

SPORTS

'Darn those Sox,' this season could be the one

Seventy-one years is a long time to wait for something, and if you don't believe me just ask a Boston Red Sox fan.

It has been 71 mistake-filled, unlucky seasons since Babe Ruth pitched the Bosox to their last World Series title, but hope springs eternal in New England this fall as the 1990 Sox try to erase the hounding memories of seasons past.

The 1990 Red Sox are riding high after taking two out of three games from the under-achieving Toronto Blue Jays last weekend at historic Fenway Park. The return of ace Roger Clemens, who threw six shutout innings to win Saturday, and the return of outfielder Tom Brunansky's missing power, five homers in three days, helped the Sox regain the top spot in the American League East that they had seen slip away during the last three weeks.

The Sox, at time of publication, cling to a one-game lead over the Jays as both teams head into the final three games of the season. The Red Sox seem to be in the driver's seat and that is exactly what scares loyal fans everywhere.

The Sox of 1990 are not like Boston teams of old. Despite the existence of the short wall in left, these Red Sox have the second fewest home runs in the American League. Boston has won this year with a pitching staff that includes Rocket Roger and a cast of misfits no other team wanted. But no matter how different these Red Sox are from teams of previous years, they will never escape the horrors of seasons past.



From the Sidelines by ROBERT WEBER

In the last 71 years the Bosox have written and re-written the book on how to choke in key situations.

Blown chances in the late 1940's are still remembered by the diehard fans, but it is the chokes of recent years that come to mind each time the Sox play themselves into contention.

In 1978, the Red Sox built a 14-game lead over the hated New York Yankees by the end of July only to pull off one of the biggest chokes of all time. Boston fell apart blowing their lead and ended up trailing the Yanks by three games before a late rush forced a one-game playoff for the division title.

After building a 2-0 lead in the playoff game, the Sox title hopes were dashed when weak-hitting Yankee shortstop Bucky Dent hit a wedge-shot home run that just cleared the famed Green Monster in left field.

Eight years later, Boston seemed to be on the verge of changing their ways. A miracle comeback against the California Angels placed them in the World Series for the first time in 13 years with a chance to make people forget the past. Unfortunately, the Sox did just the opposite.

The Sox led 5-3 heading into the ninth inning of

Game 6, and after two quick outs were poised to ease the pain of thousands of loyal fans everywhere, but it was not to be.

After singles by Gary Carter and Kevin Mitchell off Boston reliever Calvin Schiraldi, third baseman Ray Knight singled to center driving in Carter and sending Schiraldi to the showers.

Boston Manager John McNamara sent in reliever Bob Stanley. Stanley's wild pitch to Mookie Wilson brought Mitchell home to tie the score and sent the winning run, in the form of Knight, to third base.

Two pitches later, Wilson squibbed a grounder down the first base toward Buckner. The Sox, it seemed, would escape the inning with a tie and head to extra innings as soon as the hobbling Buckner garnered the ball and touched the base, but he never did. The ball went between his legs into right field, the Mets won game six to five, and proceeded to close the Sox out at home in game seven.

So as the 1990 season comes to a close, Red Sox fans everywhere have conceded the fact that Boston will choke and allow them time to figure out why and how this choke occurred.

But hold the phone for a minute. Maybe, just maybe, this is the year that the Boys from Beantown break through and erase some of the pain.

After all, Manager Joe Morgan's team has fought back after losing a seemingly safe six-game lead to the Blue Jays and with the return of Roger Clemens to the rotation last weekend seem ready to claim the A.L. East title.

Webfoot runners runners-up in weekend race

By Jake Berg
Emerald Contributor

While most eyes were focused on Autzen Stadium Saturday, the Oregon men's cross country team had its gaze fixed elsewhere.

The Ducks, ranked sixth in the country, took second place at Saturday's Mountain West Classic in Missoula, Mont. Oregon scored 64 points to 55 for

first-place Kentucky.

Junior Colin Dalton was the top Duck at the Classic, placing second. Dalton completed the 8,000-meter course in 24:41.4 just seconds shy of first place winner Joe Kirby's 24:38.9.

Oregon junior Pat Haller finished seventh overall in 25:03.7 and freshman Andy Maris came in 12th at 25:06.1. Sophomore Colden Baxter, who was seventh at the Emerald

City Invitational a week before, was 16th at the Classic in 25:35.5.

Rounding out the Oregon scoring were sophomore Rick Mestler and junior Shannon Lemora. Mestler was 27th with a 25:53.4 clocking while Lemora timed 26:07.4 for 35th.

Duck Coach Bill Dellinger called his team's performance "average."

At least three of the Oregon runners were stricken with illness last week, leaving the Ducks at less than full strength.

"I don't think that we were at full effort which is one thing that hurt us," Dellinger said. "Another thing is, maybe we're not that good. We're looking for a fifth man right now."

If there was one thing that Dellinger was impressed with it was the 8,000-meter course that

consisted of a golf course, a road, one field and one hill.

"It was a good course," Dellinger said. "We'd like to go back and run it again some time."

Oregon's next meet will be Oct. 13 when they compete in the Jeff Drenth Memorial at Alton Baker Park. That meet is Oregon's final tune-up before the Pacific-10 Conference Championships Oct. 27.



SKIP CLASS

Aerobics

MW 4:35pm GerX 352
UH 4:35pm Ger 220
MW 6:35pm Ger 220
UH 6:35pm GerX 352
MW 7:35pm Ger 220
UH 7:35pm GerX 352

Water Aerobics

MW 4:00pm Ger Pool
UH 4:00pm Ger Pool
MW 6:30pm Ger Pool
UH 6:30pm Ger Pool
MW 7:30pm Ger Pool
UH 7:30pm Ger Pool

Sport

Volleyball Skills Clinic M Oct. 10th 4-5:30pm Ger B5C

Dance

Tae Kwon Do
MW 4:15pm Esl 47E

Dance
M 6:30pm Beginning Latin Dance
M 8:30pm Fox Trot/Swing
H 8:30pm Dance Sampler

Class Registration - 103 Gerlinger

*Early Registration: Fitness \$15; Aquatics \$20
Oct. 1, 2 - 10:30am-2:30pm; Oct. 3 - 2:30-4:30pm

*Registration: Fitness \$18; Aquatics \$23
Oct. 4 - 2:30-4:30pm; Oct. 5 - 1:30-3:30pm

*Late Registration: Fitness \$20; Aquatics \$25

Classes run for 8 weeks from Oct. 8 - Nov. 29, 1990



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