

# Here's his pick for 1988:

## Tigers are fated to be great

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# inside of sports

If you're a die-hard Tiger fan who's grown weary of the "wait till next year" litany, set your alarm for 1988. Six years hence won't bring Detroit a World Championship, but if sports fanatic Bob McMahon is on target with his baseball projections, Detroit will edge the Yankees to win the American League East, eliminate the Royals in the AL playoffs, three games to two, and, alas, fall in the World Series, four games to two, to the Dodgers.

We've heard from McMahon before, though not looked into his crystal ball. The 38-year-old stockbroker from Media, Pa., who spends most of his working hours giving presentations on individual retirement accounts and writing a book on the same, has presented attendance rankings of major league cities (Detroit was 16th out of 20); rankings of the final, cumulative standings of major league cities' sports teams (Detroit was 18th out of 20), and ratings of the fans by the players (Detroiters ranked third in knowledge, behind their New York and Boston counterparts).

He's been doing that type of work for seven years. His baseball projections are a first attempt, an outgrowth of boredom during the 1981 baseball strike. As an outlet for his frustration, McMahon turned to the minor leagues, began to gather statistics and opinions from officials in each organization, and after 1½ months of work, came up with projected lineups, finishes and even All-Star teams for the 1988 season.

**OF THE** Tigers, McMahon says, "As I saw it, they are the up-and-coming team... they have the best young talent."

Some other McMahon-isms for 1988:

- The Expos will win the National League

East, and fall to the Dodgers in the NL playoffs.

- The Royals' George Brett — the Phillies' Mike Schmidt, too — could very well be a first baseman by 1988, though McMahon lists Brett at third in the Royals' 1988 lineup.
- A Yankee first baseman, 6-foot-4, 220-pound Orestes Destrade, now 19, will be the home run king.
- The White Sox's Britt Burns will be the top American League pitcher. ("He's the best right now, I see no reason why that should change," McMahon says.) The Mariners' Ed Nunez, now 18, will rank right behind. ("The Mariners will have outstanding pitching...")
- The Angels will have Dick Schofield, son of the former major league infielder of the same name, teaming with Gustavo Polidor to give California the outstanding double-play combination.
- Schofield won't be the only son of a former big leaguer to make it big. There will also be 1988 All-Star Dan Tartabull of the Reds, son of ex-outfielder Jose, and Joel Skinner, a catcher for the White Sox, son of former Pirate outfielder Bob.
- As for other family affairs, McMahon projects Chris Bando, brother of now-retired Brewer third baseman, Sal, to be the starting catcher for the Indians. Rich Murray, projected to be the Cleveland starting first baseman in '88, is the brother of the Oriole first baseman, Eddie. Ernie Banks' nephew, Bobby Johnson, will be backing up Texas then-receiver, Bob Sundberg.

Of course, McMahon could be wrong about a lot of this: It could be the Tigers making the Dodgers blue.