

Out in Left Field

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The influence the professional athlete or team has on people is similar to that of a Prime Minister or Premier of the Province. Sports touches everyone one way or another; in paper, television, radio shows, retail stores, it's unavoidable. Every sport has its share of athletes that seem to influence every aspect of that sport; attendance, souvenir sales, retail sales and of course the outcome.

The influence these influential athletes have effects everyone young and old. If that athlete, adopted role model, carries particularly violent characteristics that fans young and old tend to mimic that characteristic, this ends up effecting those they associate with. People who do not play or even have interests in sports are directly effected by actions of teams, players or fans. One that comes to mind is the Montreal riot following a NHL decision to suspend Maurice "Rocket" Richard for only one game during the play offs, erupted in a downtown riot. Cars were turned over, stores broken into and set aflame. The Rocket who the Habs star suspension effected people who had no association with the team or the sport. In 1986 the same thing happened, after the Canadians won the Stanley Cup, over a million dollars in damages resulted from the victory celebrations.

This influential aspect has a direct effect on domestic violence. Studies have shown that, the result in a team losing causes an increase in violence in the home. Sports events like the Super Bowl has a direct effect on domestic violence.

These are some examples of negative results of sports and very influential players. There are as many and more positive influential athletes like Wayne Gretzky, who is the most eminent player in professional athletics today, can be classified as the ultimate role model. He has single hardly rewritten the record book, in only eleven years he presently holds 49 and counting league records. For many a hundred points a season is a career season, the Great One racks up at least a hundred assists every season for a joke. Former stars like Gordie Howe, Dean Belleveau, Guy Lafleur recognize Wayne as the greatest to ever play the game. Team owners anxiously await the arrival of Gretzky, because they know it's a guarantee sell out. The effect he has on everyone who is or isn't involved in hockey. Just ask the people a Coke or Nike the influence he's had on their company. Bruce McNall is another who hopped on the Gretzky train of success.

So for those people who say that professional sports is only a game, look around at the ways pro sports influences your life every single day. For those who say pro athletes get paid too much, look at the influence that athlete has on his team, city and sports.

Does it not seem like yesterday that the Detroit Red Wings appeared to be on the verge of a birth in the Stanley Cup Finals? They had built a respectable, young, talented team around superstar Steve Yzerman and things looked promising, indeed, for hockey mad fans in the Motor City. The team, however, has never been able to get over the hump and fulfill the high expectations of the hockey world. Part of this problem lies with management - particularly the General Manager, Jim Devallano. He has made many questionable deals trading young talented players for aging veterans. Adam Oates for Bernie Federko comes to mind. The Wings defense, right now, have three players - Brad Marsh, Doug Crossman, Rick Green, - who are all over thirty and will past their prime. Signing Borje Salming at 34, a few years ago is another example of the "old age" movement the Wings have had. Even their acquisition of younger players have ben questionable. Edmonton Oilers now have Adam Graves, Joe Murphy and Petr Klima producing like they should have in Detroit - oh yeah, all three have their manes on The Cup. Detroit in return are stuck with Jimmy Carson - the underachiever of all time. The most ridiculous move the Wings have make is making Bob Probert a captain. How do they justify this? Probert, as much as her is now doing well, has let this team down more often than not. He isn't even allowed outside of the United States because of his cocaine change. With continuous managerial blunders as these, it is pretty safe to say the Cup won't make a stop in Motown for quite a while. Speaking of the Stanley Cup. forms for the Red Devils NHL Playoff Pool are available from Mike Johnston down at the LB Gym or from any Red Devil Player. Cash prizes totalling \$2,000 are up for grabs.

How many sport nicknames do you know? Answers in next weeks column

Hector Blake
Yvan Cournoyer
Dan Doust
Jacques Lamaire
Chris Nilan
Glen Sather
Larry Robinson

Bob Gainey
Rejean Houle
Grand Warwick
Frank Mahovlich
Jim O'Neil
Doug Soetaert
Lorne Worsley

Last trivia answer: Secretariate

Black Bears challenge

by Kelly Craig

It was almost a month ago that the UNB Black Bears dazzled the AUAA wrestling league winning seven out of a possible ten gold medals in the championship. The team qualified nine wrestlers to go to the Canadian Championships in Regina, Saskatchewan.

The team left for Regina the Thursday before the March break for three days of wrestling action. All wrestlers had tough matches and put forth as tremendous effort on behalf of the AUAA league.

Marcel Saulis was the top finisher for UNB placing an impressive fourth. Marcel missed a bit of the season as he was plagued with injuries. However, he came back in fine style at the AUAA's to win the gold medal in the 160 lb weight class.

The rest of the Black Bears

team put in solid performances with rookie Daren Anderson placing fifth. Co-captains Sean Dockrill and Pat Zwicker both had tough draws as did second year Black Bear Quincy Knox. Stacy DesRoches also pulled a tough draw as did rookie heavy man Davis Seeley. The Bears definitely had a learning experience over the weekend of the CIAU's and will be ready for next year.

The Bears peaked at the AUAA's this season. They struggled through most of the season placing second and third, but the team really got together when it came down to the crunch. Most of the Black Bears will be returning next season to bring UNB another exciting season of wrestling. Under the guidance of head coach George Multamaki the Bears will no doubt repeat again next year as AUAA champions.

Definite returnees to the team

are; Co-captain Pat Zwicker, Co-captain Sean Dockrill, third year veteran Stacy DesRoches, second year Quincy Knox, Daren Anderson, Sylva MacLaughlin, Dave Gallant, Marcel Saulis, Adam Simon, and Jason Pleasant-Sampson.

No doubt Sylva MacLaughlin will be waiting for the next season to start as he missed this season due to an injured leg that left him on crutches most of the season. The 1991-92 wrestling season will surely be one to watch.

Ed note: It was my privilege to work with the Black Bears all season. They are a truly talented bunch and made writing for them enjoyable. I would like to take this time at the end of the season to thank George Multamaki and Don Ryan for their assistance this season and for allowing me to tag along at the AUAA's. I also would like to thank Sean Dockrill and Pat Zwicker for their tremendous help over the season. Stacy DesRoches for his help. Quincy Knox for his assistance at the AUAA's. And finally the rest of the UNB Black Bears

Polo- Some basic guidelines

by Randy Goodleaf

Polo basics

A polo team consists of 5 riders per side using a bamboo and wood mallets to hit a 3 1/2 inch ball through a goal at speed of up to 30 MPH.

The horse of choice in polo is the thoroughbred because it has both the stamina and boldness required in this grueling sport.

The field measures 300 yards by 160 yards, and the

goal is only 24 feet by 10 feet high. The game is split up into 6 chukkers (periods) of 7 minutes, plus 30 seconds extra time.

From a spectator perspective, there are three really interesting parts to polo : bumping, divoting, and tailgating.

It is perfectly legal for riders to bump (check) each other while playing the ball, which makes for some interesting viewing. Both

Prince Charles and Larry Robinson (ex-Canadian) can attest to the danger of the sport.

Divoting is what happens at the half. All the spectators bring themselves and their Pimms no. 1 cup (a drink) onto the field to replace divots, drink, and rub elbows.

Tailgating is parking your car (preferably a Rolls) next to the field, and breaking out the champagne, caviar, and other good cheer.



Polo action at the sun spot of the states - Florida



Photo by Randy Goodleaf