

Sports page: A hideaway for optimists

Autumn didn't begin with the equinox. It didn't begin when the leaves turned colors. Autumn began in the top of the ninth Tuesday night when Lee Lacy popped up a Mike Torrez pitch, ending the World Series.

For the true sports follower, the seasons are not named Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter: they are named Baseball, Football, Hockey and Basketball.

Baseball season has caused more colds than any virus. There was snow on the ground this week, but sports fans walked around in short sleeves — it's just incomprehensible to imagine being cold while baseball season is still going.



Eric Yoder

Same for spring training. The temperature hangs around the 20s here in February, but when the majors open camp, the fans break out the T-shirts.

Following a team or a league numbs the senses and plays on the psyche. Many people's moods are determined by what appears in the box scores each morning. For sports followers, life is a crazy emotional roller coaster.

It may sound like a senseless thing to guide one's life, but consider the alternatives. Read the front page of the Collegian some day: "Legislators fail to appropriate money: Tuition level going up," "Congress stalls energy plan: Gas price level going up," "So-and-so, running for such-and-such says this-and-that: Bullshit level going up."

It's downright depressing to read news anymore. Last year, the editorial page was always good for a few laughs: Wet T-shirts, beastiality and who-the-hell-is-Gino-Vanelli?

This year, the Letters to the Editor come off like dining hall oatmeal: Library hours, football uniforms and who-stole-my-purse?

News is news and letters are letters, so they must be published. And they should be read. But who can blame someone for checking out the sports page first — it's like eating your dessert first. To put it in sports lingo, it's reading about the "thrill of victory" before "the agony of defeat."

The sports page is a haven for closet optimists. The sun is always shining somewhere, and no matter how badly things are going, there's always a game tomorrow, even another season coming up. Nothing is permanent — you always get a second chance.

Those who confine themselves to the front page also get their seasons according to the temperature. Here's what they'll get for the next four months: "increasingly colder, cloudy, high winds and probability of snow."

But for sports nuts, the seasons change according to the types of uniforms appearing on the sports page. If that's a basketball, it must be cold outside.

Baseball season is over. Let's get basketball and hockey going, let's kick football into high gear. Let's break out the heavy coats.

But only until February, when the teams head for Florida and Arizona. Then let's break out the T-shirts, because, dammit, if that's a baseball, it must be warm outside.



UPI Telephoto

New York Yankee manager Billy Martin, who piloted his club to a World series victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers, got his long-awaited security from general manager Gabe Paul this week, but according to many Yankee players the vote of confidence came later than it should have.

Yankees don't want another year like '77

NEW YORK (AP) — "I can't go through another year like this. No way," said Thurman Munson, the catcher and captain.

"This club can't take another year of this," said outfielder Lou Piniella. "Whoever can't adhere to the unity of the ball club, they should get rid of him."

With a world championship to savor, it should have been the happiest hour of the year for the New York Yankees. It wasn't.

"The Series is gonna hit me in a couple of days," Munson said. "But I was happier when we won the playoffs just because of all the stuff we've been through and being under the gun all the time."

When the Yankees edged Kansas City in the American League playoffs, the normally gruff Munson, the team's finest competitor, broke down and wept. Now, he was too spent for much emotion.

"I'm happy it's over," he said. "I'm tired. I don't know how I played the last few days. Someone had to help me, I felt so bad. The man upstairs did, I guess."

The Yankees, back atop the baseball world for the first time in 15 years, a position they once considered their divine right, should have been ecstatic. Instead, the feeling that permeated their clubhouse Tuesday night after beating the Los Angeles Dodgers, four games to two, was relief that this turbulent season finally had ended and they could at last escape the constant attention and controversy that had engulfed them almost continuously since spring training.

"To be honest," Piniella said. "I don't think this club can take another year, another two weeks, another week of all this. You don't have to be one big, happy family to concentrate on playing

ball, but if everything isn't gonna be tranquil we might as well write off next year."

Munson and Piniella were under the gun again this week, the latest chapter in what club president Gabe Paul called, "the tumultuous life of the 1977 Yankees."

A national magazine reported the two players met with owner George Steinbrenner in Milwaukee during a July slump and demanded he fire Manager Billy Martin.

"I'd never try to get a man fired from his job," Munson said. "I'm too much of a family man to ever do that. What we told George was, 'If you're gonna fire him, fire him now or else give him security.'"

"We also talked about a few people who maybe should be hitting in different spots in the batting order. I think that meeting started to turn the meeting around, but if nothing else came out of it, I think it got Billy some security."

Martin finally got his security just a few hours before the World Series wind-up when the Yankees gave him a vote of confidence for the remaining two years of his contract.

"They should have done it much sooner," Piniella said. "It would have helped much sooner. Everything will be fine if they leave the man alone and let him manage. And he can manage, no doubt about it."

"They hired a manager. Leave him alone. They hired 25 players who they think can play and if problems are caused by any ball players next year, they should get rid of those players."

Neither Munson nor Piniella was naming names. The last thing the Yankees need is more controversy.

Yankees on Broadway, Jackson draws curtain

NEW YORK (AP) — Still enjoying the afterglow of their first world championship in 15 years, the New York Yankees were saluted with a ticker tape parade up lower Broadway yesterday after an awesome power display by slugger Reggie Jackson clinched the World Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Jackson became the first man in the history of baseball to hit three consecutive home runs in a single Series game, smashing the first pitch in each swing to carry the best team money could buy to its championship Tuesday night.

The only other man ever to hit three homers in a single Series game was the legendary Babe Ruth, who set the record 51 years ago. But not even the immortal Ruth ever managed the total of five Series homers which Jackson socked to destroy the Dodgers.

It was a fitting climax to a tumultuous season in which the high-priced stars assembled in the Yankee clubhouse by Owner George Steinbrenner often clashed with each other and with the club's management. Jackson, signed by Steinbrenner for \$2.9 million as the most expensive player in last winter's free agent auction, often was the center of the clubhouse controversy.



The slugger, a star with three world championship Oakland A's teams, simply did not fit comfortably in the Yankees pinstripe picture. He did not feel accepted by the players and was a virtual outcast in the dressing room for much of the season.

There were problems all year long in a never-ending soap opera atmosphere that earned the Yankees the nickname "Team Turmoil." At one point, Jackson slugged a home run and ignored the traditional handshakes of his teammates. Another time, Manager Billy Martin pulled him out of a game for not hustling and almost came to blows with the slugger in the Yankee dugout.

The turmoil lasted until August when Martin, following Steinbrenner's season-long suggestion, inserted Jackson in the cleanup spot in the batting order. Jackson responded by almost carrying the Yankees singlehandedly through the stretch drive to the American League East title.

In the playoffs Jackson slumped and was benched before the fifth and deciding game. But he delivered a clutch, pinch single in the eighth inning driving in a vital run as New York came from behind to win the pennant against Kansas City.

The World Series started poorly for Jackson. He had just one single in the first two games which the Yankees and Dodgers split. After Game 2, the turmoil resumed with Jackson criticizing Martin's selection of Catfish Hunter to pitch the second game. Angry words

were once again exchanged in print between manager and slugger.

The debate caused Yankee President Gabe Paul to call a news conference in the hours before Game 3 in an attempt to calm the troubled waters. Martin and Jackson held a pre-game peace conference and in Game 3, the right fielder drove in one run with a single and scored two others as New York won.

But still, Reggie had not managed an extra base hit in either the playoffs or World Series and his power was clearly missing from the Yankee attack. Steinbrenner wasn't paying all that money for singles and in Game 4, Jackson stopped hitting singles.

He doubled in his first swing, touching off a three-run rally and then homered later in a 5-3 Yankee victory. In Game 5, the Dodgers dominated with a 10-4 victory but in his last two swings, Jackson singled, touching off a two-run Yankee rally, and then homered.

That set the stage for the sixth game when Jackson electrified the Yankee Stadium crowd with his three long home runs, rewriting the World Series record book.

When it was over Jackson was the main man in the Yankee dressing room, where once he had been an outcast. But the champagne celebration was somewhat restrained because below the surface of championship joy some discontent still exists among the Yankees.

Football Forecast

Below is The Daily Collegian's football forecast for the upcoming weekend. The favorites, underdogs, and point spreads are the "Las Vegas Line" odds, while the far right column are the Collegian's picks, giving or taking those point spreads. A "plus" after the team's initials means we are taking the points, a "minus" means we are giving. We stress these picks by us are made in fun only. This week's Collegian selections were made by assistant sports editor Jerry Lucci.

THE PROS			Collegian		
Favorite	Pts.	Underdog	Favorite	Pts.	Underdog
Cleveland	6	Buffalo	C-6		
Oakland	13	NY Jets	O-13		
Dallas	11	Philadelphia	D-11		
Washington	10	NY Giants	W-10		
Pittsburgh	12	Houston	P-12		
Denver	3	Cincinnati	D-3		
Miami	16	Seattle	M-16		
Green Bay	5	Tampa Bay	G-5		
Chicago	7	Atlanta	C-7		
St. Louis	9	New Orleans	S-9		
New England	2	Baltimore	B-2		
Detroit	2	San Francisco	D-2		

San Diego	10	Kansas City	KC-10
Los Angeles	3	Minnesota	M-3

THE COLLEGES			Collegian		
Favorite	Pts.	Underdog	Favorite	Pts.	Underdog
Kentucky	3	Georgia	K-3		
Memphis	3 1/2	N. Texas St.	MS-3 1/2		
Southern Cal	5	Notre Dame	ND-5		
Clemson	7	N. Carolina St.	C-7		
Dartmouth	13 1/2	Cornell	D-13 1/2		
Maryland	11 1/2	Duke	M-11 1/2		
Purdue	4 1/2	Iowa	P-4 1/2		
N. Carolina	7	S. Carolina	NC-7		
Penn St.	16	West Virginia	PS-16		
Yale	11 1/2	Penn	Y-11 1/2		
Pittsburgh	17	Syracuse	P-17		
Florida	12	Tennessee	F-12		
Nebraska	2	Colorado	N-2		
Illinois	2 1/2	Indiana	I-2 1/2		
Oklahoma	15	Iowa St.	O-15		
Kansas	3	Oklahoma St.	K-3		
Missouri	12 1/2	Kansas St.	M-12 1/2		
Michigan	21 1/2	Minnesota	M-21 1/2		
Ohio St.	35	Northwestern	O-35		
Texas	18 1/2	SMU	T-18 1/2		
Wisconsin	15	Michigan St.	W-15		
Wake Forest	6 1/2	Virginia	WF-6 1/2		
Brigham Young	5 1/2	Wyoming	BY-5 1/2		
Mississippi	7	Vanderbilt	M-7		
Miami (Fla.)	17	TCU	M-17		
Stanford	7	Washington St.	WS-7		
Washington	14	Oregon St.	W-14		
Baylor	13 1/2	Air Force	B-13 1/2		
Florida St.	5	Auburn	FS-5		
Georgia Tech	3 1/2	Tulane	GT-3 1/2		
LSU	21 1/2	Oregon	LSU-21 1/2		
Texas A&M	3 1/2	Rice	T-3 1/2		
UCLA	3 1/2	California	U-3 1/2		
Cincinnati	14	Tulsa	C-14		
Arkansas	1	Houston	H-1		

Intramural scores

Volleyball — Poplar def. Lackawanna, 2-0; Cameron def. Sullivan, 2-1; Lycoming def. Fulton, 2-0; Sequoia def. Leete I, for.; Pittsburg def. Williamsburg, 2-0; Mercer def. Hazleton, 2-0; Tamarack def. Schuylkill, for.; Behrend def. Nittany 37-39-40-41, for.; Hershey def. Paradise, 2-1; Watts 1-2 def. Adams, 2-1; Northampton def. Williamsport, 2-1; Washington def. Jefferson, 2-0.

FRATERNITY — Sigma Alpha Epsilon def. Tau Kappa Epsilon, 2-0; Phi Kappa Sigma def. Phi Kappa Tau, 2-0; Delta Kappa Phi def. Phi Gamma Delta, 2-0; Alpha Sigma Phi def. Delta Chi, 2-0; Delta Upsilon def. Sigma Nu, 2-0; Phi Kappa Theta def. Kappa Sigma, 2-0.

The Day of Creation
at the
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USG UPDATE:
"PROJECT HARRISBURG"
At the present time, our university is paying \$3,000 a day in interest. Realize that the amount of money paid in interest over a 10 day period is enough to keep Pattee Library open full time the entire year! THIS MONEY IS SIMPLY BEING WASTED.

HARRISBURG IS TAKING TOO LONG WITH OUR FUNDING.
CALL OR WRITE YOUR LEGISLATOR. TELL THEM YOU WANT THIS PROBLEM RESOLVED IMMEDIATELY.

Stop by the Student Action Centers in your Area Residence Hall Association office for the name and address of your home legislator.