

Tidbits From Earth

Joe Talks Baseball

by Joe Albrecht

I was out celebrating on St. Patrick's Day with some friends (one of which spoke quite voluminously in the streets of Erie about his desire to participate in highly risqué and unusual acts involving nuns) when I stopped dead in my tracks and realized I hadn't officially presented my preseason baseball predictions.

These aren't your everyday predictions -- these are carefully scrutinized, in-depth prognostications that could only be made by close examination of every ballplayer including an emphasis on past history or else by reading a little too much People magazine.

I understand that watching baseball on television can be about as exciting as watching plants photosynthesize, but by reading the following you, the reader, will attain the inside track so as to know what to expect in the coming season. This will ensure your staying glued to your seat for every strikeout pitched, every home run hit and every private area scratched. Meanwhile, I'll be doing something more exciting -- like yard work. Without further ado, on with the season -- LET'S PLAY BALL!!

American League

This is by far my favorite league with the exception of the National League. The only difference between the leagues is that in the American League you have a designated hitter which allows washed-up players with exorbitant salaries like Reggie Jackson to receive undue adulation from fans who pay large amounts of money to see them spit with no greater skill than your

These aren't your everyday predictions -- these are carefully scrutinized, in-depth prognostications that could only be made by close examination of every ballplayer including an emphasis on past history or else by reading a little too much People magazine.

lesser known ballplayers. But I'm not here to criticize.

In 1989, look for fierce competition and heated battles in the American League East -- some of which will even involve baseball. But when the dust clears, here's how I see the standings:



Joe Albrecht

1. Detroit-- Though the Tigers will finish first, their year will not be without scandal. As the playoffs ensue a story will break nationally which involves the Tigers' pitching staff, a hot tub full of Wesson oil and Bert Convy.

2. Boston-- Even though Wade Boggs will personally score more than most teams will all season, his on-field skills will slide and the Sox will come up short.

3. Toronto-- The Blue Jays' hopes for a title are dashed while on the road against the Yankees when George Bell decides to join the Metropolitan Opera.

4. New York-- By year's end the Yankees will be the only team in the majors in which the concession stand food will receive more applause than the players. Kraut dogs alone will acquire three times as many All-Star votes as Dave Winfield.

5. Baltimore-- In an attempt to out-do their performance of a year ago, the Orioles will lose every game after the All-Star break including a 3-game series against a group of lame and sightless old-timers.

6. Milwaukee-- This town should stick strictly to brewing beer.

7. Cleveland-- Indian fans, unable to face another long and depressing baseball season after seeing the Cleveland Cavaliers in first place, call for the banishment of baseball from the city. Surprisingly there are no objections from the players, who are all happy to resume their regular jobs as short order cooks at Denny's.

The American League West is an entirely different story. I think it's plain to see that Oakland is the only team with more talent at baseball than Ray Charles has at juggling.

National League
This is by far my favorite league with the exception of the American League. This

year the races in both divisions will either go down to the wire or else they won't. If they do, they will. If they don't, they won't. In addition to the usual scratching and spitting also look for an abundance of name calling and kicking of dirt.

Here's how it will be in the East:

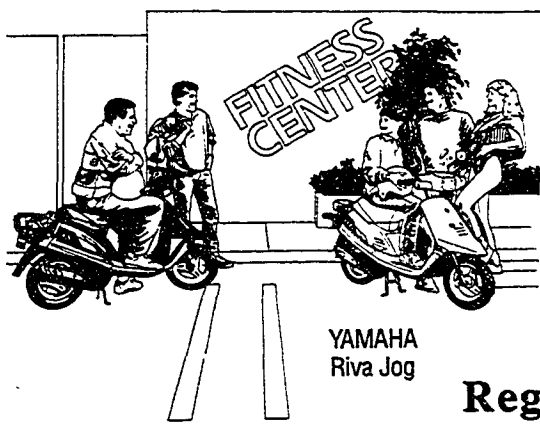
1. NY Mets-- After locker room brawls with teammates, reporters and every citizen in New York City, Darryl Strawberry will agree to fight Mike Tyson at Shea Stadium. Much to the delight of the sold out crowd, Strawberry's ego crushes both men. The rest of the Mets scrape the remains off the field and go on to clinch first place in the second week of April.

2. Pittsburgh-- In an effort to increase disappointing attendance levels, the Pirates hire Margo Adams (Wade Boggs' extramarital companion) to perform a unique version of the seventh inning stretch on one lucky ticket holder during each home game.

3. Montreal, St. Louis, Philadelphia, Chicago-- All four teams simultaneously forfeit the rest of their teams' games when the players realize that some

contd. on next page

Performance on the run



YAMAHA Riva Jog

APRIL SALE

Reg: \$999
SALE: \$899

Financing Available with No Down Payment Mastercard/Visa

- * More muscle than any other 50cc scooter
- * Tight, aerodynamic design zips through the wind
- * Fully automatic transmission
- * Push-button electric start for power at your fingertips
- * Luggage rack
- * Wider tires for a smooth, comfortable ride
- * Easy to park



Chet Alek's Yamaha & Marine
15th & Peninsula Drive
Erie, PA 16505 Ph. (814) 833-3861

Nomination Forms Available for

The Guy W. Wilson Award for Excellence in Academic Advising

and
The Behrend Council of Fellows Excellence in Teaching Award

Nominations must be submitted to the Office of the Provost and Dean by April 10, 1989

Any student, member of the administration, student group, or faculty member may submit a nomination form.

Nominations Forms are available in the Library.