



Swinging away

Simply Red batter Julie-Ann Rawlings prepares to blast the ball over the fence during a game against Lotsa Green at the Fairgrounds on Wednesday evening. The two teams played a tie-breaking game which would decide who would be in fifth place before the start of the playoffs this weekend. Lotsa Green beat Simply red 16-9. (Herald photo by Robert Risk)

Fair weather friends roost with many teams

I don't know how many of you are aware of this, but when the Toronto Blue Jays went on a recent losing streak, including losses against the more hapless teams like Detroit and New York, quite a few members of the sports media started to write the Jays' season off.

With about 30 games remaining in the season, the Jays were six-and-a-half games behind the Boston Red Sox, which didn't seem like a lot to me for them to overcome. However, when I turned on the TV, the sports anchors could be seen shaking their heads and when I opened the Toronto daily papers, some of my fellow columnists were predicting that Boston could play .500 ball the rest of the way and take the division.

Recent developments have forced some of those cynics to change their tunes or take a wait and see attitude. There are few things I enjoy more than watching people pedal backwards with sheepish grins on their faces.

One of the most overused sayings in baseball is Yogi Berra's "It ain't over 'til it's over," though it is appropriate for the game, as well as just about any sport. Most rabid team supporters use it, especially when their team is desperately fighting playoff elimination.

I realize the columnists are just telling it how they see it, since telling the public the Jays have no playoff hopes when there aren't any games remaining is a little late. However, it should be understood that most journalists are cynics, expecting the worst instead of hoping for the best. After a few years of disappointments, it's easier to have your fears confirmed instead of your wishes dashed to pieces.

I'm not saying the Jays shouldn't be criticized for being behind the Red Sox, but they can't be written off either. The team has the quality players to take the American League East title, though they weren't showing it at times.

The Jays, like the Leafs, have a bit of a reputation for playing better if they are behind instead of in front. Last year, the Jays took over first a few months before the end of the season and had to fight off Baltimore in the second last game of the regular season. The Leafs, regular cellar dwellers in their division, are completely unpredictable when they manage to make the playoffs (i.e. bumping off the first place Red Wings in 1988).

I admit there have been disappointments, like when the Jays couldn't buy a single win against the Tigers in the last series of the



RISKY BUSINESS
By Rob Risk

1987 season, or when the Leafs fought their way back from five games out to face Chicago in the last game of the regular season to vie for the last playoff berth, only to lose.

Sure, I've been let down, but I still have hope. I take the same approach to local sports, as I'm sure many other people do. If the team is doing badly, I don't abandon them, I criticize what's being done wrong and suggest what should be happening in order to turn things around. Heck, the Leafs have done things wrong for years, but it didn't stop me from cheering for them to do better.

I have yet to sit in the stands at the Alcott Arena or Acton arenas during a hockey game, but I look forward to seeing lots of optimists there, instead of the band wagon riders who will jump off as soon as the team has a stretch of rough going.



Halton's fitness team

Fitness instructors for the town of Halton Hills pose for a group picture at the Civic Centre before one of their organizational meetings on Tuesday afternoon. From left to right are Susanne Eugereier, Carol Beoney, the acting supervisor of youth and adult ser-

vices, Sandra Cousens and Judy Allen. They will be teaching classes in the area which start on Monday. For more information on the fitness programs, call the Halton Hills Recreation and Parks department at 873-2600. (Herald photo)

Turk's Touts

Dawgs-Horns final on the horizon?

By JIM LINDSAY
Herald Special

Sept. 16 - Semi-Final Round
10:00 a.m. - Longhorns vs. Kaspers - Horns by 10.

Despite only playing for half the game, the Horns were still able to advance. It seems that the Longhorns play to their opposition - up or down.

Now that Kaspers have appeared on the horizon, the Mc-Candless offence should take sweet revenge on LeBlance, as it was he who deprived him of the golden ring while playing for D.Q. Several years ago LeBlance traded shirts and led M and M to a champion-

ship. This won't happen this year, so look for Mitch to jump back.

11:30 a.m. - Dawgs vs. Meznic Electric - Dawgs by 6.

Everyone seems to be looking for a Dawgs-Horns final. Plus Welding shut the Dawgs down in the second half and just came up a little short near the end zone. If the Dawgs keep looking to next week, they may be doing just that - watching.

This is a rematch of the semi-final last year and the Electricians aren't about to pull a short circuit. The number two defence (Mez) against the number two offence (Dawgs); all the billing for a great day at G.D.H.S.



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