

SPORTS

Givler's Travels

Reporter doesn't know "Bo"

Mike Givler
Capital Times Staff

Well, here it is. The first edition of Givler's Travels. Now many of you may think this is a play on Jonathan Swift's book about a sailor who gets shipwrecked in foreign lands. Not so. It is about the weird and wacky world of sports, where anything that can happen usually does.

Each article will feature unusual happenings in the world of sports. People will be recognized for the stupid things they say or for just not knowing which end is up on a golf club. And, if you don't find this column to your liking, all is not lost... you can still use it to line your cat's litter box.

The first thing I wish to laugh about in this issue is the sports reporter who wanted to interview Bo Jackson on the day of his return to the majors. The reporter went up to number 8 (Jackson's jersey number) who was standing next to the batting cage, and started asking him

how rehab was going and how he felt to be back in the big leagues. Meanwhile, Jackson was standing at first base taking throws from the infielders and wearing Tim Raines' number 30. So you guessed it, Raines was answering the reporter's questions.

My question for this sports dork is how could you not know what Bo Jackson looks like? Every time you turn on the television set you see Bo advertising for Nike or doing the Pepsi Chill-out. Maybe the average person might not recognize Bo on the ball field, but a sports reporter... c'mon.

The foot in the mouth award goes to the University of Georgia's offensive coordinator for predicting the probable success of the football team's scoring punch. He said the Georgia team was "a million miles away" from having any type of offense. The following day the Dawgs beat Western Carolina 48-0. No offense? OK, OK, I know Western Carolina is no Florida State, but the following week Georgia beat LSU 31-10

and had over 300 yards passing for the first time since 1972. Personally, I think the Bulldog offense is just a little bit better than he expected.

Speaking of offenses, or lack of one, I'd personally like to see the Cincinnati Bearcats play Pacific University in a bowl game this year. Cincinnati lost to our Nittany Lions 81-0 and Pacific lost to California 86-24. The only question would be the under/over line in Las Vegas: would it be 167 or 24?

The stat of the issue is that 80 percent of the football teams who start the pro season with a record of 2 and 0 make the playoffs, but I'm going out on a limb to predict that Phoenix will be in the minority this year.

Let me "Giv" ya a trivia question: Who is the only baseball player who has hit over 400 home runs in a career and is not in the Hall of Fame?

Back to the news, the Cleveland Indians tried out a new promotion last week. They wanted to see how EMPTY they could get Cleveland Stadium during

a home game against the Red Sox. Well, there were close to 73,000 empty seats during the rescheduled game, which is more fans than most ballparks can hold on a sell-out day.

I'm happy to see the baseball records people have finally determined what constitutes a no-hitter. A no-hitter is now a game that lasts 9 innings or more and ends in no hits. It took over 100 years to figure it out, but I think they've finally got it.

Answer time. Dave Kingman has hit 400 taters, but probably will never get to Cooperstown's Hall of Fame because he couldn't do much else. On the other hand, Dodger first baseman Eddie Murray will probably be the next player to hit 400 career homers and secure a spot in the Hall of Fame. He'll join the shrine not only because he hit 400 homers, but because he played good defense and helped build winning teams.

Until the next issue...may all your slap shots hit nothing but the back of the net.

Bears, Flyers skate toward '91-'92 campaign

Dave Ancharski
Capital Times Staff

As the Hershey Bears front office busily prepares for what will be Hershey's 54th season in the American Hockey League, the Philadelphia brass is equally occupied with getting the Flyers into shape for their silver anniversary campaign.

When training camp opened the first week of September in Voorees, N.J., the Flyers began their search for some young talent to fill their diminished roster. This year's Bears could prove to be the cream of the crop, which may or may not be good news for their fans. Many of the players who wore Hershey's brown and white last season will be

given a long look by the Philly coaching staff. Among them are wingers Bill Armstrong, Claude Boivin, Tony Horacek and Pat Murry. Defensemen Dave Fenyves, Darren Rumble and Kerry Huffman also have a shot at making the parent club.

While it's too early to predict the Bears' final roster for 1991-92, there will be some Hershey favorites returning for the upcoming slate. Tim Tookey will once again don a Bears' sweater, as will player/assistant coach Mike Stothers, Brian Dobbin and Chris Jensen. Dominic Roussel, Marc D'Amour and Bruce Hoffort will compete for the starting job in the Hershey nets.

Newcomers to Chocolatetown include Al Conroy, a feisty centerman acquired

from the Adirondack Red Wings, rookie defensemen Steve Morrow and Dan Kordic, along with Corey Foster and winger Jamie Cooke, a highly-touted rookie prospect from Colgate University.

During the off-season, Philadelphia General Manager Russ Farwell made a few trades which not only affected his club, but the Bears as well. The Flyers sent Craig Fisher, Hershey's leading scorer last season, to the Edmonton Oilers in exchange for Corey Foster and former Flyer enforcer Dave Brown. Defenseman Shaun Sabol was traded to the new York Rangers, blueliner Scott Sandelin went to Minnesota, Guy Phillips took his skates overseas, and

Mark Bassen joined his brother in St. Louis.

But Farwell isn't finished pushing the trading button yet. The Flyers' goaltending crease is a bit crowded with veterans Ron Hextall, Pete Peters, and Ken Wregget all bidding for the starting role. Hextall will likely be the number one netminder, barring any groin pulls or contract disputes. Wregget is perhaps the best trade bait the Flyers have in the goaltending department, and will probably be gone before their season opens on October 4 in Washington. If Farwell becomes brave enough to let old-timer Peters go as well, that would give either Roussel or Hoffort a one-way turnpike ticket to back up Hextall between the Philly pipes.

DUGOUT DOODLES

See how many baseball trivia questions you can answer. Submit answers to the Capital Times office in room W 341 by SLIDING them under the door before October 11, 1991. The winner will be determined by the most correct answers. In case of a TY, a winner will be randomly drawn.

This issue's prize: 1987 Topps wax pack.

Questions:

1. Who has the most career pitching losses?
2. Who was the last American League switch-hitting MVP?
3. Who managed the most years for one team?
4. Name the first \$100,000 player.
5. List eight ways to get on first base.
6. Name the tallest and shortest players in major league history.
7. What is the minimum number batters a pitcher must face to be credited with a complete game decision?
8. Name the four members of \$100,000 infield.
9. Name the pitcher who surrendered Babe Ruth's "called shot."

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