... And We're Underway!

Butch Maier

Today is opening day for the 1991 Major League baseball season. Another season of hits, runs and errors. The broken bats, the balk, the beanball. And the most exciting play in baseball—a ripping line drive to the wall that a true "Charlie Hustle" can turn into a triple.

By devising foolproof formulas and using the technique of guesstimation, I call 'em as I see 'em in this column, a preview of the year to come in "The Show."

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Eastern Division

1. Milwaukee Brewers—Outfielders Dante Bichette and Candy Maldonado will prove to be key acquisitions, while '89 MVP Robin Yount rebounds and Gary Sheffield blossoms.

2. Toronto Blue Jays—Joe Carter thrives in the SkyDome, lefty Jimmy Key bounces back and Roberto Alomar establishes himself as a prime time AL second baseman.

3. Boston Red Sox—The Bosox can hit, but with not much of a staff behind Roger Clemens and no team speed, Boston will plod along in third place.

4. Cleveland Indians—The Tribe will surprise folks for a while with youthful excitement, but will soon fade. Speedy Alex Cole Jr. should bring life to old Municipal Stadium.

5. New York Yankees—Hensley "Bam Bam" Meulens and Roberto Kelly try to overshadow a horrible pitching staff.

6. Baltimore Orioles—Powerful Glenn Davis adds punch to a weak lineup.

7. Detroit Tigers—Ex-Brewer Rob Deer will not do much to help out this club, while Cecil Fielder could set a Major League record for walks in a season.

Western Division

1. Chicago White Sox—Tim "Rock" Raines is the cornerstone needed to put this club in the playoffs for the first time since 1983.

2. Oakland Athletics—What a pitching staff! The only gaping hole on this squad is up the middle.

3. Kansas City Royals—It's Bret Saberhagen's year to dominate and Mark Davis' season to terminate.

4. Seattle Mariners—Ken Griffey Jr. does his dad proud with an MVP-caliber season. Senior does his son proud by retiring so Jay Buhner can have a chance to swing.

5. Texas Rangers—"The Next Clemente," Ruben Sierra, takes future star Juan Gonzalez under his wing.

6. Minnesota Twins—What a pity. Three years removed from the second-best record in baseball, these Twinkies have nothing in the middle... or on the mound.

7. California Angels—The oldest team in the league has "too much" experience and not enough depth.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Eastern Division

1. Chicago Cubs—Sandberg, Bell and Dawson are quite formidable in the heart of the Cubbies' order. Ex-Red Danny Jackson solidifies the rotation.

2. New York Mets—Vince Coleman will spark the Mets to another title... almost.

3. Montreal Expos—Ivan "Bubbling" Calderon adds versatility to a still-improving ball club.

4. Pittsburgh Pirates—When it's time to change, you've got to rearrange. Who knows who will still be on last year's division championship team by the end of the season?

5. St. Louis Cardinals—Rebuilding with young talent is the only way the Cards can climb back to the top. The Wizard may soon leave Busch Stadium.

6. Philadelphia Phillies—Where's Mike Schmidt? Where's Garry Maddox? Where's Bake McBride? Well, Von Hayes is still around, though he may not be enjoying it.

Western Division

1. Los Angeles Dodgers—The Blue Crew is back, with a Straw to stir things up. "Ed-die, Ed-die" Murray continues to impress and Brett Butler runs enough for both himself and Kal Daniels' bad knees.

2. San Francisco Giants—Which Giant will win the RBI title this season? This club is loaded with big guns, while Dave Righetti goes from Yankee "Rags" to Giant riches.

3. Cincinnati Reds—Platoon central here, with a player behind every player. Piniella won't pull all the right strings this year, though.

4. San Diego Padres—Fred McGriff and Tony Fernandez add name recognition, but besides a fantastic four (Bip Roberts, Fernandez, Tony Gwynn and McGriff), the cupboard is quite bare.

5. Atlanta Braves—Surprise! The Braves will stay out of the cellar this year behind a talented rotation and the all-around play of Ron Gant.

6. Houston Astros—Uh, help?! There's not much here, besides base-stealing catcher Craig Biggio.

Well, there it is. You heard it here first: It will be a Second City Series in 1991 with the Chisox edging the Cubs. As for this summer, enjoy the first game and each one that follows, before the season is "Back, back, back, back—gone!"

Currie

➢ continued from page 14

deserved to go into the NAIA Hall of Fame any more than Gayle," Appenzeller said of the 11-time Conference or District Coach of the Year.

Besides coaching 10 NAIA All-Americans, Currie also has guided six NAIA Scholar-Athletes, the association's equivalent of academic All-Americans.

"Her athletes graduate on time and her teams lead our athletic departments in grade-point average," wrote Athletic Director Philip Roach in his nomination for Currie's induction.

Currie joined the Guilford staff in 1976 as the school's women's volleyball, basketball and tennis coach. She coached all three Lady Quaker sports until 1983 when her responsibilities were reduced to volleyball and tennis. Currie also served as the Guilford assistant athletic director for five years.

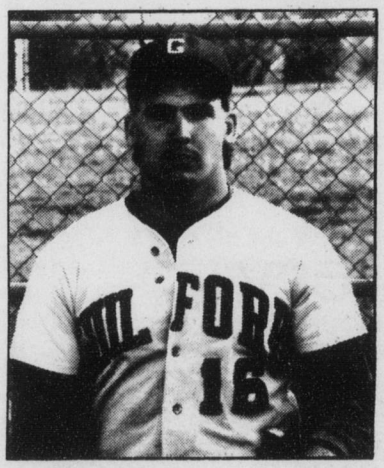
Currie earned a bachelor's degree in physical education from UNCG and has recently completed her master's degree at North Carolina A&T.

In her own way, Currie admits that the honor is a significant milestone in her career as an educator involved in athletics.

"It recognizes not only my hard work, but the hard work of the athletes I've had in the last 16 years," she said. "I may have been at the helm or recruited and brought them here, but it was the kids who worked hard to win those matches or to go to the national tournament. I feel very lucky to have been associated with them."

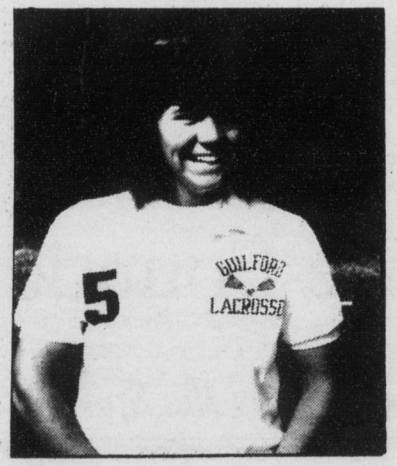
Gayle Currie will be inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame—in the coaching category—at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center in Kansas City, MO, on Sunday, May 19.

TEAM LEADERS



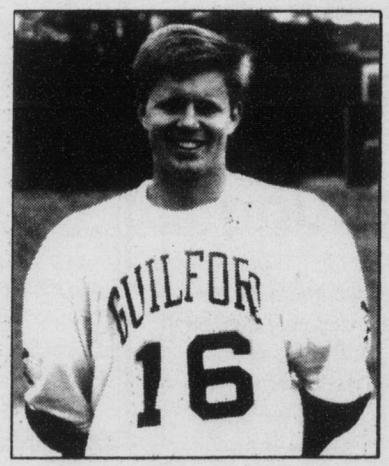
Steve Foulks
Baseball

Foulks leads the Quakers with a .385 batting average, and a .693 slugging percentage. With six runs batted in against Lynchburg, he leads with 19.



Jen Harrison
Women's Lacrosse

Harrison tops all Lady Quakers with 21 goals and 24 total points after a four-goal performance versus Randolph-Macon Women's College.



Dave Brown
Men's Lacrosse

Brown has an eye-popping 47 points, including 30 goals through eight contests to lead all Quakers in those categories.