

## BLOHARDS MID-SEASON UPDATE

In our never-ending effort to provide dues-paying members with the "inside scoop" on baseball happenings at Fenway and elsewhere we offer this mid-season review of the news behind the news behind the news. If you are a paid-up BLOHARD, please take one. If you are behind in your dues, take one anyway.

New York, 6/3/88...Commenting privately to friends on the Billy Martin/umpires situation, Yankee third-baseman-turned cardiologist-turned Commissioner Bobby Brown said "Billy pointed out to me that this was the first time he threw that particular clump of dirt on that particular umpire. Thus, as a first-time offender, he was entitled to leniency. Besides, he couldn't miss the Red Sox series...it's too important."

New York, 6/2/88...Don Zimmer, discussing the 12th inning bases-loaded hit-and-run play at Shea Stadium with the bellhop at the Cubs hotel, said "Shit, we were unlucky. When has Randy Myers ever struck out Manny Trillo before? I used to call that all the time with the Red Sox. We had a winning record every year I was there."

Cincinnati, 5/15/88...BLOHARD-turned Yale President-turned Commissioner Bart Giamatti, discussing the Pete Rose suspension with the Society for Ethical Culture..."I explained to Pete that elementally, his extreme effusiveness exaggerated the exigesis. Expletives are expected, but events became explicitly extrinsic. Pete said he understood fully."

New York, 5/31/88...ABC executive Jim Spence, asked about his network's decision to abandon the Mets-Dodgers game after a 37-minute rain delay, said "Our policy is never to leave a game for good merely because of an injury or pitching change. Rain is different. Kaity Tong gets \$750,000. a year. Are Mets fans going to pay her salary? Be reasonable!"

Kansas City, 6/1/88...Sabermatrician Bill James announced his retirement from sabermatricianing. James blamed the new balk rules..."Runs created has to be a higher number than runs batted in, except when the reciprocal of on-base percentage is factored in. The Red Sox have scored more runs on balks than homers, which is a mathematical cypher. Since those runs are unearned, opposing pitchers will have a negative E.R.A. We can't divide by zero, so my work is ruined."

Detroit, 5/20/88...Sparky Anderson, on the Tigers' season so far..."Luis Salazar is the best right-handed hitter I've ever seen. I never saw Hornsby, but I did see Chico Carrasquel. If Pat Sheridan don't get hurt, ain't nobody gonna count us out."