

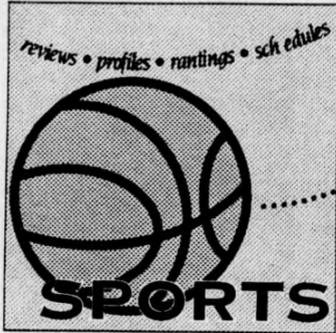
Looking for the ghosts in ballparks

by Riccardo Sala

Baltimore's new Camden Yards has been getting a lot of press lately.

People refer to it as the Anti-Skydome, contrasting its ultra-traditional baseball park design with our own ultra-modernistic 'Dome.

More importantly, that comparison shows the emphasis being given



once again to the sports environment. Camden Yards is the latest in a series of stadium designs that have come around in the past several years. Last season, the Chicago White Sox ended their eighty-odd year association with old Comiskey Park and moved into a much ballyhooed new complex.

Before these three, of course, there was WP Kinsella and "Field of Dreams", the tale of a guy who hears voices and goes out to build a ballpark in his back yard.

Kinsella's book was made into a hit movie. When it came time for new spaces in Baltimore and Chicago, I think that the designers took a cue from the book, creating structures reminiscent of the classic ballpark design.

Perhaps most important, Kinsella's book probed that mystical, sentimental link between spaces and actions. In the supernatural reign, these express themselves as ghosts or voices that inhabit these spaces long after the original structures are gone, hence

the storyline of "Field of Dreams."

In the sentimental reign, it's probably why people like hanging around old ballparks and stadiums. These structures speak.

I found a ballpark like that in Quebec City. It was a classic baseball stadium that looked like it had fallen on rough times. When I found it, its main role in life was to give up its parking lot to fundamentalist revival meetings.

Yet maybe the Quebec City ballpark represents something passed, now impossible to recapture. It symbolises a time that for better or for worse, is gone.

I prefer the Skydome to Camden Yards, and not just because I'm a Toronto native. The Baltimore park

is more artificial than Toronto's (even though many commentators would claim the opposite). The Baltimore stadium exudes a restrictive charm, in that its lure comes from limiting its idea of the ideal ballpark to a period in time that has long since lapsed.

As someone noted, that period in time was also restrictive in more than just its concept of baseball stadiums. How much is that yearning for the past symbolised through a return to tradition in baseball a measure of a desire to return to those same restrictions and simplicity of life — and thinking — that forced the maintenance of a separate Negro League in baseball until the end of World War Two?

I'd prefer to believe that the rea-

sons for the sentimentality that expresses itself in edifices such as Camden Yards don't necessarily have to be as cynical. Yet Camden in many ways is as emblematic of the return to conservatism in the past ten years as anything in North America. It utilises the same words, the same imagery in its appeal to middle American sentimentality as much as any speech by Reagan.

So with that, I can't say that the jumbled mass of concrete that we call the Skydome is necessarily that bad. Hopefully its revolt against earlier designs emphasises as much a willingness to liberate from the same stringent rules that once not only governed ballpark design, but society as well.

Spring a busy time for gridiron Yeomen at camp

by Riccardo Sala

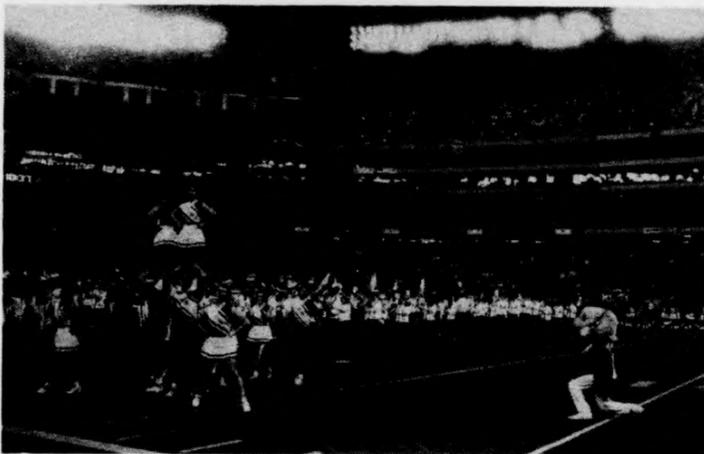
The turf by the Ice Palace saw more cleat traffic than usual this spring as York held not one, but two, football camps this April and May.

Starting May 11th and going for a week York hosted its first ever high-school camp. Fifty six Metro area players turned up to fine tune their game under the gaze of the Yeoman coaching staff.

The week before, the Yeomen had held a four day spring mini-camp.

With 48 Yeomen showing up to camp, York head coach Tom Arnott feels that the spring mini-camp has come a far way from its first years, when only half that number would bother to show up for practice on any given night.

Two freshmen in particular, defensive end Craig White out of St. Thomas' Central Elgin and noseguard Mike Benevides from Central Tech, have the York coach optimistic. According to Arnott, these two players, who started school at York during the winter term, are good enough to start



THINGS AIN'T SO SIMPLE ANYMORE and maybe the SkyDome is a more appropriate stadium, expressing better today's society than Baltimore's "blast from the past": Camden Yards, and its rosy reminiscence of a time that maybe wasn't so rosy after all.

at their positions this upcoming season.

The Yeomen regroup in late August for the two week training camp.

Arnott is looking at close to eighty players taking part, including 30 newcomers.

Classifieds

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STRANGERS CLUB IS LOOKING FOR BANDS, 466-8934/490-7957, Dharam/Bruce for bookings. Cozy atmosphere, pool tables, kitchen till midnight, wing specials, 1130 Queene St. E.

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It's...



from the

Barcelona Olympiade.

Look for their explicit coverage from sunny

España as it unfolds

this summer.

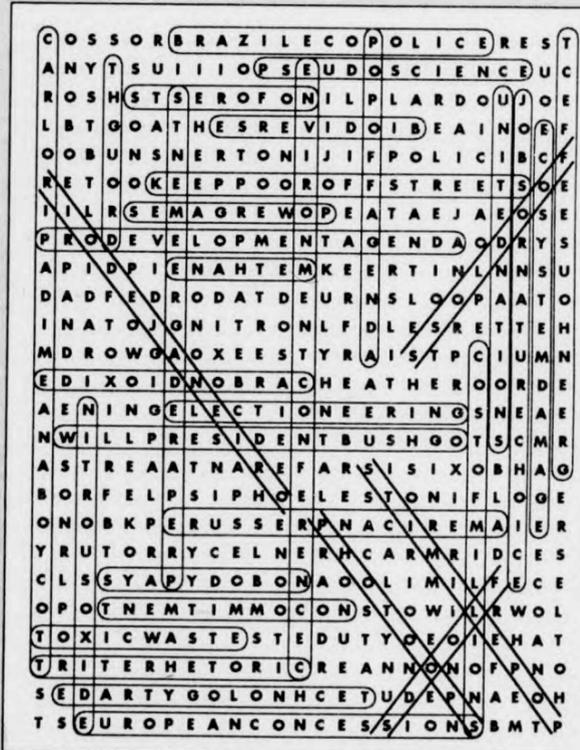
only in...
excalibur

Do you want more than just the score?

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Drop by 420 Student Centre and bodycheck Nicky Davis

Earth Summit Word Search



Solution

In order to ensure the participation of United States President George Bush, a **NATIVE "EARTH CHARTER,"** a **BINDING GLOBAL WARMING TREATY** and **FRESH AIR** had to be left off this puzzle.