

Buck Martinez gets involved

By ALAN MACKIE
the Herald

Very few people remember the winning 12th-inning home run against the world champion Detroit Tigers in 1985, but most fans remember the broken leg Buck Martinez sustained later that year.

The no-longer limping, former Blue Jay, appeared at North Halton Golf and Country Club Wednesday to help raise over \$2,000 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Martinez spoke to the approximately 100 people about his 17-year playing career, emphasizing his time with the Blue Jays and later as a broadcasting personality.

"Everybody thinks about (George) Bell," he said, chuckling. He was guilty of this himself as twice when crashing noises emanated from the kitchen he jokingly wondered out loud where Mr. Bell was.

"Bell was sitting in Cito Gaston's office," after the Oakland Athletics had ended the Blue Jays' 1989 season when Mookie Wilson walked in to thank Mr. Gaston for the opportunity to play, Mr. Martinez said.

"Before leaving he looked at Bell, looked back at Cito Gaston and said, 'You know this guy's not a bad guy at all. I've heard some terrible things about him but he plays hard, he loves to play and he wants to win,'" Martinez said.

Martinez went on to say Wilson shook Bell's hand and said, "I hope to get the chance to play with you next year." Martinez noted that Wilson has since signed a two-year contract with the Blue Jays.

"So that's what the players think

about George Bell," Martinez said.

But Martinez wasn't merely in Georgetown to speak of Bell's poor golf swing or Umpire Ron Luciano "always playing to the crowd instead of doing his job." He was there because he wants "to be involved in activities in the Toronto area.

"Toronto is one of the best cities in North America for a family lifestyle," he said.

He was Ontario Hydro's keynote speaker for the Batting 2,000, Building program, The Energy Management Team in 1989 at the Inn On The Park in Toronto. He was also the TSN host for the 1989 conference of cable television affiliates at the Toronto Convention Centre.

Martinez has also been Honorary Chairman for the 65 Roses fund raising campaign for the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Society.

The Leawood Kansas resident has spent most of the winter in the Toronto area, commuting back and forth as he goes. He says the travel hasn't been a problem for himself and since his wife, Arlene, is an actress, she is used to the travel. Martinez said the movement from city to city has been an educational experience for his 12-year-old son, Casey.

The 17-year veteran of baseball said one of the things that "doesn't seem right" is the pay scale of society. "People who have so much to do with our society, teachers, firemen and policemen are at the bottom end of the pay scale and athletes and movie stars are at the top end."

The money in baseball is abundant, Martinez said. The Toronto Blue Jays are a good example.



Centennial Chargers

allieris, Andy Preston and coach Brian Cosgrove. (Herald photo)

Centennial Chargers boys basketball team. Front row, left to right, Mike Olsen, Ryan Martin, Stephen Onoprijenko, Giannis Markou, Bruce Ryan and Jamie Stephenson. Back row, left to right, Ron Harrison, Jay Johnson, Toli Toris, Graham Kennedy, Jim Kat-

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