

**Cam McCulloch**

continued from p.12

Jockey shorts, Jim Palmer, again. God knows we'd all like to see his over-inflated ego out of the press-box.

**AL West**

**Oakland Athletics** — Simply because I like Tony LaRussa. And of course the fact these guys are going to make Harvey's Wallbangers (Milwaukee 1982) look like the Greenland cricket team for power.

**Kansas City Royals** — Have to like their four man rotation. They've got kids Seltzer and Tartabull to go along with vets Wilson, White, and Brett. This team could win it all with any luck.

**Minnesota Twins** — I feel bad about this because I think the Twins are the biggest EMBARRASSMENT for champs since the Dodgers claimed the title in the strike-shortened '81 season, when the Reds and Cardinals both had better records. My friends and colleagues tell me that I should move on to other endeavors.

**Seattle Mariners** — This is heady stuff for a team that plays in an environment more sterile than your average hospital operating room. But Dick Williams is great at motivating otherwise underachievers.

**Texas Rangers** — Another team piloted by a rah-rah guy, Bobby Valentine. May not be a great team

but they're good enough to stay ahead of the messes in Anaheim and Chicago.

**California Angels** — Even if they're second to last they can at least feel good about playing, get a tan, and maybe cruise for chicks on Hollywood Boulevard.

**Chicago White Sox** — How can you trust a team that changes its uniforms every three or four years. They look awful and they play even worse. They might as well move to Denver where their games could be snowed out and we could all forget that Harold Baines' brilliant talent has been wasted in the bowels of Comiskey Park.

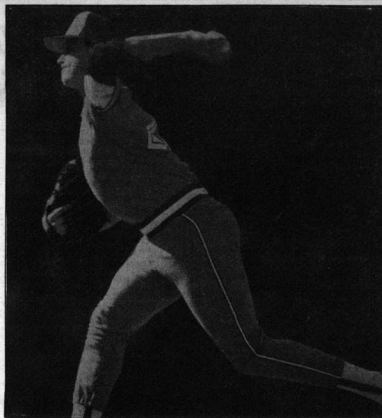
**Randal Smathers**

**AL East**

**Toronto Blue Jays** — The Jays won't improve on last year, but the competition will get softer in what has been the toughest division of the Eighties. George Bell will be eased into the DH spot by the end of the year, which will prevent Awful October this year, as he'll be fresh for the stretch run.

**Milwaukee Brewers** — All those kids that have been making Vancouver and then Denver PCL terrors the past few years are about to do the same for the varsity squad. The pitching will hurt a bit, but these guys will score some runs.

**Boston Red Sox** — Any team that



**Key a Blue Jay key**

The Blue Jays look like AL East champs again according to two Gateway writers. The other believes the Yanks will relive past glories with some more stoned slugging in 1988.

needs good years from Oil Can Boyd and Bruce Hurst is in trouble. Still, they have Rocket Roger and Lee Smith on the mound. Their offense is in transition. Anybody can score runs in Fenway, but they

**New York Yankees** — Wow! Look at all those hitters! What's that ninety-year-old man doing on the mound? Whaddaya mean he's their starting pitcher? What's that fight in the dugout mean? It means: 1) Martin's gone by June 1, and 2) the Yanks will prove once more the old saw, "If you ain't got pitchin', you ain't shit."

**Cleveland Indians and Baltimore Orioles** — A tie, on the grounds that both of these teams deserve to finish dead last. Otherwise, one of them might be able to claim there was something positive about their seasons.

**AL West**

**Kansas City Royals** — The best pitching in the division. Improved play by the kids (Bo Jackson, Danny Tartabull, and Kevin Seitzer) and a healthy season by old George will turn the trick.

**Oakland Athletics** — These guys

don't play great defence, and there's a hole in the pen, but they can hit that little white thing a long way, often. Better starters this year.

**California Angels** — The kids need to play for a full year this year. Dismal pitching. A homer pick to have them this high.

**Minnesota Twins** — Time to turn those Homer Hankies into Tear Towels. Three of their starters are old — Bert Blyleven (37), Joe Niekro and Steve Carlton (43 each). They should DH for their catchers (193 BA) instead of their pitchers. Not close.

**Texas Rangers** — What would happen if the Oakland pitching staff got bad? They'd become the Texas Rangers. Pete O'Brien and pals can slug with the best of 'em, but so can everybody who hits Texas pitchers (and I use the word loosely).

**Chicago White Sox** — They've got Harold Baines, which makes them less awful than the Mariners.

**Seattle Mariners** — The problem here is Steinbrenner West. If George Argyros wasn't so cheap, his teams might overcome his meddling, the way the Yankees sometimes do.

**Alan Small**

**AL East**

**New York Yankees** — I don't know why everyone is dumping on these guys. Billy's a winner, and that is all she wrote for this division. There is a warning to this team, however, if their pitching goes in the tank, they might have to hustle for first. Otherwise, their enormous power hitting lineup (Winfield, Clark, Mattingly, Pagliarulo) will overpower a division that is also weak in pitching.

**Boston Red Sox** — Another fear-some group of hitters litter this lineup, and the addition of DH Sam Horn should make them more fearful. Roger Clemens will win 20 (yawn) while Oil Can Boyd will start using his junk more after his injury and actually have a good season.

**Toronto Blue Jays** — An unhappy George Bell and an unreliable pitching staff will be the downfall of Canada's team in 1988. Look for

Angels: A homer pick to have them this high. (third)

may go 0-for-road-trips except when Clemens starts.

**Detroit Tigers** — You can't give up Kirk Gibson for nothing and win in the AL East. Would you believe Lemon, Pettis, and Pat Sheridan in the outfield? Even Detroit's starters can't win with those jokers.

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Dave Stieb: "Tomorrow, I'll Pitch Past the Third Inning."

Dave Stieb to come out with a new sequel to his autobiography titled "Tomorrow, I'll Pitch Past the Third Inning."

**Milwaukee Brewers** — They need a couple of righties to go along with Juan Nieves and Ted Figueroa. They need to get some more power as well. Robin Yount can't carry a team for twenty years.

**Detroit Tigers** — The loss of Kirk Gibson leaves two holes in the Tiger outfield. Larry Herndon will end up DHing leaving the pasture to Chet Lemon, Garry Pettis, and possibly Scott Lusader. A lot of holes in this club. Pitching is very suspect.

**Cleveland Indians** — Since when did the AL let a AAA club to play in the bigs? Tom Candiotti leads the "pitching staff" with his 7-18 record and 4.78 ERA. The only way they'll win 80 games is if they score 10 in each one. Tough to pick these guys sixth.

**Baltimore Orioles** — But it's easier to pick these slugs seventh. They have similar pitching problems to the Indians, but they can't hit as well. Did you know that Fred Lynn

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