

Sports bests of 1987 & 1988

1988...

by Randal Smathers

January is traditionally the time for fearless predictions, and we at the Gateway are no exception. Here then are my fearless — mainly because I have no money on them — predictions for 1988.

5. Clare Drake will go out in style. His hockey Golden Bears will prevail over Saskatchewan and Calgary and make the CIAU finals, where they will roll to a national title. Jim Donley's football team will not — continuing to be bridesmaids until they get a quarterback. Mark Brus will, however, run for 1500 yards and be CIAU player of the year.

4. In the NFL, Cleveland will win the Super Bowl this year, beating a battered Bears squad by 3 in a thriller. Next year, the Raiders and Pittsburgh will get quarterbacked of their own, and become instant powerhouses. Denver will get a power back and a 300 plus pound nose tackle, and battle the Raiders every step to the AFC final. Eric Dickerson will vanish into obscurity, as the loss of the Rams line and the pounding of Astro Turf will take their toll.



3. In hockey, sanity will return to the Patrick Division as the Flyers finish first, the Devils fourth, and Pittsburgh, led by those unselfish team players Lemieux and Coffey, will edge the Rangers for fifth. Despite the fact that the Rangers can't tell each others names without a program, this will be seen as a sign of Mario and Paul's greatness. Elsewhere in the NHL, Boston will beat Montreal in the playoffs for the first time in memory... Calgary finishes first and plays the surprising Canucks for the Smythe title... Toronto will beat the exhausted Flames and make the finals, only to lose to the Bruins, winners over the Flyers... Lou Nanne, Herb Brooks, Ted Sator and Robbie Fforek will all be fired before 1989.

2. The Toronto Lose Jays will — this time to the Reds in the World Series. Eric Davis will be MVP. George Bell will repeat in the AL. Montreal and the Angels will be the other playoff teams. Billy Martin will be fired by June 13. Maybe May 13. Maybe April.

1. Canada will lose to Russia in hockey, somewhere, sooner or later. Brian Williams will announce that they are again number one, and Hockey Night in Canada will do a feature on how good the Russians are. Don Cherry will then pummel Ron McLean into submission during Coaches Corner, with help from Baby Blue.

1987...

Forget the Oilers Stanley Cup win. Ignore the New York Giants Super Bowl and the NFL players strike. Even cross Ben Johnson off

Blue Cherry: "The ugly one not wearing the suit."

of your list. Here are the real five top sports stories of 1987.

5. Blue dies and is replaced by Baby Blue. Yes, that's right. Don Cherry's dog, usually identified as "The ugly one not wearing the suit," has gone to that great big doghouse in the sky. And Don, fearing that hockey fans everywhere would boycott the Stanley Cup finals in respect for Blue, covered his death up until the fall. Whatta guy!

4. George Foreman and Larry Holmes launch comebacks in the heavyweight division. Foreman should do OK, because he was

always too fat and out of shape to go more than six rounds. Holmes is going to fight Mike Tyson. Quick kiddies, can you say brain damage? Actually Holmes is only trying to out do Muhammed Ali again, this time with the most futile comeback attempt in history.

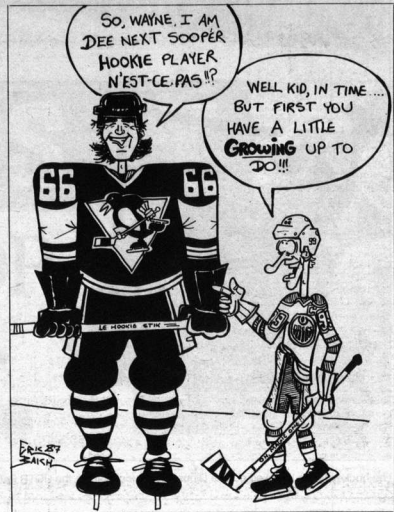
3. A tie between Billy Martin being hired by George Steinbrenner, and the Minnesota Twins winning the World Series.

What is wrong with Martin? He must be so fond of abuse by now that he could be put in Bellevue as a masochist who poses a threat to his own well-being.

What is wrong with baseball? A team with a Hetty bag for a right field wall and a giant rubber bath mat for a field, won the World Series in a very big room and nobody seemed to think it odd.

2. Carl Lewis accuses Ben Johnson of using drugs. This proves that Lewis was never actually the fastest man in the world, but really the fastest two-legged jacks in the world. He should also give Grace Jones her haircut back.

1. The top sports story in 1987 was... Brian Bosworth announces that he is unhappy in Seattle. How about a little cheese with that whine Brian? Go on, buy yourself some, you can afford it with all that money you are being paid to be a spoiled brat. The Bozo makes John McEnroe and Sean Penn seem mature... a truly amazing feat, worthy of being the top sports story of 1987.



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