

Run down of the A's and the Jays

by Brian Lennox

Now that the Blue Jays have rid themselves of the choke label, they have their energy focused on winning the American League pennant. Since Cito Gaston took over in late May, the Blue Jays have had the best record in the major leagues, 77-49 over that period. Their overall record was 89-73.

The Oakland Athletics have to be considered the favourite in this series. They had the best record in the major leagues and really have the most talent. However, anything can happen in a best of seven series. If the Jays get the pitching they have been getting and their hitters come alive, they could beat the Athletics. Here, then, is a run down of the matchups.

Catcher

Call this one even. Terry Steinbach, the A's catcher has had some injuries this year but is very solid defensively. The A's will also use veteran Ron Hassey on occasion. The Blue Jays' long

time catcher, Ernie Whitt, is also solid behind the plate. Whitt does have some power, hitting 12 home runs this year.

First Base

Again, this one is about even. Fred McGriff and the A's Mark McGuire both possess tremendous power. Both have hit over 30 homers the past two seasons. Both are more than adequate defensively.

Second Base

Give a slight edge to Nelson Liriano over the A's Tony Phillips. Liriano had a slightly higher average than Phillips. Both have excellent speed and are very good on defense.

Shortstop

No question here. The Blue Jays' Tony Fernandez is one of the best shortstops in the game. Fernandez is an excellent batter who committed only six errors all season, breaking Eddie Brinkman's all-time record. Walt Weiss is very good defensively but his batting average is low. He was injured much of the year.

Third Base

This is a tough pick. Both players are all-star material. The Blue Jays' Kelly Gruber had his best season ever as a Blue Jay. However, the A's Carney Lansford is one of the best hitters in the game and is superb on defense. I give a slight edge to the A's in this position.

Right Field

Even though he played only half a season, the edge has to go to Jose Canseco of the A's. The Jays have used Mookie Wilson and Junior Felix in right field. Both Jays have speed, as does Canseco. However, Canseco has awesome power. He nearly hit 20 home runs in less than 80 games. Give the edge here to Oakland.

Centre Field

Although Mookie Wilson has ignited the Jays and Lloyd Moseby has begun to hit well lately, the edge has to go to the A's Dave Henderson. Henderson has been playoff MVP before so everyone knows his capabilities under pressure. Oakland has the edge here.

Left Field

A tough call here, but George Bell had an MVP season. He delivered the key hits when the Jays needed them. His defense is suspect but he also can be used as a DH. Rickey Henderson has given the A's more speed but his batting average was down this year.

Starting Pitching

Oakland have the best starting staff in the American League.

However, their starters have high earned-run averages which means they can be hit. The Jays starters, except for Dave Steib, have been inconsistent. Give the edge to the A's.

Relief

Even with Dennis Eckersley, the A's relief staff is somewhat vulnerable. Their middle relief is not that great, whereas the Jays' middleman was excellent in the final weeks of the season. Short relief man Tom Henke for the Jays has been unhittable lately. Toronto has the edge here.

Intangibles

Both teams have been here before. The A's lost to the Dodgers in the '88 World Series. In 1985 the Blue Jays were one game away from the World Series but could not put away the Kansas City Royals. The A's are on a mission this year as they are out to avenge last year's five game loss to the Dodgers. There is also no love lost between these two teams. I give the A's an edge here.

Prediction: Oakland over Toronto in six games, but I hope not.

Math Section

Sponsored by The Math Society, editor, Dr Richard Nowakowski. The first correct solution handed in to Dr. R. Nowakowski, Dept. of Mathematics, Statistics and Computing Science, Room 304, Chase Building will be awarded a Loonie (\$1) prize and a certificate. Prizes can be picked up from my office Thursday or Tuesday. The winner and solution will be given in the following issue of the *Gazette*. (Faculty are not eligible for prizes, although correct solutions will be acknowledged.)

QUESTION 2 is still unsolved.

QUESTION 3. Find the minimum value of

$$(u-v)^2 + \sqrt{2-u^2 - 9/v^2}$$

for $0 < u < 2$, and $v > 0$.

SOLUTION. The problem asks for the square of the distance between a quarter circle $x^2+y^2=2$ in the first quadrant and the part of the hyperbola in that quadrant. Since the tangents to the respective curves at (1,1) and (3,3) separate the two curves and are both perpendicular to $y=x$, then the minimum value is 8.

The Duck Buck goes to MAHESH V. TRIPUNITARA. It was also solved by Garth Sweet and Adam Halsey. Hey, a proof would be nice guys.

QUESTION 4. (An easy one for Thanksgiving) Let ABC be a right-angled triangle. If the lengths of the sides form an arithmetic sequence and the radius of the circumscribed circle is 1 cm., what are the lengths of the sides of the triangle?

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