no losses going into today's game, making them one of the hottest teams in the early goings of the season.

The Blue Jays are a young team and appear to be on their way up. In their first year they won 54 and lost 107. The next year they won 59 and lost 102. Last season they only won 53 while losing 109. This year they could do better. They definitely have the talent to do the job. Today, I hope, we'll find out.



Sports Editor Mark Clairmont couldn't offer Toronto Blue Jay manager Bobby Matlick enough good luck Monday, to get the baseball team's home season opener underway. The rain postponed the opener to today; where Clairmont will once again try and offer his best wishes for the season.

Athlete of-the-year nominations

It's that time of year again, when our sporting thoughts turn to those who have excelled, stood out or achieved prominence in their chosen field of athletic endeavors. Nominations for the Halton

Hills Athlete of the Year are now being accepted by the sports department at this newspaper and Kentners Dairy Bar. Nominations for the Sports Builder of the Year will also be accepted.

Blue Jay Halton Hills express leaves from U of G

The New York Yankees come to Toronto to play the Blue Jays Thursday May 22. Local residents are being offered an opportunity to see this and six other American League games at Exhibition Stadium this summer through a special Blue Jays Summer Shuttle '80 service being offered by the University Centre, University of Guelph.

For \$11.50 baseball fans can go to the game in a fully-equipped air-conditioned travel cruiser and sit in an upper level chair in prime viewing along the third base line, above the Blue Jay dugout.

Other games during the season include a Wednesday June 18 two-night doubleheader with the Chicago White Sox, a Monday July 14 meeting with the Milwaukee Brewers, Friday August 8 against Kansas City Royals, Tuesday September 9 the Yankees again, Friday September 12 against the Baltimore Orioles and Friday September 26 with the Boston Red Sox.

Return transportation leaves from the University Centre at the University of Guelph. At present the route of travel has not been determined. Plans may call for stops in Acton and Georgetown on the way.

Outstanding achievements in the arts, sports or cultural field, by Halton Hills residents, will be recognized at a special night hosted by the town May 28. Significant endeavors must have taken place during 1979.

Last year three teams and 10 individuals were honored for their major accomplishments which distinguished them from other local award winners.

A committee of 11 people has been set up by the recreation department to ferret out deserving candidates. Provincial or national acclaim for the person or the town is a must in the criteria, which is not to be a part of the person's livelihood.

Nominations may also be had from the recreation department, and be returned by the closing date of May 2.

Appreciation night

The Georgetown and District Minor Hockey Association will be hosting its annual Appreciation Dance this Friday at 9:00 p.m. at the Actor Legion Hall.

Entertainment, dancing and prizes galore will make for a great evening to be enjoyed by all who attend. The "Coach of the Year" will be announced and presentation of the award will be made.

Former resident Jack Coolidge in Hall of Fame

Former Georgetown resident Jack Coolidge's athletic accomplishments in the years prior to World War II have brought him another prestigious honor. The 77-year old Thunder Bay native was recently inaugurated in the Northwestern Ontario Sports Hall of Fame.

Although Mr. Coolidge's finest moments were behind him by the time he moved to Georgetown in 1962, friends and acquaintances here were well aware of his achievements in many different sports, most notably in football with the team that later became the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

Mr. Coolidge left Georgetown about 1972 to return to Thunder Bay (where he was born, in Fort William). The city, which remains his home, also honored him two years ago for his "great contribution to sports over many years". Mr. Coolidge's son, Cal, still lives in Georgetown.

During the 1930s, Jack Coolidge attained record heights in numerous sports, including track and field, baseball, boxing, hockey, football, tennis, swimming and diving. He won the Ontario tennis doubles championship one year and was chosen from his Winnipeg football team to join the western Canada all-star team. The all-stars met the 1932 Grey-Cup champions - the Hamilton Tiger Cats - and Mr. Coolidge finished several seasons playing among such notables as "Dynamite" Eddie James, Carl Kronen, Fritz Hansen, Brian Timmis and Huck Welsh.

Another incident Mr. Coolidge likes to recall is the time he performed a swimming and diving exhibition at Banff Springs Hotel, Alberta, for the king and queen of Siam.

Mayor's Cup race set to go

More than the 100 people who took part in last year's Mayor's Cup road race will be back again June 8 for the second running of the five and 10 kilometre event. So, if you haven't begun your training yet, you'd better get a quick start.

Because of its success, the race will once again be held in an attempt to encourage the people of the community to come out and participate for their own good health and welfare.

The race will go from the same starting location at the Gordon Alcott arena and wind its way through the industrial area located behind.

Halton Hills Mayor Pete Pomeroy has assured the

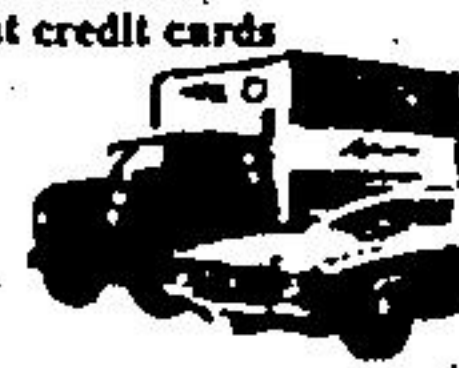
recreational department, who are handling the organization of the race, that he will this year don his shorts and sneakers and make the trek, even if it is only the shorter course.

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THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF HALTON



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS citizen volunteers make a significant contribution to the enrichment of community life through their participation in a host of social, cultural and recreational organizations,

AND WHEREAS the work of volunteers supports the existence of many valuable programs which otherwise would not be available,

AND WHEREAS volunteer assistance provides a wide range of human services without adding to the Regional tax burden,

THEREFORE, I hereby declare the week of April 20 to 26, 1980 to be **VOLUNTEER WEEK IN HALTON.**

J.M. RAFTIS P. Eng.
Regional Chairman