

Philadelphia 'Rejects' Have Talent to Tussle With Toronto's All-Stars

BY JOHN C. MANUEL
SPORTSATURDAY EDITOR

Toronto plays host to another World Series Saturday night, as the Blue Jays begin the defense of their 1992 victory. That could have been expected—the Blue Jays were supposed to be good.

Their opponents were supposed to be the Atlanta Braves. Heck, they won 104 games, have the best pitchers on the planet and boast a murderous batting order featuring Fred McGriff, Dave Justice and Ron Gant.

But Toronto does not play Atlanta Saturday at Skydome. Toronto plays Philadelphia.

Wait a minute. The Phillies? The team that picked up Pete Incaviglia and considered it an improvement? The team with Mitch Williams as its closer?

Indeed, the Phillies, 30-1 underdogs at season's start just to win the National League East, are in the Fall Classic, having bounced the Braves in six games for the NL pennant.

Philadelphia is one of baseball's oldest franchises, starting play in the NL in 1883. Toronto played its first season 93 years later, as an expansion team.

Both franchises have won one (that's 1) World Series title. The Phillies' lone crown, after years of frustration, came in 1980. Tug McGraw, Mike Schmidt, Pete Rose and Steve Carlton were the driving forces behind that strong Phillie team, which beat Kansas City in six games.

This year's Philadelphia ball club is less veteran but still star-driven, while manager Jim Fregosi fills in the cracks with role players. Few of the players are homegrown, so general manager Lee Thomas

deserves credit for assembling this cast of would-be rejects into a pennant winner.

Lenny Dykstra, stolen from the Mets (along with since-departed Roger McDowell) for Juan Samuel, is the soul of the Phils. "Nails" is baseball's best leadoff man, often the only competent defender in the Phils' outfield and personifies the spirit of the team. He also chews a lot of tobacco.

Former Padre John Kruk (another proponent of chaw) and Dave Hollins team with Phillies holdover Darren Daulton to provide some of the power in a patient offense that led the NL in walks. All three bat left-handed (Hollins switch-hits) and should have an advantage against the all right-handed Blue Jay starting rotation.

Lefties Milt Thompson and Jim Eisenreich will start in the outfield, giving the Phillies good defense but depriving them of hard-hitting right-handers Pete Incaviglia, who should be the DH, and Wes Chamberlain.

The Phils' pitching staff is thin, but the starting rotation is solid. Southpaws give the Blue Jays fits, and Philadelphia has a good one — Terry Mulholland, who will start Game 2. Average lefty Danny Jackson turned in a gem in the LCS and has been rewarded with a Series assignment.

Righty Curt Schilling, the LCS MVP, will get the start in Game 1. Tommy Greene, who shut the Braves down in the clincher, rounds out the rotation. The bullpen has been spotty, with the shaky Williams surrounded by castoffs. But lefty David West and 40-year-old righty Larry Andersen are capable setup men.

Toronto has baseball's best lineup — any team that can hit Paul Molitor in the sixth spot has to have a lot of pop. The Blue Jays have the best leadoff hitter in the game's history, Rickey Henderson, to get things started. Even though Toronto hasn't seen vintage Rickey, the veteran can dominate a short series.

Molitor, Robbie Alomar, John Olerud and Joe Carter produce runs better than any other lineup in baseball. The bottom of the order boasts a .300 hitter (Tony Fernandez) and two World Series heroes

(Ed Sprague and Pat Borders). Pitching was a problem for Toronto in 1993. Last year's ace, Jack Morris, had a miserable year before injuring his arm and is unavailable to perform his usual postseason heroics.

Veteran Dave Stewart had a solid second-half and won the LCS MVP award. For all of his championship series success, Stewart has only won two Series games in six starts, both in Oakland's 1989 sweep of San Francisco. Juan Guzman will start the opener, while Stewart will start Game 2.

Guzman continues to overpower hitters, but his control could give him problems against the patient Phils. Todd Stottlemyre has always been inconsistent.

For once, the Jays' bullpen is suspect. Closer Duane Ward is money in the bank, but the setup men, Mark Eichhorn and

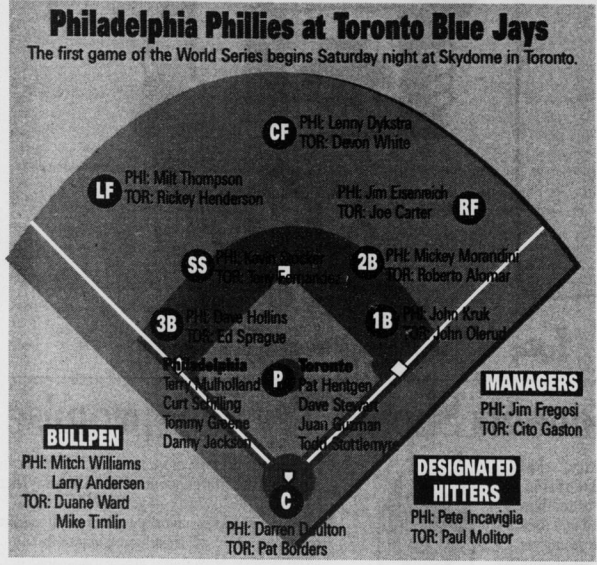
Danny Cox, aren't. Philadelphia gets a break with the designated hitter in Toronto's park — Incaviglia can hit without having to field. In Philadelphia, look for Molitor to play third base without the luxury of the DH spot. He hasn't played third since early in his career at Milwaukee.

The Jays are heavy favorites here, but that's just the situation the Phillies savor. Kruk, Dykstra, Hollins and Daulton only have to worry about one lefty — Al Leiter — and worry might be too strong a word. Philadelphia will be aided by Thompson and Eisenreich playing the field in the spacious Skydome.

Look for the Phillies to steal a game in Toronto. The Jays showed against the White Sox that they can win on the road, so the Series will head back to Skydome.

Destiny should have a lot to do with the outcome. Baseball hasn't seen a repeat champion since the '77-'78 Yankees, and this year is no different. Philadelphia has the team chemistry and, most importantly, power pitching to make a go of it.

Prediction: Philadelphia in six games.



DTH/JUSTIN SCHEFF

Basketball Tickets to Be Distributed Saturday

Tickets will be distributed Saturday for the Hawaii and Colorado State games, which will take place Dec. 1 and 9, respectively.

For individual student tickets, ticket distribution will occur from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday morning at the "will call" window at the Smith Center.

Distribution for the Blue/White and Fort Bragg AAU games began Tuesday.

Students may pick up two tickets each by presenting proper student IDs and valid, unexpired athletic passes.

FSU Awaits Untested Uva.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — On paper, Virginia looks a lot like top-ranked Florida State. The No. 15 Cavaliers will find out Saturday if the resemblance is deserving.

Florida State (6-0, 4-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) is a 25-point favorite going into the game featuring the ACC's last two unbeaten teams.

"That's a big-league football team and I don't use 'big league' very much," Virginia

SPORTS BRIEFS

coach George Welsh said of his next opponent.

Virginia (5-0, 3-0 ACC) has averaged 38 points and 448 yards a game as it turns to the meat of its schedule beginning with the Seminoles.

"I don't know what point we're at," Welsh said. "The jury is still out on this team."

The Cavaliers will be the sixth unbeaten opponent to challenge Florida State this season. Virginia has registered a pair of shutouts and is allowing just 10 points a game to rank fourth nationally in scoring defense.

But Florida State's defense already has three shutouts and has allowed just 24 points all season — the fewest nationally

— while limiting opponents to an average of 235 yards a game.

The game will feature the ACC's top two defenses trying to slow down its top two passers — Heisman leader Charlie Ward and the Wahoo's Symyon Willis, who leads the ACC in passing efficiency.

Barring a Bloody Miracle, England Out of Cup Field

LONDON — For the first time since 1978, England likely won't qualify for the World Cup finals. The nation's only consolation is that it probably won't suffer the embarrassment of having its soccer hooligans running rampant in the United States.

The 2-0 loss Thursday to the Netherlands on Wednesday virtually eliminated England, which needs to rout San Marino and have the Dutch lose at Poland in the final qualifiers next month. 600 English fans were arrested in Rotterdam.

"I think they're a disgrace," British Prime Minister John Major said.

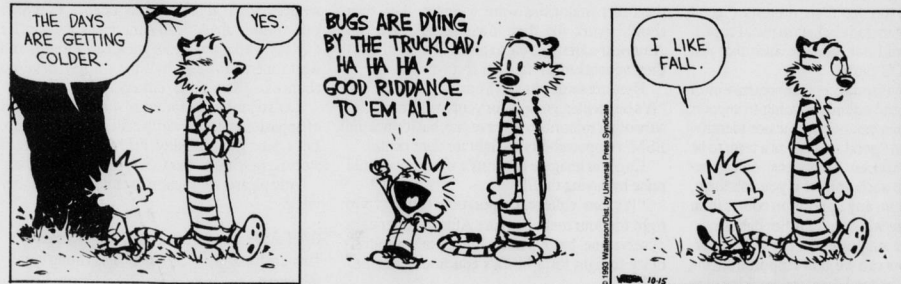
"I think they're an embarrassment to this country and we must look to see what action we can take to stop it occurring again."

Many of his former Anglican parishioners were shocked and upset by Newman's decision to leave their church. Several of his civil rights were revoked.

The Catholic community was not fond of him either. They were suspicious of his motives because of his sudden decision to convert.

But in the 1850s he was made the first head of the Catholic University in Ireland and in 1879 was made a cardinal.

Calvin and Hobbes



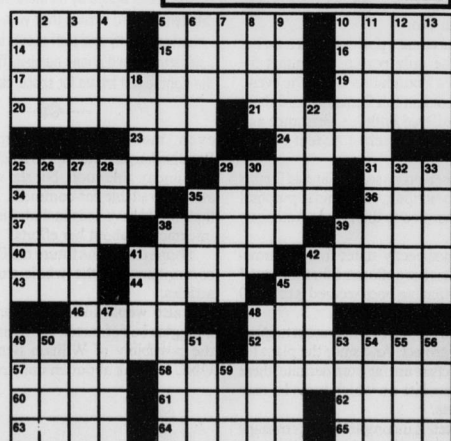
THE Daily Crossword by Dorothy B. Martin

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- ACROSS
- 1 Strong flavor
- 5 Gush forth
- 10 Bang shut
- 14 "I cannot tell —"
- 15 Framework
- 16 Thatching palm
- 17 German cruise send-off?
- 19 Fail to mention
- 20 Depot
- 21 Competitor
- 23 Sault — Marie
- 24 Actor Walter
- 25 River horses, for short
- 29 Heroic tale
- 31 Tax agcy.
- 34 Walking — (elated)
- 35 Prettier
- 36 Cumberland, e.g.
- 37 Rotate
- 38 Gotcha!
- 39 By way of
- 40 — Lanka
- 41 Nut
- 42 Anon
- 43 Affirmative
- 44 Redolence

- 45 Clear and sound judgment
- 46 Porter
- 48 Wing
- 49 Go ahead
- 52 Processions
- 57 Engrossed
- 58 Amerindian salad dressing?
- 60 Suits to —
- 61 Choose
- 62 Before: pref.
- 63 Sail support
- 64 Ceremonies
- 65 On in years
- DOWN
- 1 Unpaid bills
- 2 "Thanks —!"
- 3 1492 ship
- 4 Chap
- 5 Hurries
- 6 John of old films
- 7 Harem room
- 8 Exhort
- 9 Adolescent
- 10 Night sound
- 11 Peruvian centers of public interest?
- 12 Neat as —
- 13 Dillon

- 18 Cap feature
- 22 Ski lift part
- 25 —totsy
- 26 Accustom
- 27 French sub's optical instruments?
- 28 Fasten
- 29 Sweetener
- 30 "— o'clock scholar"
- 32 Street show
- 33 Incites
- 35 — Chanel
- 38 Christ
- 39 Thrash
- 41 Warsaw native
- 42 Find out
- 45 Slopes
- 47 Group of eight
- 48 Swiftly
- 49 Baby buggy
- 50 Pro —
- 51 Spanish painter
- 53 IC — (sports gp.)
- 54 Speak repetitiously
- 55 Titled Italian family
- 56 Origin
- 59 Nevertheless



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I'm totally mad over it! —Alfred E. Newman

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