

Monday had something for all



FROM THE SIDELINES

BY JAYSON JACOBY

Monday was another one of those days we sports enthusiasts dream about. After all, it had something to please just about anyone.

For openers, it was baseball's 122nd Opening Day. Sure, there are 161 games left, but that first day always seems special. Although it will be hard for any events this season to match last fall's classic Braves-Twins World Series, 1992 does offer the possibilities for some important milestones.

Kansas City's George Brett and Milwaukee's Robin Yount both have solid chances to reach the 3,000-hit plateau. That mark — which basically guarantees a spot in the Hall of Fame — is only 122 hits away for Yount and 164 for Brett. Only 15 major leaguers have ever accomplished the feat, and never two in the same season.

On the opposite side of the ball, 45-year-old Nolan Ryan continues to amaze. The aging Texas Rangers wonder can add to his own record of seven no-hitters, and few would probably be surprised if he does.

And it will be interesting to see how the Atlanta Braves fare, playing from a position they're not used to — defending National League champion. The Braves went from worst-to-first a year ago, and with basically the same lineup, Atlanta should have a good chance at holding off the Cincinnati Reds in the National League West.

Then there's the Cecil Fielder West. The Detroit Tigers' slugger added a few more inches to his waistline in the off-season. It will be interesting to see if that translates into another 50-homer season for baseball's most powerful power hitter.

Always of interest are the exploits of Oakland's unpredictable Jose Canseco. When he's not engaging in highway demolition derbies with his wife, Canseco is probably the world's best offensive player. Maybe this will be the year he achieves the vaunted and never-before reached 50-home run, 50-stolen base level.

But with all the baseball — including ESPN's tripleheader — on Opening Day, the boys of summer were merely a prelude to the biggest show in town.

Monday's NCAA championship matchup between Duke and Michigan was the highlight of the day's televised festivities. At least I hope it will be, considering I'm writing this hours before

the tip-off in Minneapolis.

It was certainly the most compelling final game in years. Would Duke become the first repeat champion since UCLA in 1973, or would Michigan's — I can't help but refer to the already grossly overused moniker — Fab Five freshmen write their own page in the history book?

Even if you don't subscribe to the game's billing as one of sports epic battles, on paper Duke-Michigan was far more interesting than Indiana-Cincinnati.

Of course, by now all the questions have been answered, but just for the fun of it I'll offer a couple of predictions for the game. I can only hope that they bear some resemblance to what actually happened.

First, unlike Dick Vitale and numerous other analysts predicted, the most important factor in the game was not rebounding. Although they may not guard each other the entire game, the performance of the point guards — Duke's Bobby Hurley and Michigan's Jalen Rose — will be the key.

At first glance it doesn't even seem fair. Rose has a seven-inch height advantage and is also much quicker than the Duke floor leader.

Still, Hurley seems to come up with heroic performances in unlikely situations. He scored a career-high 26 points in Duke's 88-85 come-from-behind overtime win over the Wolverines on Dec. 14 and matched that point total in leading the Blue Devils to the semifinal win Saturday against Indiana. Hurley has an annoying knack of hitting the three-point shot just when Duke needs a lift, as he did four times in the first half of the Indiana game, when he basically kept Duke in the hunt for the win.

Still, in Monday's game Rose's athletic advantage was the key to the game, as his long arms shut off Hurley's interior passing and penetration, forcing Duke to create scoring opportunities in the paint.

Offensively Rose used his height advantage and superior speed to create his own offensive opportunities and pass off for several easy dunks for Michigan's big men, Chris Webber and Juwan Howard.

When Duke tries to counter that strategy by collapsing inside, the Wolverines' top three-point threats, Jimmy King and James Voskuil, are left open to bomb away.

The end result? Michigan turns a two-point halftime deficit into a 79-73 win, as Duke tires in the second half.

Or so I devoutly hope, six hours before the game.

Jayson Jacoby is a sports reporter for the Emerald.

WSU placekicker sues NCAA over scholarship

SEATTLE (AP) — A Washington State student has sued the National Collegiate Athletic Association, claiming he was denied a football scholarship because of unfair eligibility requirements.

Ken McConkey, a fourth-year walk-on place-kicker, was ruled ineligible for a scholarship last month because he never took the Scholastic Aptitude Test or American College Test, which are required under NCAA Proposition 48 rules.

McConkey claims the Prop 48 requirements discriminate against the Washington Pre-College Test, which he took before graduating from high school in Issaquah in 1988.

"As a Washington state resident, his acceptance at WSU was only conditioned upon an acceptable score in the Washington Pre-College entrance examinations, which Mr. McConkey did take and received an acceptable score," the suit says.

The suit was filed in U.S. District Court in Seattle. Judge Carolyn Dimmick on Friday issued a temporary restraining order that allows McConkey to attend spring practice at the Pullman campus until the issue is settled. The suit will be heard April 13.

The suit asks for more than \$50,000 in damages and an order to keep McConkey on the team.

A comparison of McConkey's Washington state test scores indicates he would have scored a 900 on the SAT, well above the 700

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— Suit filed by WSU student

mark needed for scholarship eligibility, said his attorney, Sid Osborn of Seattle.

But to apply for a waiver, McConkey would have to have had a cumulative grade-point average in high school of 3.0 in 13 core classes required of scholarship athletes, Osborn said.

McConkey had a high-school grade-point average of 2.9 in 11 core classes, the suit says.

McConkey was designated the No. 1 place-kicker prior to spring practice, but when coaches heard he was ineligible for a scholarship they asked him to leave the team, the suit says.

DEPARTMENTAL PANELS TODAY APRIL 7, 1992

Meet Professionals in the following fields:

General Science

Oak Room, 10:30 - 11:30
Deputy Medical Examiner, Physician's Assistant, and more.

Biology

Maple Room, 11:00 - 12:00
Science Instructor/Pharmaceutical Research, Fisheries, Sales Mgmt (Scientific Industry).

Psychology

Gumwood Room, 11:30 - 12:30
Employee Assistance Counselor, Clinical Psychologist, High School Counselor and more.

Business

Oak Room, 12:00 - 1:00
Marketing Administrator, Commercial Loan Manager, Retail Management.

Political Science

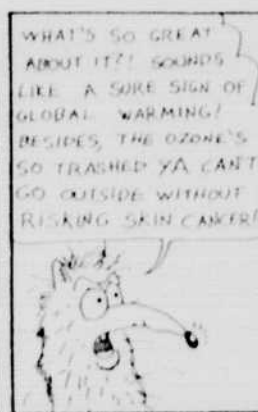
Maple Room, 12:30 - 1:30
County Commissioner, City of Eugene, UO faculty member, PPPM graduate student.

Journalism

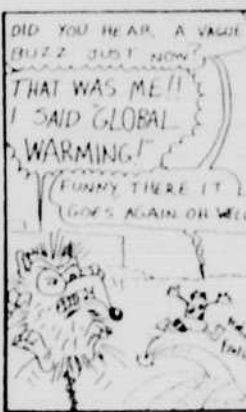
Gumwood Room, 1:00 - 2:00
Magazine Publishing, Public Relations Director, T.V. Broadcasting.

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Weasel's World



Kraig Norris

