HURON DAILY BEACON

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Herons run wild, drop eight of 10; two back of spot

BY **LORRAINE PETROSKY** · HURON DAILY BEACON

A club that steals 190 bases, and it went to Toronto in June and was swept, and to Montreal in July and was swept.

The record is 53-52. That is fifth in the Topaz, nine games behind Milwaukee, and two behind Phoenix for the last place in the Fire. It is 2-8 over its last 10 games. It was 20-10 on May 1, and that was the high-water mark.

There is a shape to this one, and I keep turning it over. Inside the Topaz, Huron is 28-17. Against the rest of baseball it is 25-35. At home it is 32-19. On the road it is 21-33. In one-run games it is 14-20, with a run differential of plus-47. I wrote in May that this club had a strange shape. It has become stranger. Some years the box score tells you what kind of team you have. This one will not say.

It runs. That has not changed. Nobody in baseball is close to the 190 stolen bases. Yuji Kishi has 33, Danny Perez 31, Jeremy Albrecht 22. The walks are second in the league. The on-base percentage is fourth. The club has scored 479 runs, sixth, with 109 home runs. Chris Sandvik has 72 runs batted in and a .276 average, and at 26, on $3.1 million, he is the best thing on the field. Albrecht is at .288. Egidio Vercesi walks.

The pitching still walks nobody and strikes out nobody. It has issued 267 walks, second-fewest. It has struck out 753, the fewest in the league. Everything goes to the fielders. Roberto Velazquez has a 3.60 and has 83 strikeouts in 127 and two-thirds innings, and Daniel signed him for two more years at $6.4 million this sim. Nick Agins, in the first year of his contract, has missed starts and is 7-2 with a 3.89. Bobby Garcia has allowed 16 home runs. Joey Payne is at 3.95.

The injuries are specific. Bill Garcia, signed for bullpen depth, tore a flexor tendon and is out about nine months. Justin Evans, the shortstop, is out about six weeks with a torn labrum, and Matt Ray, the one Huron

name on the game's Top 100, 74th, hit .248 in 134 plate appearances and is on the injured list. Albrecht took a pitch on the foot on July 22 and missed time.

Daniel went looking for help in the bullpen and found Mark Campbell, who had a 1.21 for Rochester. It cost a 2035 third-round pick and Rob Mae. He has pitched four times here, with an 8.31 and a loss. Four games tell you nothing. Gregg Quinn has 13 saves and a 2.49, and he has allowed two home runs in 47 innings.

I did not write much about April. I never do. Six of six against San Juan is what I gave you in May, and I said then I could not tell you what kind of year this is. San Juan has since passed this club by eight games.

I have stood in this building for 2017, when 115 wins came to nothing, and I stood here for 2020, when 84 won everything. This is a .505 club that can run, and I do not know which of those years it is.

Cincinnati comes in for three, the same Cincinnati that has won nine of 12. Then it is Tampa Bay and Galveston, on the road, which is where this club has been losing.