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# Sports

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As I  
See It  
with JEFF  
PASQUALE



## If only I was the GM . . .

Rocky Bridges, a former mediocre major league baseball player and an outstanding Triple A manager, once said, "There are three things the average guy thinks he can do better than anyone else, build a fire, run a hotel and manage a baseball team."

Here goes my attempt to run a hotel. (Wait, that's the wrong column). Here goes my attempt to manage a baseball team.

What team? What else, the Toronto Blue Jays. Because this is my column, I'm going to put myself not only in charge of the day-to-day managing job, but I'm also going to become the vice-president of player personnel, which sounds a lot more impressive than general manager.

What would I do to win the Jays the American League East pennant this year.

My first priority, just like Stand Pat's, would be to acquire a third outfielder. Preferably right-handed with a little pop in his bat and who can get to more than one ball a week in the outfield.

First choice would be Pittsburgh Pirates' Barry Bonds, and word is he's available. What to give up. Pittsburgh is desperate for a shortstop. We have an extra one in Manny Lee. Add an attractive Syracuse pitcher, say Jose Nunez or Steve Cummings, and throw in Lloyd Moseby or Sil Campusano and we might have a deal. Pittsburgh, though would probably demand we keep Moseby, or pay a whole lot of his salary.

Next up is a utility infielder to replace Lee. Mulliniks can't cut it on defence. Tom Lawless is a desperation move and I don't think Syracuse's Alexis Infante is the answer. My answer is Craig Reynolds.

Right now he's the utility guy in Houston. He's a former all-star back in the early '80s and he can play second, third and short. He can probably be had for a plane ticket and a case of Coke, but we'll call it future considerations.

It's too early to tell if Jeff Musselman can come back and be the fifth starter the Blue Jays need, but we'll assume no. That means we've got to pick up a fifth guy.

Seattle seems to be overburdened with guys who can start, and they also seem to be building for the future, so I'd try and get Scott Bankhead from them. If they throw in Henry Cotto I could see dealing off one of the Jays good, young catchers, Francisco Cabrera or Greg Myers and maybe a mediocre pitching prospect, a guy like Goose Gozzo in Syracuse.

Most of these deals could probably be accomplished and they would be done without drastically altering the current lineup. Moseby would be gone, but Bonds is a superior player. Cotto would be George Bell's defensive caddy in left field and Bankhead would move into the rotation.

Next up is the Sporting News Executive of the Year Award for single handedly bringing the Jays a world championship. (Hey, if I'm dreaming I might as go all the way.)

Here and there . . . Hey, Dave Adams, try beat this week. My best hitter, Paul O'Neill and highest drafted pitcher Danny Jackson, both go on the D.L. for my National League entry. I feel like a M\*A\*S\*H unit.



Photo by JOHN WARREN

## Can't catch me

The Dickens Doug Hopkins, left, runs away from an unidentified Yorkwoods Motors defender during a game between the two teams Tuesday night at Milton District High School. The Dickens had an easy time in the game, running away to a 54-18 triumph.

## One-week trip

# Sun, surf and baseball for reps in Dominican Republic

By JEFF PASQUALE

It was a great holiday, some sun, a little surf, some nightlife. Oh, yeah, they also managed to get in a little baseball.

They are the players and coaching staff of the Milton juvenile and junior baseball team who went to the Dominican Republic last week for an exhibition series of ballgames. The exchange was co-ordinated in the D.R. by Juan Sanchez.

"We had a great time," said Bob Ciprick, the coach of the combined team. "Everything went well and was on schedule. Things actually went better than we expected them to."

It was a busy schedule for the team right from the time they landed in Puerto Plata Sunday.

"We had our first game on Monday afternoon in Puerto Plata against an all-star team made up of players from their Atlantic League. We played the game in the stadium the Milwaukee Brewers use for their winter league team."

Ciprick said the field was in good condition, except for the chickens.

"Yeah, there were chickens running around on the field, but it wasn't too bad. What threw us was the age of their players, some up to their mid-30s. We had our chances, twice we hit into bases-loaded double plays, but we ended up losing 4-1."

Their game Tuesday afternoon was against the same team, and "we got our butts kicked," said Ciprick.

"I don't remember the exact score, but it was something like 15-4. The nightlife was definitely starting to catch up to us at that time. It's tough to get to bed at 4 or 5 a.m. and get up at 9 a.m."

After that game the Milton semi-stars headed to Santiago, but they had a little local help.

"We picked up a couple of local guys to give us a hand. Nelson Liriano's brother, Moses, played centrefield. Fausta Gonzalez, the brother of Jose Gonzalez, who's an outfielder in the Los Angeles Dodgers' chain, and Felix Martinez played shortstop for us."

The game took place at Santiago's stadium, where the Dodgers have their winter league outpost.

The Milton all-stars, with a little help from their friends, easily won the first game, 14-3, but had to overcome a 6-0 disadvantage in the second game to squeak out a 7-6 victory.

The locals final game came against a small village in the wilds of the Dominican.

"This was a big thing for the village. Everybody came out. It was a little more relaxed atmosphere there. If you hit the ball into the orange tree in left field it was a double, and a pair of pants served as third base. I have no idea what the score was, but they did beat us," said Ciprick.

Ciprick and his players were down there for more than just baseball, though. It also was a holiday and learning experience.

"The Dominican isn't like Jamaica or Bahamas.

It's not Americanized and touristy. You've got to be prepared to adjust."

Ciprick had one example of the slower paced way of life.

"On one road we saw a dead horse lying by the side. For the next three days we passed that horse every time we were on the road. Nobody bothered to cart it away."

The drivers on the island also interested Ciprick.

"Someone told me you don't have to have a driver's licence to drive down there. The drivers certainly proved that. We didn't see any accidents, but they do like to drive fast. I don't think there are any speed limits."

How was the quality of the baseball, though?

"The Santiago shortstop was a super player. He made some really tough plays like they were routine. Where their hitters have trouble is hitting the curveball. Their pitching isn't overwhelming either," said Ciprick.

The Milton player Ciprick singled out for praise was Matt McCandless.

"Matt had a real good tournament. He pitched the third game and had a good week at the plate. Generally we were very well balanced, a lot of players did well."

"We partied a little too much to do our best on the diamond, but if we were to play the same guys in a serious tournament, I think we'd do very well."