

Jays all the way? Some say it's a sure bet

by **ARNOLD BURGHER**

With the 1985 version of the Major League Baseball schedule now underway it is time for us to offer our predictions for the coming season.

Since we didn't want to go it alone we conned other 'burghers' of this community to present their prognostications.

Our inimitable Features Editor, Murray Moore may have had his head in the sand when he came up with his predictions.

He rates Detroit number one with Toronto in second place. Boston is in third ahead

of Baltimore with New York trailing in fifth, followed by Cleveland and Milwaukee. (Don't bet your paycheque on those predictions, Murray.)

The President of Midland Minor Baseball, Ken Greenwood, seems to have his head screwed on right as he picks Toronto (naturally) for first place. Ken likes Detroit for second followed by New York, Baltimore, Boston, Milwaukee, and Cleveland.

Ted Watson of the local constabulary, has all of us shaking our heads with Boston as his choice of the American

League East. (Perhaps he knows something we don't). Ted reasons he "likes what they added this year". From second through seventh he picks Toronto, Detroit, New York, Baltimore, Milwaukee, and Cleveland.

Wayne Miller, Umpire-in-Chief of the North Simcoe Umpires Association, predicts

Detroit will win again with Toronto coming in second. He has Baltimore in third with Boston, New York, Milwaukee, and Cleveland trailing the field.

Now the 'ump in the corner' will set my colleagues straight.

Blue Jays will win the A.L. East, and also the pennant in four straight

games over their opening day victors, Kansas City Royals.

While I'm on a roll I might as well give them the World Series in six over San Diego. Much to the chagrin of the

owner of this establishment, I pick the Yankees to trip the Tigers for second spot with Boston, Baltimore, Milwaukee, and Cleveland trailing, but not by much in

Baseball's best division. There you have it; clip and save, but I don't want to hear from you until October. By that time I will have my bags packed and will have sneaked out of town.

No role for Caudill in Jays' 1985 opener

Bill Caudill can only appear in a maximum of 161 regular season games in 1985 for the Toronto Blue Jays. The Jays' prize acquisition from the off season winter months stayed in the visitors' bullpen in Kansas City during the Jays season opener on Monday, during his new team's 2-1 loss.

Season opening game Jays Pitcher Dave Steib started the seventh inning with a 1-0 lead

and nine batters retired in a row. Leadoff Kansas City batter Darryl Motley doubled. Number nine man in the batting order Onix Concepcion, with a count of two balls and two strikes, was hit by Steib's pitch. With two runners in front of him, centre fielder Willie Wilson hit both home.

Blue Jay left fielder George Bell's sore knee betrayed him as he tried

in vain to reach the Wilson fly ball.

Gary Lavelle, the Jays' other new face in the Jay's short relief pool, ended the seventh inning with a strikeout.

Jays catcher Buck Martinez, one of the original Kansas City Royals, sacrificed home Jesse Barfield in the second inning for the Jays' lone run.

The Blue Jays did not play yesterday.

Leafs' ills may very well get worse

by **ARNOLD BURGHER**

Toronto Maple Leafs are now history for 1984-85, after enduring their worst season in the NHL.

It's easy to criticize Leafs because we hear and see so much about them. Who is the owner of Hartford, who is the trainer of New Jersey, who coaches Pittsburgh, who cares?

We know all this and more about Maple Leafs, thus we expect more from them. They are steeped in history along the lines of the mighty Montreal Canadiens.

But when you're on top there is no place to go but down as Toronto has found out.

Toronto has had problems ever since the W.H.A. came into existence and raped Leafs of seven or so players. They never recovered from that "theft" and with some poor draft choices and internal squabbles they have been mulling around in the depth of despair ever since.

Things don't appear much better for the near future at any rate, even though they have the honour of picking first in the draft.

One 19-year-old player is not likely to lead the team to the promised land. Experts claim the top 10 picks are about even in talent so Toronto won't make up any ground on the nine teams picking behind them.

Also, a couple of Toronto's best players, namely Ihnacak and Frycer, are quite often found on the disabled list. There's dissension between management and Rick Vaive, their only bonafide 50-goal-shooter, so we've read in the Toronto press.

The only way Toronto will improve their lot in life is through meaningful trades and for management to deal with player problems internally and not in public.

It's going to be a long tough road. Good luck.

'Okay Blue Jays, let's play ball'

Toronto Blue Jays opened their 1985 season in Kansas City, Monday, against the Royals.

Fans at home will be able to see the Jays in action next Tuesday when they play a matinee match-up against visiting Texas Rangers.

Jays and Royals go back at it today after a day off and face each other a third time this week, tomorrow to round out their three-game set.

Wood's drive

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convincing 9-3 victory to move within a game of Top Hat Amusements. Rick Lefaive did most of the damage for Wood's with five goal performance while Ken Davidson and John Wright tallied once each. Brian Roy with two and Travis Bonnevill answered for Top Hat.

On Monday night Wood's Ice once again faced elimination at the hands of the fired up Top Hat Amusement machine. But Wood's had different ideas as they shut out their opposition 4-0 knot the series at five points each.

George Weatherell, Earl Scott, John Wright, and Rick Lefaive shared the scoring for the Big Ice Machine.

In the Consolation

matchup, Garm's continued their winning ways by dumping Hebner's Taxi 5-2 and winning the Midland Recreational Hockey League Consolation Trophy. Chris Wright found the mark twice with singles coming off the sticks of Dennis Pelletier, Brent Gordon, and Gerrard Lachapelle. Wayne Miller and Paul Bressette tallied in a losing cause for the Taximen.

Tonight at 7:45 Wood's Ice tackles Top Hat Amusements at the Midland Centennial Arena in the final game in the Championship round for the 1985 season and the Midland Recreational Hockey League Championship Trophy. This promises to be the best game of the season, so get there early.

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