Big League Banter

A true test of character is shaping up for the Atlanta Braves and Dale Murphy...Since Bob Horner broke his wrist and is out for the rest of the season, Murphy will have to produce even more than usual if Braves are going to win the N.L. West...Murphy did just that on Sunday, going 4-for-6 with four rbi's as Braves beat Chicago Cubs 11-9...Good piece on the Blue Jays in the Monday Toronto Star...It's by Washington Post writer Thomas Boswell, and gives a great insight into the loose, positive nature of the team...Dodgers' acquisition of Rick Honeycutt from Texas could very well push them past Atlanta for first place in N.L. West, if he can contribute as he did on the weekend...He pitched seven shutout innings against Philadelphia...Ricky Henderson of Oakland has gone crazy on the base paths since he got healthy, and now has 82 steals for the year...Ken Schrom, who couldn't make the Jays in two tries, is now flourishing with a lower team...He's 12-4 with the terrrible Minnesota Twins...Montreal Expos should be able to climb out of their lethargy to win the N.L. East now that Manny Trillo has joined the team...He should provide a good glove and a good bat at second base...It's a combination that has been missing...Jim Rice of Boston hit hit a homer in each of three weekend games with Toronto, to tie teammate Tony Armas for the A.L. lead with 27...Mike Schmidt of the Phillies leads the N.L. with 28...Cliff Johnson of the Jays reached a career high in rbi's this weekend when he got number 66 for the season...We go to Pittsburgh for this week's best name award...Rookie outfielder Marvell Wynne has one of the best names to enter the big leagues in some time...And that's it for this week we're on vacation next week, see ya after that!

riddle

What takes years to plan, seven weeks to set up, and three weeks to dismantle -- all for just five days of use?

Give up? It's the hydro power system for the Richamond, Ont. site of the 1983 International Plowing Match and Farm Machinery Show. The first week of August, the employees and subcontractors of Tel Trade Show Services Inc. began putting in place the power system that will keep the motors humming and the lights burning after dark in the "tented city". The Match is being held on the farms of Garnet Ralph and his neighbours from Sept. 27 to Oct 1.

"We're the electrical coordinator," says Tel Trade president Stan Clarke. "We've got a lot of experience at this and we know we need at least seven weeks of lead time."

"It's a very safe system," says Clarke. Though he adds with a smile, "Please keep large balloons away from the power lines. Balloons and power lines don't go well together."

Ontario Summer Games 3,000 to compete at Sudbury, Sept. 2-5

Like many of the 3,000 athletes to participate in the 1983 Ontario Summer Games, Althia Thomas harbours dreams of future Olympic Games.

"The 1988 Olympics aren't that far away," says the 15-year-old sprinter from Scarborough. "That's why I'm running now. I'm getting ready."

The Ontario Summer Games, set for Sudbury, Sept. 2-5, will include baseball, basketball, canoeing, cricket, cycling, field hockey, golf, karate, orienteering, rugby, sailing, shooting, softball, swimming, tennis, track and field, volleyball and water skiing.

The Games are a program of the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation to aid the development of talented amateur athletes. "The Ontario Summer Games are an important stepping stone on the road to athletic achievement," says Minister Reuben C. Baetz. "The Games offer young athletes real competition and a wider perspective on their performances by allowing them to compete with the best in the province."

Althia Thomas says she wants to do well at the Ontario Summer Games. "I want to close off the year performing well," she says. "The Games will let me compete with other great runners like France Gareau of North Bay and Katie Anderson of Toronto."

Althia is an up-and-coming achiever. Last June,

she won the 100-meter, 200-meter and long jump events at the Ontario Federation of Schools Athletics Association (OFSAA) Championships in Kitchener. Also in June, she placed 5th in the Women's 100-meter finals and 7th in the 200-meter finals at the Canadian Senior Championships in Calgary. A member of the Scarborough Optimist Track and Field Club, Althia is confident the Summer Games will provide her with the perfect environment to excel. "Right now," she says, "I think I run better than Angella Taylor did at my age."

Ontario athletes dominate the orienteering junior national team as well and many of them will be competing at the Summer Games. However, the ones to watch are the winners of the 1983 Orienteering Championships held in Barrie, August 6-7. In twelve categories of the junior division, Ontario orienteers captured eight titles. The youngest winner was 10-year-old Ben Sidney of Sudbury.

For many young athletes like Althia Thomas and Ben Sidney, the Ontario Summer Games represent an opportunity to make the jump into elite sport competition. "The Games provide an exclusive atmosphere where young athletes meet, get to know one another, and melt into a team with true team spirit," says Mr. Baetz.

Hot bats and stolen bases!

Hot bats and stolen bases were the order of the day in the second round of House League finals at Little Lake Park on Wednesday night. The game ended in a 7-7 tie as Wismer's Electric faced Tri-Cee Construction in a hard fought battle.

Wismer's "Wilkes boys", Rob and Trevor led the batters with a home run and two triples

respectively. Tri-Cee's Jeff Ford kept his team in the game with a grand slam home run in the fifth inning. Both pitchers, Mike Roth for Wismer's, and David Duval for Tri-Cee, pitched excellent games with several strike outs throughout the game.

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