

Overtime Baseball 1984: A look back at the year ahead

by Mark Alberstat

April second is the date for all baseball fans to mark off on their calendars, for on that day the 1984 major league season starts. It is the first day for the 109th season of the National League and the 84th of the American League.

The first of the exhibition games were on March 3rd and 6th with the Orioles and Yankees in Florida and the A's and Brewers in Arizona respectively. These games were the openers of the 366-game schedule before April 2nd.

The season will open with eight new managers, no commissioner, and no director of the MLPA (Major League Players Association). Both the MLPA and the owners fired their respective representatives before they hired new ones.

To make Florida even quieter this spring, neither Billy Martin nor Earl Weaver will be there to kick around.

Some comebacks though are being attempted by Jim Palmer, Rollie Fingers, Joe Morgan, Darrell Evans, and Ron Reed, just to name a few.

Big Dave Kingman is at the A's training camp at the expense of the Mets who still hold Kingman's \$675,000 salary.

Tom Seaver is in a new camp in Sarasota after trading leagues from the Mets of the National League to the Chicago White Sox of the American. In September Seaver pitched 41 innings and gave up 29 hits, not bad for September. His 1983 record was 9-14 and led the Mets with an ERA of 3.55 and had 135 strikeouts. Seaver might just be what the Sox need to get to the series this year.

The Yankees bullpen is without the help of Rich (the Goose) Gossage, so they banished last year's no-hitter Dave Righetti to the pen, makes sense to me guys.

Cal Ripken Jr. is in Miami with the Orioles for another great

year with the Birds. In 1982 he won the A.L.'s MVP (the fifth shortstop in history to get the honour) and The Sporting News Player of the Year. In 1983 he led the American League in hits with 211, runs with 121, and doubles with 47, he also placed ninth in RBI's with 102. He is now the highest paid third year player after signing a five-year contract worth four million.

Talking about salaries, the average 1984 major league salary is \$289,194, with the minimum salary being \$40,000. A lot of this money depends on attendance at the ball parks. Last year's attendance was 45,540,338, the 10th record in the last 15 years.

Some landmarks will be reached this season and the following is a short summary.

Rod Carew starts his 20th season this year needing only 68 hits to reach an even 3,000.

The home run department is crowded with Reggie Jackson needing 15 to tie Lou Gehrig's record of 493 and 22 home runs to reach 500. Mike Schmidt needs 11 to reach 400, Greg Luzinski needs 6 to get 300 and not far behind him are Georg Foster with 289 and Jim Rice with 276.

It's possible for Ricky Henderson to steal 100 bases this year, which would be his third time in a row and the fourth time in his career, a record no one else has ever achieved.

It should also be noted that 1984 marks 50 years since Babe Ruth played his last game as a Yankee.

Canadian Clubs: It's been 15 years since the Expos entered the majors along with the Royals, Brewers, and Padres, and this year they might just hold together long enough to do something at the end of the season.

The main attraction around the Expos camp this spring is not Gary Carter but the old man himself, Pete Rose.

Rose, 43 on April 14, opens the season with 3,990 hits, second only to Ty Cobb. Rose is 201 behind Cobb and he says he will catch Cobb's record in 1985. He may catch Cobb's other record of singles this season. Rose is only 60 behind.

In another area, the Expos are putting a lot of their eggs in one basket, namely Angenis (Angel) Salazar, who is going to be having the starting position at short. Salazar hit .217 in 37 at bats for Montreal after being called up from Wichita on August 19.

Last season, Manager Bill Verdon phased out the regular short-stop Chris Speier, with Dour Flynn. Speier is still with the Expos as a backup short, second, and third, unless Salazar runs into trouble.

The Expos have little trouble in the catching department with four, including Carter, who had trouble with the bat last season.

Polo pony ineligible

by Rusty James

The Saint Mary's athletic department announced today yet another pull-out of a team from varsity competitions.

Polo coach Gary Heeled admitted that two of the horses used in competition this year were ineligible. One of the horses had no registered I.Q. while the other was playing under an assumed name.

The athletics department say they are through horsing around with eligibility and it will never happen again. They are now in the process of investigating all coaches to see if they are eligible and indeed who they say they are.

The community is calling for an indefinite suspension of Heeled for his horse play, and a public stoning in the center of Huskie Stadium.

The athletic department finished its statement by claiming that things are not so bad. Although every sports team this year had at least one ineligible player they say it will not happen with their chess team.

Competition in chess begins next week and the initiative was taken to check eligibility. After weeding out ineligible chess competitors there was nobody left but the feeling is at least they won't be disqualified.

Rusty and Dave

Dear Rusty and Dave:

I am a little embarrassed to bring this subject up but it has been bothering me for some time. It has to do with my pet dog. Every time that I have a shower or bath my dog comes in and watches me through the whole routine. Most people wouldn't give this a second thought so I guess that is why I feel a little silly. You should see how he stares at me. Do you

think the dog is physically attracted to me or is it a case of my imagination and paranoia taking over?

Flustered in the shower,
Doug

Dear Doug:

We think you are being dog-gone silly, Doug. Your dog is probably just attracted to the bathroom and most likely doesn't even realize whether you

have clothes on or not. But then again it depends on how he stares. If he just blankly stares you need not worry. Now if he stares with a glaze in his eyes you might get a little itchy. You might really have a case if he pants, wags his tail, and slobbers all over the floor. These are good indications of how your dog feels. If he lights up a cigarette after the shower you might want to get yourself a goldfish.

Watch for these signs, Doug. I am sure you have nothing to worry about. It is probably just a case of you barking up the wrong tree.

Dear Rusty and Dave:

I've tried the humane society, sex counselling, and a veterinarian, but nothing has worked. I now turn to you guys to free me from my problem. I am a fairly normal dog owned by someone who I thought was a fairly normal owner. When I was a puppy I used to follow him into the shower to keep him company. It got a little boring so I started staying down on my couch. Before I knew it my owner was dragging me upstairs and making me watch him have showers. I don't mean to expose him for what he is, but he sings love songs to me and makes weird sounds. Can you guys help me, by any chance?

An anonymous dog,
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Dear Anonymous:

We are really glad to hear from you. This owner of yours sounds like a weirdo. Of course it may be your imagination playing games with you. When you are in the shower it is important to observe how he looks at you. If he stares blankly then he is just being silly and living out his childhood fantasies of being a singer. If he has a glaze in his eyes while he is singing you better curl up in the corner. If he slobbers while he is singing - well watch him and if he moves toward you, bite the jerk. Other than that it is probably just a case

of you barking up the wrong tree.

Dear Rusty and Dave:

I don't want to come across as a nosy neighbour but this is something so extraordinary I need some advice. Like anybody I get a bit curious about what goes on in the area from time to time. Across the street from me a guy lives in a house with just him and his dog. They both act a bit strange at times so they have caught my attention. Their bathroom is directly across from my living room. While relaxing some time ago I noticed this guy dragging his dog into the shower with him. Well, it wasn't entirely dragging, as the dog seemed to be quite willing. The guy (at least it looked like that) was singing to his dog and both of them were staring at each other. I don't know about you guys but this seems awful strange to me. What do you think about the situation?

A not-so-nosy neighbour,
Nick

Dear Nick:

You're a sick man, Nick. Spying on people, what can we say? We think you are seeing things. Lonely neighbours, kinky dogs, and romantic songs in the showers - come on, Nick, what kind of drugs are you taking? We refuse to comment any further.

Quote of the Week: "I don't mind where people make love, so long as they don't do it in the street and frighten the horses." - Mrs. Patrick Campbell (1865-1940)

