

Risky baseball predictions made as season winds down

As a local television sports announcer is fond of saying: "How about those Blue Jays." I know I complained in last week's column about how the team provided very little worth watching recently, but they more than made up for it this past weekend.

In a series they had to win, Jays took out the hated Tigers 2-1. With the Tigers nipping at their heels, Jays wound up gaining a game. For some reason, Toronto has always had trouble with Motown, especially late in the season (remember '87?).

A lot of people have said this is the year for Toronto to go all the way, but the Jays had to prove

they could at least handle teams from what is arguably the weakest division in the majors. Toronto definitely had its fans worried when they collapsed against Boston recently.

The question remains as to how Toronto will do against the west division teams, notably Minnesota which is struggling to stay ahead of Chicago in that pennant race. I'm sure Jays are relieved they're finished with the White Sox, which has been extremely hot lately.

All the postulations about the outcome of the final month against the west teams could be moot if Toronto takes advantage



Risky Business
by
Robert Risk

of its final few series against east division teams. There are six games against Baltimore, four in

Cleveland and seven with New York; all are teams that have no realistic chance of reaching first place. Hopefully, the Jays will be able to build enough of a lead from those matches to allow themselves the luxury of playing .500 or even .400 ball the rest of the way and still win the division. If they do, Toronto could be the first "swing team" in baseball history to win it all.

Though the pitchers have had some trouble lately, it's been the lack of offense that has kept the rest of the division so close to Toronto. With more runs now being produced, most notably against the Tigers, the Jays could

really pull away if they can combine the two in a string of games.

As with my hockey playoff predictions (which weren't too bad this year), it's time to stick my neck out on the basepaths. It'll be the Jays against Minnesota, in the American League, while Pittsburgh and Los Angeles battle it out in the National League.

I'd prefer to see St. Louis beat out Pittsburgh in the east, but time's running out. For the World Series, I'd say it's going to be Toronto and Los Angeles, with the Jays being the first Canadian team to take home baseball's most coveted hardware.

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Tykes snatch victory from jaws of defeat

After losing game one to Port Hope, Georgetown O'Tooles Tyke team came back in the best of three series last week to advance to the Ontario Baseball Association Finals.

In Georgetown on August 10, Port Hope scored two quick runs in the top of the first inning.

Five hits and one run later, Port Hope had a 3-0 lead after four innings were completed.

A triple from the bat of Robert McLeod and an RBI from Geoff Bahr put O'Tooles on the scoreboard in the fifth inning.

Due to Georgetown's strong defensive skills, O'Tooles got through the sixth and seventh innings, facing only six batters. Singles from Ryan Smith, Devon Fraser, Devin Legate and Mark Fedchyshyn, produced two runs to tie the game. Crossing the plate was Smith and McLeod, with RBI's going to Legate and Fedchyshyn.

Port Hope was hot in the top of the eighth inning and scored three runs. Sean Hardcastle batted a single and scored with the RBI being awarded to Smith. However, in extra innings, Georgetown took a 6-4 loss.

Georgetown O'Tooles needed a win at Port Hope on August 11. Down one game in the best of three series, playoff hopes were diminishing.

Scoring for Georgetown in the first inning was Brent McClung and Ryan Smith. RBI's were awarded to Smith and Geoff Bahr. Pitcher Bahr had a tough first inning, as he watched the first four batters come across the plate.

O'Tooles luck was no better in the second, when Port Hope took a 7-2 lead.

Hardcastle started the third inning off with a bang, scoring a run, followed by Robert McLeod and Geoff Bahr. RBI's went to Smith, Bahr and Ferguson. Port Hope scored again in the bottom of the inning, bringing the score to 8-5.

O'Tooles had on their rally caps to start the fourth inning. Singles were made by Andrew Nelissen, Brent McClung, Robert McLeod and Geoff Bahr. Ryan Smith touched green with a double and RBI's were awarded to McClung, Smith and Bahr. Georgetown had finally taken a one run lead.

Hitting three solid singles, Port Hope came back and scored three more runs. Nelissen crossed the plate once again in the fifth, narrowing Port Hope to a one run lead.

Bahr, then four for four at bat,

hit a home run to tie the game. The Georgetown defense was strong, holding Port Hope to no runs in the sixth inning.

Going into the final inning still tied, Georgetown gritted its teeth and headed for the batter's box. McClung and Smith scored, with Bahr getting his fifth RBI for the day. A fly ball to McLeod and two more strike outs to Fraser gave Georgetown the victory, 13-11 over Port Hope.

Playing in front of a hundred plus crowd on Saturday, Georgetown O'Tooles headed to Port Hope for the deciding game of the series.

Port Hope loaded up the bases in the second inning but were unable to put anyone across the plate. Brent McClung had a two RBI home run in the bottom of the inning. Scoring with McClung were Sean Hardcastle and Greg McCullough. After the dust had settled, Robert McLeod got a base hit and Geoff Bahr batted him in, pushing the score to 7-2 in Georgetown's favour.

Pitcher Bahr made two strikeouts, but Port Hope sneaked in one run before the top of the inning was over. Georgetown scored three more runs in the third. Runs were earned by Isaac Ferguson, Andrew Nelissen and Greg McCullough. The RBI's went to Nelissen, McCullough and McLeod, with O'Tooles taking a hefty 10-3 lead.

At their final bat, O'Tooles scored once again, with Isaac Ferguson crossing the plate and the RBI going to Nelissen. Final score was Georgetown O'Tooles 11, Port Hope 5.

Hockey winners

Four local hockey enthusiasts, Ryan Carter, Jason Hayes, Matt Hotham and Ronnie Laroque won the 8-9 year old three on three street hockey challenge at Downsview Arena on Saturday.

The three boys won five games and were undefeated by the opposition. Georgetown resident Brian Hayward, who plays for San Jose Sharks of the National Hockey League, put this 10 tournament event on the road this summer with the support of Cooper, Hostess, Koho, Pepsi and Reebok.

The purpose of the tournament

is to support minor hockey and have some fun. The winning combination of Carter, Hayes, Hotham and Laroque each walked away with a plaque, a shirt, a Cooper hockey bag, a Koho



Alcott Tennis Club

Junior tourney nears completion

The Gordon Alcott Tennis Club completed most of its Junior Boys and Girls tennis tournament August 16-18.

In the Under 14 Singles - Rob Buckley lost to Kyle Hancock and then Allan Cater. Adam Titus lost to Tim Deardichuk. Donna Koster won vs. Adam Titus 6-4, 6-4 and then lost to Chris Morisawa 7-5, 6-4. Zack Parent beat Allan Cater 6-3, 6-1. Paul Dallison beat Tim Diardichuk 6-4, 6-2. Chris Morisawa lost to Kyle Hancock 7-5, 6-0. Paul Dallison beat Zack Parent 6-4, 3-6, 6-2.

The finals saw Kyle Hancock and Paul Dallison play off with Dallison winning the Under 14 Singles championship, winning 6-1, 6-3. In the consolation round, Tim Diardichuk beat Allan Cater 8-5.

In the Under 14 Doubles finals, Tim Diardichuk and Zack Parent beat Chris Morisawa and Paul Dallison 7-5, 3-6, 7-5. In the Under 18 Singles: Sandra Dallison lost to Shawn Kelman 8-3. Jennifer Koster lost to Mike Hancock 8-5. Mike Hancock lost to Jim Stites 8-7. Shawn Kelman beat Jim Stites for the consolation winner.

Gord Buchan beat Jim Stites 6-1, 6-2 and Eric Bradbury 6-1, 6-2. Jennifer Koster lost to Eric Bradbury 6-0, 6-2. Mike Hancock lost to Ryan Brain 6-1, 6-1. Eric Bradbury won against Shawn Kelman 6-2, 5-7, 6-3. Sandra Dallison lost to Vin Mitera 6-3, 6-3. Ryan Brain lost to Vin Mitera 5-7, 7-5, 7-5.

The Under 18 Singles final was Gord Buchan vs. Vin Mitera with Gord Buchan the Singles Champ 6-1, 6-1. The Under 18 Doubles final was Gord Buchan and Ryan Brain against Jim Stites and Vin

Mitera with Buchan and Brain winning 6-1, 6-2.

The Mixed was a Round Robin with Kim Mizener and Jim Stites beating Sandra and Paul Dallison 8-6. The finals will be played at a

later date with Jennifer Koster and Ryan Brain vs. Kim Mizener and Jim Stites in the next round.

The adult singles, doubles and mixed tournament is scheduled for Sept. 6-8.



Kim Mizener, backhands a return during Mixed Doubles play at the Gordon Alcott Tennis Club's Junior Boys and Girls Tournament Sunday. Mizener and her partner Jim Stites defeated Sandra and Paul Dallison 8-6, advancing to the finals against Ryan Brain and Jennifer Koster this Sunday. (Herald photo by Robert Risk)

the HERALD SPORTS SHORTS

Ultimate 2100, a Cooper super stick with a super blade. Not only all that loot, but CITY TV used the Georgetown Sharks as a lead in story for its 10:00 news and sports on Saturday, with a personal interview with Carter and Hotham.

Acton hockey

Acton House League and Rep Hockey is holding its 1991-92 registration at Acton Arena on the following dates: August 22 - 7:00-9:00 p.m., September 5 - 7:00-9:00 p.m., September 7 - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, September 21 - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Cost is \$100 for one player, \$200 for two players and \$240 for three or

more players.

Bowling begins

Bowling enthusiasts will be able to get their fill starting August 22 at Georgetown Bowl. Monday to Friday, public bowling starts at 7:00 p.m. and on weekends, public bowling starts at 1:00 p.m.

Beginning September 4, public bowling will start at 7:00 p.m. and on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and weekends, bowling will start at noon. To make reservations, call 877-9922.