

sports

Foul Shots

Red Sox open 1979 preseason camp

By Bob Host

With all 26 major league teams firmly ensconced in spring training camp, can the start of the 1979 baseball season be far behind?

The major attention of local fans will soon turn to warmer climes, notable among them Winter Haven, Florida, where the Boston Red Sox are conducting pre-season drills. It will not be long before the effects of the departures of pitchers Bill Lee and Luis Tiant will become evident. In fact, the developments of the staffs of both the Red Sox and their arch rivals, the world champion New York Yankees, will provide the initial indication of the status of the American League's Eastern Division outlook this year.

While it is true that pitchers Dennis Eckersley, Mike Torrez, and Bob Stanley were an integral part of the Sox' 100-win season last year, there are enough unproven names in this year's camp to cause one to wonder in what direction the team will be headed. Quite a few rookie pitchers are trying out. Scouts for the Sox say they are ready for the big leagues, but that remains to be seen.

In comparison, the Yankees are bursting at the seams with proven pitchers, but the competition is keen in their Fort Lauderdale camp for positions in the starting rotation. Cy Young winner Ron Guidry, as well as Ed Figueroa, Tommy John, Catfish Hunter, Dick Tidrow, Jim Beattie, Ken Clay, and yes, Tiant, all have a shot at being starters. Certainly Guidry and Figueroa will start, but after them, a battle is assured for the remaining spots.

Uncertainties remain for the Red Sox in the cases of third baseman Butch Hobson, who is returning from an elbow operation; George Scott, who lost 24 pounds during the off-season, and the recent holdout of Carl Yastrzemski. A season without Yaz would have been inconceivable, but the opinion here is that the issue will be old news before spring training is over.

However, all is not gloomy for the Sox. Jim Rice seems satisfied with his \$5 million (or thereabouts) contract, and a second straight MVP title might be within reach. Catcher Carlton Fisk could prove invaluable, but whether he can singlehandedly handle the catching duties day in and day out for the third year in a row is questionable.

The Yankees seem to have none of the problems that plague the Sox. Thurman Munson is set at catcher, the infield is strong, and the outfield of Roy White, Mickey Rivers, and Lou Piniella (with Reggie Jackson as designated hitter/right fielder) is solid. There are no major changes in the lineup that gave the Yanks their third straight league pennant and second straight world championship last year. In short, the Yankees are to baseball today what the Yankees of the early 50's were to their era, or what the present day Montreal Canadians are to the National Hockey League.

It seems that once again, the Red Sox might end up as the second best team in the major leagues, but unfortunately, as long as the Yankees and Red Sox are in the same division number two won't be good enough to qualify for the league championship series. However, the season has yet to begin, and anything can happen between now and October. What will happen remains to be seen.

Intramural hockey standings

Editor's note: These are the standings as of February 26, 1979. There will be B league playoffs if the ice holds. The first place team will play the fourth place team and the second and third place teams will play each other. The winners will play in the final. Check the posted schedule.



B League

SAE	4	0	0
LCA	2	1	2
Sloan-Capitalist	3	1	0
Montreal Express	1	1	2
Sig Ep	2	3	0
ATO	1	1	1
Bexley	1	3	0
Beta	0	4	1

C1 League

TDC	4	0	0
Fiji	3	1	0
BT Bombers	2	2	1
Big Sticks	2	1	0
Kappa Sig	2	2	0
Fast Thunder	1	2	1
ATO	0	2	0
Moscow Central Army	0	4	0

C2 League

Ep	5	0	0
2nd West	3	2	0
Yellow Snow	3	2	0
Delts	1	0	3
Chi Phi	2	1	1
Random Hall	2	3	0
Beta	0	4	1
Pi Lambda Phi	0	3	0

C3 League

Puck-up	5	0	0
Deke	4	0	1

TEP	3	1	1
Abusers	1	2	2
Theta Chi	2	2	0
Lords of Rink	1	3	1
AEPI-NRSA	1	3	1
PIKA	0	3	1

C4 League

PBE-#6	5	0	0
Theta Xi	3	1	0
Baker's Dozen	1	1	0
Bratlaslavia Bruins	1	3	0
DU	1	1	0
Virjins	0	3	0
PDT	0	2	0
LCA	0	0	0

C5 League

Earth and Planetary	4	0	1
Chem E.	3	0	1
Burton-Connor 3	3	2	0


SAE	1	3	0
Fiji	0	2	1
Vigilantes	0	4	1

D1 League

Ordep Zitro's	4	0	1
Blades	3	0	2
LSD	4	1	0
Bruin	2	3	0
ATO	1	3	0
Kappa Sig	1	4	0
WPOD	0	4	1

D2 League

Nuclear Eng.	5	0	0
Mech. E.	3	2	0
DKE	2	1	1
Sambonies	2	2	0
Puck-Wad	2	3	0
Theta Chi	1	2	1
Stanley Cup Players	0	5	0

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To arrange an interview, please call Deborah Lindsey COLLECT at (301) 666-8700 between 9 AM - 5 PM.

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