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2004 Toronto Blue Jays- A disappointing season in review

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The evening of April 5, 2004 was supposed to be an exciting time for the Toronto Blue Jays fans. After completing the 2003 season with an impressive 86-76 record, the Jays came into the 2004 season with renewed hopes of the playoffs in Toronto. Ironically opening night, against the Detroit Tigers, who in 2003 lost 119 games, is when the season ended.

But, Paul Godfrey, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Toronto Blue Jays, isn't rationalizing this season's performance.

"The overall performance of a team who won 86 games last year but only won 67 this year is rather disappointing. There were too many injuries. We lost Wells, Delgado, Halladay, and Catalanotto, it's not surprising where we ended up," he explains.

Regardless of the team's performance as a whole, the faces of the future, Russ Adams, Guillermo Quiroz, Alex Rios and David Bush, ended a dismal season with higher hopes for the future, and gave the Blue Jays fans something to be excited about.

Godfrey confirmed that there would not be any changes in the progress and plans that the team has made since the arrival of J.P Riccardi. Although, the trade of rising star Josh Phelps to the Cleveland Indians, in mid season, should have had many people scratching their heads. Phelps was one of the younger, more competent players, a player who was supposed to be with the Jays when they were back in playoff contention.

"Obviously, Josh Phelps was struggling this year. He was a good young kid, we like him a lot, but as a designated hitter we felt we could do better and prospect, Eric Crozier, seemed like a good project," says Godfrey.

Even though the Jays didn't make the playoffs this year, Godfrey is still closely watching the current teams participating in the Major League Baseball playoffs.

“I have no personal choice as to who wins, I watch all the games as a fan- I had sympathy for Oakland and Minnesota, but I watch the games for the love of the game. Staying up until one in the morning has been killing me, but I am a true fan of the game.”

To end the 2004 season on a sad note, was the passing of the former Blue Jays pitcher and broadcaster John Cerutti. Godfrey was terribly devastated to find the news, since he has been with Mr. Cerutti the night before his death.

“He was a model citizen. He was a kind, gentle man and physically fit for his age. I can’t get it out of my mind, he was a great guy,” commented Godfrey.

Time will tell though if the Blue Jays are primed for a challenge with the Red Sox or Yankees. With all of ups and downs the team has faced this year, the Blue Jay fans should be encouraged about the future, and the dedication and patience the Front Office staff is showing with their rebuilding plans.

And on a side note, the speculation that Rogers was going to buy the SkyDome, according to Godfrey, is nothing but gossip.

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