



READER MAIL

**UPPER LEFT EDGE**

ISSUE: In the future

**IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME**

by S.K. Ryker

Look out sports fans! Professional Baseball is on its way to Cannon Beach. In a recent announcement by Baseball Commissioner Griffy, Cannon Beach was named the recipient of a new expansion team. It seems every other town in America was lying, cheating, or trying to steal votes. Griffy awarded the team to Cannon Beach by default.

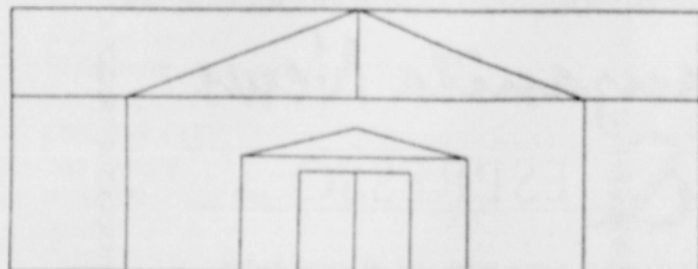
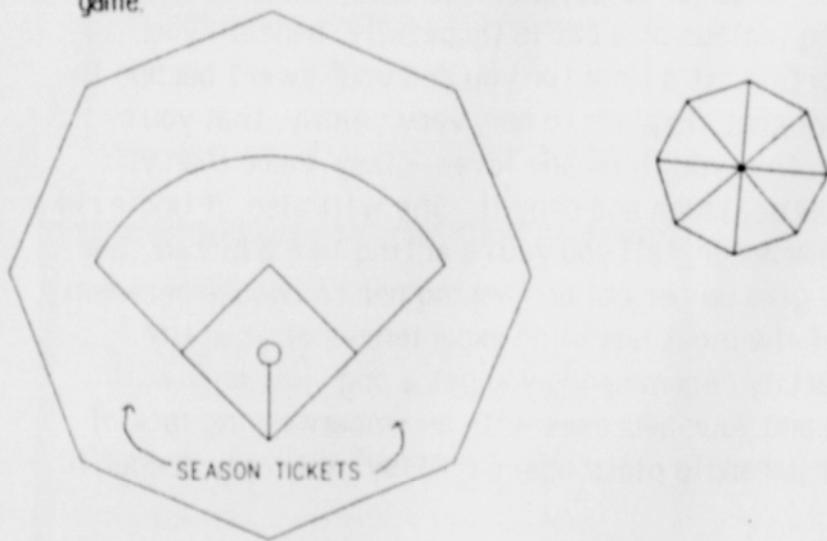
The citizens of Cannon Beach have acted quickly on this matter. A town meeting was held last week to discuss the details. After a heated debate, a compromise was reached, and the new team will be known as the Cannon Beach Tourons. (Your beloved editor voted for The Mailers.)

Cavenham Industries has generously donated property for the ballpark. It will occupy the recently clear-cut land near Ecola Creek. It has been designed and named after Cannon Beach's most popular architects. Ground breaking for the Ebbett and Sheys Sports Dome will begin in November. It is scheduled for opening next season (give or take 6 months). A spokesperson for the firm said the design will blend well with recent building trends, she cited the Stuffanie Inn and the Tourist Scoop as examples.

Tickets will be available after the new year. 1260 seats behind home plate and up the baselines will be designated as season tickets. They will be available to locals only at a moderate price. To qualify as a local, individuals must meet any two of the following requirements: 1.) Own property within the city limits. 2.) Be a long-term renter within the city limits. 3.) Have a permanent job within the city limits. 4.) Be on a first name basis with the denizens of the porch. Any disputes over localness will be decided on by a majority vote of the customers in Bill's on a Monday night.

The remaining 2,000 seats will be available to the general public. Prices for these seats is expected to be the usual 150% markup in the summer. Tickets for games after Labor Day will be discounted 50%.

In related news, rumor on the porch has it that Ben Dueber is negotiating a contract with the team for an unprecedented amount. We here at the Edge wish him well, and hope to see him play for the hometown team. See y'all at the game.



**Hall-Watch**

Steve Carlton -- This guy's slider was the one most unhittable pitch I have personally witnessed. And that's all the ink I'm giving him. If he won't talk to the press, I'm returning the favor.

More interestingly --

	G	BA	SA	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	R	RBI	SB
Phil Rizzuto	1661	273	355	5816	1588	239	62	38	877	562	149
Leo Durocher	1637	247	320	5350	1320	210	56	24	575	567	31

After a short 38 year wait, the Scooter was finally enshrined by a strong vote of the Veterans Committee, even without the ballot of his longtime champion, Ted Williams, who was hospitalized.

Always compared to Reese, Rissuto's numbers were inferior, but there are always the nine pennants, seven World Series titles, and a little thing called MVP in 1950. Add to all this the many years of really great broadcasting credentials, and you come up with a life that has been dedicated to exemplary service to the game he loves.

And if that's not enough, this guy could lay down a right-handed drag bunt that would leave you shaking your head...

**I'd trip my mother. I'll help her up, brush her off, tell her I'm sorry. But mother don't make it to third.**

-- Leo Durocher

Cardinal infielder,

1937

Leo "The Lip" Durocher was a savage, brutal ballplayer out of the Ty Cobb mold, possible twice as dangerous because he was half as talented.

Best known for his "Nice guys finish last" quote, Durocher should be remembered as well for being the manic persona who fueled the legendary "Gas House Gang" Cardinals of the thirties. Sure, this gang of hillbilly reprobates had Tex, Dizzy, Pepper, Rip, Ducky and Wild Bill, but history suggests it was Leo who led by example of tooth, nail, high spikes, and no prisoners.

His managerial resume is what his election rested upon. 24 years, 3739 games, and 2008 wins. It's a funny thing about Durocher. Everything biographical I've read about him constantly mentioned a suit of clothes. Contract clause? A suit. Player fine? Hitting incentive? A bet on the Reds? Suits of clothes. It was like currency during his tenure with the Dodgers and Giants. Leo was busted by Ford Frick in 1947 and suspended for a year for consorting with gamblers. The New York tailors must have got fed up and dropped a dime on the poor bastard.

The last time I saw Leo Durocher was in a guest spot on David Letterman, in 1988. The nightmare of 1969 was still playing on him, and he was trying to use this forum to drum up support for a managing job in the Majors. All he wanted to do was talk baseball and prove he was sharp as ever, which he obviously was not. Letterman, his ignorance flapping like shirt-tails, levelled his cynical scalpel on this old man and made him look the fool. It was difficult to determine which was more pathetic, the obsolete skipper pleading for his job, or the smirking prima-donna jonesing for ratings.

Leo Durocher died Oct. 7, 1991, within the community confines of Palm Springs, the home of Sinatra and Hope and all the stars he desperately admired.

**If I had my life to live all over again, I'd have ended up a sportswriter.**

-Richard Nixon

**There, but for the Grace of God...**

-Mr. Baseball

**Preview**

**National League**

West - Giants. But... If Bonds gets lazy, Portugal bombs and Williams slumps, the Gods could get weird and the Dodgers could contend with interesting new

pitching and a resurrected Strawberry. But don't hold your breath.

Central - Cardinals. The deepest team in the league, with acceptable pitching. Need a relief ace, but should make a move soon. Astros are hot on their tail.

East - Braves. Rookie Lopez will catch, and maybe, finally Kelly will get some time in left. The best team in the game, with the best new talent. At least three World Championships before 2000.

**American League**

West - Texas. Palmiero, Franco, Gonzalez, Canseco, and Rodriguez were the heart of this Hispanic led team last year. Two are traded and one is hurt. Can they win? Yes.

Central - Indians. I like their infield a lot, and any sap can pick the Sox again.

East - Blue Jays. But the Orioles will crawl up their back like rabid dingos at the first sign of weakness.

**Awards**

- NL - MVP, David Justice
- Cy Young, Greg Maddux
- Rookie, Brian Barber
- Manager, Bobby Cox
- Batting Champ, Gregg Jeffries
- Comeback, Rick Sutcliffe
- HR's, Justice
- RBI's, Fred McGriff
- E.R.A., Rene Arocha
- K's, John Smoltz
- Saves, Randy Myers
- AL - MVP, Junior
- Cy Young, Kenny Rogers
- Rookie, Manny Ramirez
- Manager, Mike Hargrove
- Batting Champ, Roberto Alomar
- Comeback, Roger Clemens
- HR's, Frank Thomas
- RBI's, Junior
- E.R.A., Wilson Alvarez
- K's, Randy Johnson
- Saves, Tom Henke

I really hate to point this out, but last year the Cubs were 43-31 in night games, and 41-47 in the sunshine.

**Quiz**

- 1) Last year Barry Bonds led the National League in slugging and on-base percentage. Who was the last guy to do this?
  - A) Willie Mays
  - B) Stan Musial
  - C) Hank Aaron
  - D) Mike Schmidt
- 2) Who collected the most stolen bases for a switch-hitter?
  - A) Vince Coleman
  - B) Maury Wills
  - C) Tim Lincecum
  - D) Max Carey
- 3) Which of these pitchers did not hurl two no-hitters in one season?
  - A) Allie Reynolds
  - B) Howard Ehmke
  - C) Jim Maloney
  - D) Virgil Trucks
- 4) Who had the most homers as an Indian?
  - A) Hal Trosky
  - B) Larry Doby
  - C) Al Rosen
  - D) Earl Averill
- 5) Who is the only pitcher to hit a World Series homer and still lose the game?
  - A) Jose Santiago
  - B) Claude Osteen
  - C) Don Gullett
  - D) Mike Garcia
- 6) We all know the Mets lost 120 games in 1962. Which was the only team to not have a winning record against them?
  - A) The Astros
  - B) The Phillies
  - C) The Cardinals
  - D) The Cubs
- 7) What recent slugger has the only three home run opening day?
  - A) Fred McGriff
  - B) Joe Carter
  - C) George Bell
  - D) Cecil Fielder
- 8) Any small child knows Spook Jacobs was the first player to collect four hits in his Major League debut on opening day. Who is the only other hitter to do this?
  - A) Delino DeShields
  - B) John Olerud
  - C) Steve Finley
  - D) Travis Fryman
- 9) Name the only player to hit an opening day grand slam, twice in different years.
  - A) Eric Soderholm
  - B) Ellis Valentine
  - C) Sixto Lezcano
  - D) Mike Ivie
- 10) Who is the only ballplayer to hit safely twice in one inning, in their first ML game, on opening day?
  - A) Billy Martin
  - B) Eddie Stanky
  - C) Bobby Doerr
  - D) Danny Murtaugh

Extra Credit... Who was the first Chief Executive to throw out the first ball on Opening day?

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