

COURIER Sports

IN THIS CORNER

George Baskin

Upsets make news, and front runners cause upsets.

If the people who write the winter book odds in Las Vegas could do it all over, they'd make some startling revisions after looking at the field at the quarter pole of the major league baseball grind.

Things that absolutely could not happen are happening. There's Boston. The Red Sox who were close second choices to the Baltimore Orioles, were flopping in the American League's Eastern cellar.

They had problems, sure. Their second baseman was rendered hors de combat by a Nolan Ryan pitch, and the rookie shortstop they chose to live or die with looked like a terminal case.

In this same AL East, Milwaukee was supposed to rattle Cleveland for last place. Well, the Milwaukeees were looking back at all the rest, if not laughing, because it just happens they were in front a year earlier, and wound up in the drink. Cleveland? The Indians swapped a limousine load of jocks with the Yankees, and Cleveland cashed almost immediate pitching dividends.

It would develop, it seemed into the perfect trade, one that would benefit both clubs.

The rest of the AL East was sort of blah. Except that John (Boog) Powell woke up one morning to realize he finally had struck a home run. Considering the Orioles' early offensive famine, this was spelled encouraging.

Over in the NL East the standings looked at least as squirrely. More so. Philadelphia, everybody's five-star choice to finish last, was up in front. Pittsburgh, no worse than co-favorite to win, was last. Despite injuries, the solid Cardinals were close.

To the Pittsburgh front office and fans, country-boy Bill Virdon was looking better than ever in Yankee pinstripes. Virdon was fired last September with the Bucs only three games out. Back came Danny Murtaugh, who just lets things happen. And if they don't, Danny's retired several times already.

The only one of four divisions that makes the pre-season form look good is the NL West, although Cincinnati Reds rooters will dispute that. Los Angeles, bursting with young talent, was on an early joyride. San Diego was down where it belonged, in the basement. Houston was knocking, and the top four, LA, Houston, Cincinnati and San Fran appeared capable of staging a spectacular shootout.

On the day this was typed, only 1 1/2 lengths separated first place Chicago White Sox and last place Minnesota Twins in the AL West, this was the division that should be dominated by the two-time World Champion Oakland Athletics.

Texas was the universal choice to play caboose this season. But a pitcher named Ferguson Jenkins and a long baller named Jeff Burroughs were giving the Rangers the best ink in their brief history.

Everyone else was scrambling, waiting for something to happen, maybe for Oakland to stretch out and hide.

Don't hold your breath waiting

for the A's to stretch forward. Backward, maybe.

The great man instituted some changes in Oakland. Like you buy your own stamps to answer fan mail. Believe it.

The great man is Charles O. Finley. Between games of the last home double header in Oakland manager Alvin Dark pencilled in his second game lineup card then submitted it to owner C.O. Finley. Finley suggested a lineup change. Dark made the change.

The A's can be unhappy but skillful when they are just normally disturbed. This time around, the word is stay close for the rebellion. And open up the AL West for a calvary charge by the five surviving units. Everything's looking good for Kansas City.

SCHOLASTIC NOTEBOOK

John Dover

There's a gallon of stuff to pour into a quart space, so we'll be brief.

Looks like a battle of track unbeaten, McQuaid's Aquinas, Tuesday, May 28, at either Jefferson High or RIT. Aquinas athletic director Dave Missell definitely wants a neutral track for the Aquinas home meet.

Aquinas coach Father Tom Bales, CSB, has his troops at 5-0 as does McQuaid coach Bob Bradley (as this was written) and both expected to be undefeated come the day of the big meet.

McQuaid's strength lies in the 440 (Jack Kelsh), mile (Tim Lawrence, John Farrell), 330 hurdles (Brian Hart), and the mile and two mile relays (Roger Key, Tom Horton, Kelsch, Bill Shafer, Lawrence and Farrell).

The Irish are strong in the shot put (Dan Mastrell, Glen Williams), sprints (John Veltre), half-mile (Leo Finucane), quarter-mile (Dan Izzo) and both hurdles (Paul Finewood), according to Father Bales, who said participation of Catholic schools in this year's sectionals will help the City-Catholic League score better than it ever has before.

Cardinal Mooney's Ken Boddie keeps jumping for bigger and better things. His recent 45-9 triple jump against McQuaid was the best in the state as of that day.

The Irish also had an unbeaten string going back to last season working for them 16 straight meets without a loss.

By CHARLES RANDISI
The Catholic Youth Organization's Youth Development Program was recently honored by the national CYO body, and by the local Community Chest.

The national CYO, said youth development director Ken Jones, has in the past year, emphasized local youth ministry programs. They make a study of our program, and are offering it as a model to other CYOs.

FIGHTING CANCER
Approximately 150 participants from the Rochester State Hospital were cited for their efforts in the American Cancer Society's 1974 Lengths for Lives event against cancer.

Each swimmer received a certificate of appreciation presented by Rodger D. Woodworth, crusade director for the Monroe County Unit at a luncheon in the hospital's auditorium on April 25. Woodworth expressed gratitude for the fine effort shown by the swimmers who raised \$1,358 to further the cancer control programs of Research, Education, and Service in the Monroe County area.

The Community Chest also did a study and survey of the eight-month-old Youth Development Program. It sent inquiries to 82 recipients of Youth Development services, and 60 per cent returned the questionnaires.

The vast majority (of those who returned them), said CYO director Thomas Cotterill, "were favorably inclined toward Youth Development."

In the Community Chest report summary, it was stated: "There can be no question about the industry of the CYO staff in the initiation of the new program, particularly the Youth Development component. Contacts about service have been quickly followed by delivery of service."

As a result of the favorable report, Cotterill said, "the complete budget of the Youth Development Program was accepted by the Community Chest."

The Youth Development Program is an attempt to instill "a sense of community among youth in parishes of the city and county," Jones said.

The CYO has seven regional youth workers, one for each of the five diocesan regions of Monroe County, and two to work in the inner city.

It is the job of the regional youth workers to "identify adults in a neighborhood or parish" who are interested in working with youth, Jones said.

Adults recruited for Youth Development work in structures for designed to fit the needs of the parish or community. Emphasis may be placed on "social, recreational, spiritual, cultural or community service" aspects of parish life, Jones said.

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