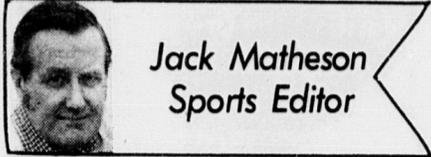


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Jack Matheson
Sports Editor

It isn't hockey season any more

What I really wanted to do today was applaud the wisdom and acumen of the front office of the Edmonton Oilers, a hockey team, in giving their coaching job to Clare Drake, but I know that readers of sport pages have had hockey, right up to here.

I wanted to say that Drake, a most engaging young man with an excellent hockey background and a keen grasp of the game, will bring a refreshing approach and some new ideas to a game that needs it, but this isn't the hockey season, dammit.

I wondered if the Winnipeg Jets would consider a coach new to the pros, like Jackie McLeod of Saskatoon, or if they'd go for a tired old journeyman who had bounced around from team to team, the Johnny Wilson type who probably clings to the traditional stereotypes and carries his tired old ideas with him. Hockey, though, has dominated the sport pages too long.

I have even considered advising the chaps down here that a moratorium on hockey news has been declared and that we won't even recognize the game for at least three months. Unless, of course, something earth-shattering should develop, like the second coming of Carl Brewer or the Jets signing a player whose parents aren't Scandinavian.

Speaking of signing players brings up Ralph Sazio of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats and this piece will be devoted to Ralph and his sundry problems because the football season starts this week, whether you like it or not. Sazio is the big story of football's pre-season, not because of the hot-shots he has signed but because of the people he hasn't.

Money, the basic commodity

You have heard before, here and elsewhere, the legend of Ralph Sazio, an employer who, it is said, makes Scrooge look like Santa Claus. The issue in Hamilton these days is money: Sazio's employees want more of it and Ralph doesn't think they should get it, it's as basic as that.

Two players, all-stars, who wouldn't sign for the "peanuts" Sazio offered — linebacker Larry Brame and defensive back Al Brenner — have gone elsewhere. Brame went to the CFL with a short stop in B.C., Brenner went to Winnipeg, where it is to be hoped he'll live happily ever after. Also, the Ticats could lose Tony Gabriel, the best tight end in the CFL; Lewis Porter, as good a deep back as there is in the league, and safety Lou Clare, who mentions forsaking football and trying out a new career in pro hockey.

They also stand to lose Andy Hopkins, their outstanding running back, after this season. They would have lost Garney Henley, their best football player, but Garney is near the end of the line and doesn't see much point in changing residences now. Henley admits freely that he'd have appreciated more money for years, and he also admits that Tiger-Cat morale has suffered since 1968, when austerity became a way of life in Hamilton.

Gabriel and Hopkins have done the most talking on behalf of the Tiger-Cats. Gabriel says all the players want is a league average, which they aren't getting, and that "there must be ways to make and save money to keep an established team together." Hopkins says Sazio signs a player as cheaply as possible and puts as little as possible into him for as long as possible. "He wants to treat everyone the same, but some are better, and Ralph has to assess each player properly as to what he's worth."

This isn't anything new, you realize, Sazio, probably the best general manager in the CFL if a man is cut to fit the job, or vice-versa, has never been a big-time spender, but his teams have always been respectable. Some of them have even won Grey Cups, and GM's who have spent a whole lot more are still waiting. The names of Jackie Parker (B.C.) and John Barrow (Toronto), great players but not necessarily outstanding in the front office, leap immediately to mind.

Hamilton Tiger-Cats made money last year, and reliable sources say \$100,000 is close. The only other CFL club that finished in the black was Winnipeg, where Earl Lunsford walks the economic tightrope beautifully, a point that some of his detractors have missed completely. Okie pays a good wage despite limited accommodation and not many, if any, of his athletes have left in a giant snit for money reasons.

Different strokes, etc.

The point that Sazio tries to make is that players have to relate themselves to the Hamilton situation, not to other clubs.

"The situation here is different," he says. He says all five teams out here are publicly owned and, therefore, they receive tax benefits. In other words, there is no amusement tax and no corporation tax to worry about.

He also says we can carry out fund-raising dinners and drives, and he doesn't have access to a small army of football nuts who'll go out and hustle 600 tickets, not when the "take" may find itself into the pockets of owners, including R. Sazio, who has a piece of the Hamilton action.

"For example," Sazio says, "when Winnipeg ran into financial trouble they found 132 fans who were willing to put up \$1,000 apiece." I don't know where Ralph got his figures, but it was closer to 80 fans, or slightly less.

Sazio explains Montreal owner Sam Berger has made tremendous financial sacrifices but he has the potential to recover when the team moves into the Olympic Stadium next season. Also, Toronto will have 55,000 seats, which will put CNE 20,000 ahead of Ivor Wynne. He says the Ticats pay the highest stadium rental in the CFL, 16.49 per cent, but the Bombers are very close to that.

The Tiger-Cats will stay in business for a long time, with or without their stars, that's football country down there and the chaps will come out of the steel mills and find the ball park. But they had 5,000 empty seats for Tiger-Cat games last year, and you have to wonder if the situation can improve if they don't have Al Brenner, Larry Brame, Tony Gabriel and Lewis Porter to keep them respectable.

Ralph Sazio may find out, sooner than he wants to, that the show biz dictum still applies. The customers pay to watch the stars, not the chorus.

Don't forget, hockey is dead. Long live football.

The sun isn't shining in Astrodome

National League

By The Associated Press

You know your baseball team needs help when it has lost the last eight games and 11 of the last 13, when it has scored just three runs in five games and has batted .175 in the last eight.

Houston Astros need help.

"It seems like every pitcher we face comes on like Walter Johnson," r2pnmt-eagured Houston manager Preston Gomez. "I'm going to have to make some changes."

Those comments came Sunday after the Astros had fallen 5-1 to St. Louis Cardinals.

In other National League games Sunday, San Francisco Giants swept Pittsburgh Pirates 3-1 and 4-2, Cincinnati Reds took two from Chicago Cubs 2-1 and 8-5, P'bwvh s... j1z1 rh'zbeat Los Angeles Dodgers 4-2, San Diego Padres won their opener 5-2 from Montreal Expos, then lost the nightcap 3-1, and New York Mets beat Atlanta Braves 7-6 in 14 innings.

"We have to do something," said Gomez. "We're not winning with what we have, so we've got to make some changes."

Those changes apparently will start with third baseman

Doug Rader and bench-riders Ken Boswell switching places. Gomez also said outfielder Enos Cabell and second baseman Larry Milbourne will be added to the lineup.

Second baseman Tommy Helms shared the Astros' misfortune. When Ken Reitz hit a fly ball to shallow right field, Helms collided with outfielder Jose Cruz.

The two fell to the ground—along with the

ball—and Bake McBride scored the final St. Louis run in the latest frustrating game for Houston.

In San Francisco's second-game win over the Pirates, Glenn Adams' ninth-inning home run tied the game, then pinch-hitter Marc Hill hit a two-run single.

In the opener, Chris Speier drove in two runs to ruin the major league pitching debut of Pittsburgh's John Candelaria. Pittsburgh's

Richie Hebner homered in each of the losing causes, giving him four in the last five contests.

Home runs led both Cincinnati triumphs. Tony Perez drove in three runs—two with a seventh-inning homer—to lift the Reds in the nightcap after Johnny Bench's 13th of the season provided the winning edge in the opener.

Dave Cash's two-run homer in the fifth and run-scoring sacrifice fly in the seventh backed the six-hit pitching of righthander Jim Lonborg and lifted Philadelphia past the Dodgers.

A two-run triple by Pat Scanlon gave Montreal its victory after Dave Winfield's two-run single and Dick Sharon's two-run homer led the Padres in the opener.

Felix Millan scored on a wild pitch by Elias Sosa in the 14th inning, giving New York its triumph. Millan opened the 14th with a single, moved to third when Braves centre fielder Clarence Gaston dropped Joe Torre's fly ball for a two-base error. Rusty Staub was walked intentionally to load the bases before Sosa threw a high fastball that sailed off the glove of catcher Vic Correll.

American League

The thought differed — not results

By The Associated Press

Oakland's Ken Holtzman was thinking about a no-hitter Sunday afternoon. He almost got one.

Baltimore's Jim Palmer wasn't thinking about a no-hitter but he almost got one, too.

The thought of what might have been didn't really enter Palmer's mind until it was too late, well after Hal McRae's fourth-inning single, Kansas City Royals' lone hit in their 1-0 loss to the Orioles.

But Holtzman got within a single strike of completing his no-hitter before the bubble burst in an American League baseball game at Oakland.

His no-hitter lasted until Detroit's Tom Ververz was down to his last strike. Then it was all over when Ververz, the ninth man in the Tiger batting order, hit a booming

double to centre field that caught the wind and sailed about a foot beyond the glove of lunging Billy North.

So, with the dream of a third career no-hitter gone, Holtzman did what any good pitcher would do. He returned to the business of trying to win.

And he did, striking out Ron LeFlore to end the game, and the A's had a 4-0 victory over the Tigers.

In other American League games Sunday, Cleveland Indians defeated Texas 3-2 before the Rangers won the 17-inning second game of their doubleheader 7-6, Minnesota Twins beat Boston Red Sox 7-5, New York Yankees downed Chicago White Sox 5-1 and Milwaukee Brewers edged California Angels 4-3.

North took things hard. "I wanted that no-hitter," he said. "I blame myself."

But Holtzman said it wasn't the centre fielder's fault.

"I can't blame Billy," he said. "I could see the ball was carrying. At first I thought he might get to it, then I saw he wouldn't and just worried about getting the last out of the game."

Claudell Washington gave Holtzman all the hits he needed with his fifth and sixth homers of the season, a solo homer in the fifth inning and a three-run clout in the seventh.

Palmer, who outduelled the Royals' Steve Busby, said he was just concentrating on winning.

"If I had gone late into the game with a no-hitter going, I might have thought about it," he said. "But even then, I think everything you do has to be dictated in the way you want to try and win the game."

Baltimore's Brooks Robinson broke up the duel when he followed Lee May's seventh-inning double with a single.

Singles by Jeff Burroughs, Mike Hargrove and Len Randle gave the Rangers their 17-inning nightcap victory over Cleveland in the longest game in the majors this season.

In the first game, the Indians bunched all their runs in the fourth inning, two coming on John Ellis' two-run double.

Larry Hise doubled to start Minnesota's six-run ninth inning that beat Boston and capped it with an run-scoring single.

Chris Chambliss then made the matter academic by driving in two runs with a ninth-inning single to cap the Yankees' triumph over the White Sox. It was New York's eighth win in a row.

Darrell Porter drilled a two-run single to snap a scoreless tie in the fifth inning, then pounded a two-run homer that gave the Brewers their winning edge over California.



Some racing weekend!

A few hours after Willie Shoemaker had booted home Avatar, in the Belmont, Bobby Stewart had a memorable night Saturday, at Assiniboia Downs. Stewart, here with, left to right, Jimmy Anderson, Bob Dimma and Tom

Adkins, had five winners on the eight-race card! Sadly, the weekend wasn't complete — Stewart didn't win Sunday afternoon, with either of his two mounts! For the complete racing package, including Jim Coleman, see pages 18, 19 and 22.

It's a lost weekend for poor Colonels

Western Major

Tribune News Roundup

Winnipeg Colonels would like to forget this last weekend.

Edmonton Monarchs slammed 18 hits, including four home runs Sunday as they swept a Western Major League doubleheader, 8-1 and 8-2, from Colonels in the Alberta capital.

It hadn't been much better for Winnipeg Saturday at Saskatoon as Colonels managed a total of only seven hits while losing, 7-1 and 3-1, to the Jacks.

Colonels now have a 3-8-1 record, but they get an opportunity to better that mark tonight when they meet Monarchs in a twinbill, also in Edmonton.

In Sunday's opener, last year's most valuable player, Peter Brown, picked up his first pitching decision of 1975 — after suffering three

consecutive setbacks. Brown allowed four Winnipeg hits while striking out 11 and walking two.

Edmonton touched started and losing pitcher Jim Salt for five of its 11 hits, including home runs by Ray McMillan and Barry House. Salt allowed five runs in 2 1/3 innings. Ken Peters relieved Salt in the third and finished the game.

McMillan clouted his second homer of the series and third of the season in the second game. Bernie Tymko contributed Monarchs' fourth home run of the night off

loser Tim Bergen, who now sports an 0-2 record.

Dale Smith struck out nine and scattered three hits in the winner's role.

Colonels' only rally came in the sixth when Bergen singled and scored on a two-out double by Dave Shyjak. The first baseman collected two of Colonels' seven hits for the two games.

In Saskatoon, Gene McWillie won his first game of the season in convincing style, allowing just two Winnipeg hits while striking out 15. Peters, 1-2, was

Paul Doerksen picks up win

Paul Doerksen tossed a six-hitter and struck out seven in the winner's role as Steinbach Steelers tripped Canada Packers 3-1 Sunday in Men's Industrial 'B' Fastball action at Charlie Krupp Memorial

Ed Laebruk belted a solo home run off losing pitcher Wayne Banman who gave up five hits and whiffed seven.

In other action Friday, Junior Colonels downed King's Hotel 9-3.

tagged with the loss.

Jacks' shortstop Gerry Kooy rapped a double and triple while Fred Fisher and Pete Clark had two safeties each.

Saskatoon erupted with four runs in the first inning of the opening game and added three in the fourth for the win.

Wayne Wallace earned his third victory in as many starts, while Bergen was tagged with the loss. Salt relieved Bergen in the fourth.

Glen Kostuk, Fisher and Wallace collected doubles for Saskatoon, which occupies top spot in the standings.

The next home action for Colonels is next Sunday and Monday when they will meet Edmonton, at Charlie Krupp Memorial Stadium. There'll be a doubleheader both days.

Action begins 1:30 p.m. Sunday and 7 o'clock the following night.

A report from the area's diamonds:

Giesbrecht, Goldeyes are hot

Tribune News Roundup

Carman Goldeyes swept a doubleheader 8-0 and 5-4 from St. Boniface in Manitoba Junior Baseball League action Sunday at St. Boniface.

Terry Buhlin picked up the win in the opener while Joe Carriere suffered the loss. Gary Giesbrecht was credited with the win in the second game with Andre Tetrault taking the loss.

Giesbrecht collected four runs-batted-in during the doubleheader with a triple, double and two singles. Goldeyes' Bill Whitehead had a triple and two singles. St. Boniface's Jack Scott belted a solo home run in the second game.

River East Raiders swept

Transcona JC's 12-4, 11-4. Gerry Allford was the winner in the first game receiving support from Bob Kinley in the form of a two-run home run.

Wally Shefchyk, who allowed eight runs in 1 1/3 innings, was tagged with the loss. JC's Ken Porosky and Jeff Krause both belted solo home runs.

Mike Smilinski tossed a six-hitter and struck out 11 as he picked up the win in the second game. Raiders touched losing pitcher Roger Theord for 15 hits.

River East's Don Solar collected five singles in the two-game series.

Legion 141 blanked Earl Grey 2-0 in the first game of a twinbill but suffered a 5-4 setback in the second.

Larry Kirilin hurled the shut out, allowing four hits and striking out 12. Losing pitcher Don Briscoe whiffed 10. Legion's Gord Kaluzniak was the top hitter with two singles.

Grant Guidolin was the winner in the second game. He gave up six hits while collecting three singles in four plate appearances. Neil Kimmelman was the loser.

Teulon picked up a pair of victories in Manitoba Intermediate action at Teulon. Cardinals defeated Sanford Mallards 5-1 and Groux Athletics 5-2.

Les Lisowski gave up three hits and struck out 11 in the winner's role against Sanford. The pitcher also helped himself with the bat,

collecting a pair of singles. Cardinals' Gord Leduchowski tripled.

Doug Harrison was the loser. Ron LaGace was the top hitter for Mallards with two safeties.

Forbes Stewart was the winner in the second game with Ray Seidler taking the loss. Wayne Seidler clouted a solo home run in a losing cause.

Following are Greater Winnipeg Minor Association Midget scores for games played Sunday:

Isaac Brock 10, Gateway 2, Isaac Brock 5, Charleswood 0, Kirk West 13, St. Charles 5, Selkirk 18, Charleswood 3, Sinclair Park 12, North Kildonan 2, River Heights 9, Gateway 4, Transcona 16, Fort Garry 4, Chalmers 9, Maples 2, Lord Roberts 3, Legion 141 0.

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