



Tom Baer

# Media homerism rampant

## Rooting for the home team

WELL, ANOTHER baseball season is almost upon us, and the voice of the Homer is heard throughout the land.

Be it known that, when I speak of Homer, I'm not talking about Henry Aldrich's best friend, the wide spot north of U.S. 12 on the way to Coldwater or that famous Greek.

No, the Homers I'm hearing and reading these days are telling me how great the Detroit Tigers are going to be this season. Homers are sports writers and broadcasters who swoon and moon over the local teams no matter what the quality of play.

Get the picture? If not, just open the sports section of your Detroit daily newspaper, or tune in to a local TV or radio sportscast. I think you'll find the town's just fussy with Homers. Even if they're not actually promising Tiger or Lion or Platon or Red Wing greatness, they're hinting at it by their kind coverage.

Homers invariably root, root, root for the home team, if they don't win, it's a shame.

Actually, they don't win much, and there is indeed a lot of shame connected with professional sports in Detroit.

SO, WHAT GOT me going on the quality of Detroit sports and its coverage by the big media shooters? Well, I was sorting out some newspapers for later use by my calm terrier puppy the other day (Wooler just loves doing business with the sport pages of one of

America's largest afternoon dailies), and this headline caught my eye.

"It's true: Tigers will win East!" the headline screamed.

By God, now you've gone too far, I murmured.

Here is Homerism to the nth degree. It absolutely approaches infinity. This columnist, who is old enough to know better, has predicted that the Detroit Tigers will win the American League East.

He says so in so many words: "The Tigers will win the American League East in 1983."

Now, if you'll remember, the Tigers finished far out of it last season. And, since the management seems to be dead set against spending the big bucks to purchase quality players, our standpat Tigers can be expected to finish far from respectability again this season.

The writer mentions five players — Jack Morris, Dan Petry, Kirk Gibson, Alan Trammell and Chet Lemon — who are "capable of having big years."

I maintain that, if past performances are any indication, Jack, Dan, Kirk, Alan and Chet couldn't lead Detroit to the championship of the American Association.

SO, WHY THE media hype beyond all reason? I mean, how many fans read that column and believed it. And how many will pay to enter Tiger Stadium because of it?

Now I know why the Tigers draw more than a million fans every year to a crumbling ball park in a dangerous neighborhood to pay top prices to see an out-of-it team.

This unique form of gymnastics, which involves exercises with hoops, clubs, ribbons and a ball, will be part of the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

It's simple: the Tigers have some big media shooters doing PR for them.

Had enough baseball? Let's talk hockey. Let's talk Red Wings.

... my Recceced Wings, c'mon Wings, let's DIE!

And die they did. By losing 4-0 to Chicago last Sunday, the Wings officially took their trip to the tank, missing the playoffs for the 12th time in the last 13 seasons and thus strengthening Detroit's hold on the Sports Gag Town title.

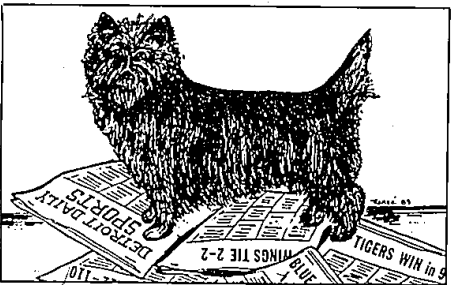
And the hockey playoff system is deliberately set up to allow awful teams like the Red Wings to make it. I mean Cranbrook or Catholic Central probably would make the playoffs if they were members of the Norris Division of the Campbell Conference.

Why am I bringing up the Wings' sorry story? It's just that, several years ago, during another losing Red Wing season, a newspaper columnist positively piddled after the Wings had won several games in a row.

"Hey, 1954 (a Stanley Cup year for the Wings) was never like this," I remember him writing.

That was just Homerism. But now, if Channel 2's Stu will provide the appropriate hand gestures, I'll write the fitting words, the only words Detroit's sports teams will ever really need.

Red Wings ... OUT!  
Platons ... OUT!  
Tigers ... OUT!  
Lions ... OUT!  
Panthers ... OUT!



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# Davey tops at EMU relays

By Tom Henderson staff writer

*'It was one of those days where he ran fast enough to win.'*

— Mike Popson Brother Rice coach

Joe Davey proved Saturday that there is another Davey to be reckoned with.

First, there was father Chuck, who runs marathons in the '80s, was state boxing commissioner in the '70s and fought for the world welterweight championship in the '50s; then there was brother Pat, a cross country star at Birmingham Brother Rice and the University of Tennessee.

Now, there is Joe, a miller and two-miler at Rice who got his senior track season off in style Saturday at Eastern Michigan when he blitzed the field in the 3,200-meter run at the 29th annual Huron Relays.

Joe cut the course in 9:31.6, which was nearly five seconds ahead of the runner-up and 13 seconds ahead of the fifth-place finisher. The distance is a little more than two miles.

The Class A relays, which drew 70 teams and 1,200 runners, were won by Flint Northern, with 54 points to 43 for runner-up Lansing Everett. Southfield was ninth with 17 points, Rochester 10th with 16.5, Rice 20th

with nine, Troy 25th with seven, Birmingham Groves 33rd with 4.2 and Farmington 35th with three.

The Class B event, which drew 56 teams and more than 800 athletes Friday night to Bowen Fieldhouse, was won by Flint Beecher. Detroit Country Day entered eight athletes in six events but failed to earn a point.

MIKE POPSON, the Rice athletic director and track coach, was pleased with the performance of his young team and predicted better things for Davey.

"I think he can go faster, but it's still early," said Popson. "This was only his second meet of the spring. It was one of those days where he ran fast enough to win. Hey, it's not the Please turn to Next Page

# Rhythm meet on tap

The Region V rhythmic gymnastics championships will be April 9 at Detroit Country Day High School.

The Class II and C III gymnasts begin competition at 10:30 a.m., with the advanced and elite gymnasts starting at 2:30 p.m.

Representing the Detroit metropolitan team will be three members of the 1982 U.S. national squad — Karen

Lyon, Karla Newell and Mavis Atlas. The competition goes on to the national championships in Strasbourg, France, in November.

This unique form of gymnastics, which involves exercises with hoops, clubs, ribbons and a ball, will be part of the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

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