

VIEW FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

by Tim Lynch

As we steadily progress towards the end of the twentieth century, much change is imminent. We are evolving socially at a rapid pace. Drinking and driving, for instance, is now deemed unacceptable. Violence in hockey is no exception, and it will eventually become both socially and morally unacceptable.

Hockey is truly a great sport. The Canada-Russia series in 1986 epitomizes that greatness. Krutov, Gretzky, Lemieux, Kamensky. That was hockey at its best.

Violence in the game today involves either bouts of traditional fisticuffs or vicious stick-swinging incidents. These may be spontaneous acts of violence carried out in an uncontrollable rage, or they can be premeditated, deliberate attempts to injure. The NHL, AHL, IHL and countless other professional and junior leagues tolerate the fighting aspect of hockey's violent repertoire. For this reason, we are truly a hypocritical society. Many people ardently express their disgust regarding the violence contained in some of today's television programs and movies. Yet we accept the fact that fighting in hockey is commonplace. Always has been and always will be proclaim the mental giants.

Fighting is an occurrence in most team sports. It is not possible to abolish it. However, five minutes in the penalty box is hardly a deterrent. Both fines and suspensions are what is needed. Let a player know that if he fights, it is going to cost him financially.

Most NHL fans realize that the majority of talented hockey players do not fight, and those who do usually possess inferior hockey skills. It is true, however, that the Cam Neely's and Mark Messier's defy this generalization. Thus, if fighting was banished, the league's overall skill level would be augmented.

These changes could be made overnight, but it would take some players time to adjust. That is, many would be in search of new careers. Professional wrestling is one vocation that comes to mind.

The notorious Don Cherry argues that violence would persist even in the absence of fighting. "Illegal stickwork would force players to wear full facemasks," says Grapes. He cites the NCAA as a present-day example. Once again, a stiff fine and suspension would definitely curb this practice.

"Mommy! Daddy got tickets to the Leafs' game!" exclaims proudly the six-year old.

During the game, John Kordic breaks Dave Brown's nose.

"Why did he hit him?" inquires the youngster. The father remains silent.

Blazers Off To Slow Start

The UNB Red Blazers hopes of getting off to a strong start in the second part of their N.B. Ladies Hockey League schedule were not working out at all.

You may recall the Blazers suffered through an 0-4 start before Christmas break, scoring only 3 goals compared to 24 for their opposition. It appeared things could only get better. Wrong!

UNB opened their second half with a pair of losses on January 7th, 9-0 to Shediac and 7-0 to Clement Cormier High. Both games were played in Moncton. The Clement Cormier loss was the most upsetting as the Cavaliers had been the only team in the league with a record worse than UNB.

This past Saturday the Red Blazers had their second half home opener. The ladies took on Shediac at the Keswick Valley Recreational Center. Although UNB played a stronger game the previous weekend, the score barely reflected that as they fell 6-0.

The loss left the Blazers 0-7 in N.B.L.H.L. play and it was beginning to appear that there is a danger of UNB missing the first-year league's playoff tournament in March. This would be a double disaster since the Aitken Center will be hosting that event. This having been said UNB coach Mike Power isn't sounding the panic alarm. "We knew we were in for a tough season, the total inability to score is a surprise, but we have had some tough breaks and we need time to overcome them." Power went on to explain the team had lost 4 of its top experienced players who were expected to return right up until October. "Some of these people were skating with us at the start of the year. Jennifer Reicker, our top scorer, left after one practice, April Jost left near the end of October, although she is back now, Karen Whelen was sick the whole first half, and finally had to quit, and Debbie MacLoon is pregnant. Also our top two rookies didn't show up, Josette

Babineau attends UNB but decided to commute to play in Shediac, and a player from Charlo was so turned off by her accommodations she withdrew from school and went home. If we had those 6 players in the lineup all along we sure wouldn't be 0-7, but there is nothing you can do about that stuff."

Power says the Red Blazers are seriously involved in rebuilding and given time can still rally and make the playoffs, "we got a break in that poor weather as it caused 5 games to be rescheduled for February and March. With 7 rookies and 6 second year players out of our total 16, well we need practice and time. The potential is there. We just have to get it on line as soon as possible."

Action this weekend has UNB in Moncton tonight to play the first place Right Spot team at 8:00 at the Hillsborough Arena, and back on the road Sunday for an 11:15 game against Saint John.

chsr fm Sports Broadcast Schedule

UPEI at UNB Red Bloomers
Saturday, Jan. 20
8:00pm Main Gym
STU at UNB Red Devils
Saturday, Jan. 27
7:30pm Aitken Center
MUN at UNB Red Raiders
Saturday, Feb. 10
8:30pm Main Gym
UNB Red Devils at UPEI
Saturday, Feb. 17
7:00pm Charlottetown at Mt. A.
Sunday, Feb. 18
2:00pm Sackville

MOOSEHEAD Varsity Schedule

Friday, January 19

Hockey (M) UDEM at UNB
7:30pm at Aitken

Saturday, January 20

Basketball (W) UPEI at UNB
8:00pm LB Gym
Basketball (M) UNB at MUN
Volleyball (M) UNB at DAL
Wrestling NB Open

Sunday, January 21

Basketball (M) UNB at MUN
Volleyball (M) UNB at DAL

Tuesday, January 23

Basketball (M) UNB at UMM

for more information call the L.B. Gym. 453-4578

CIAU Top Ten Rankings

Hockey (M)	Basketball (W)	Swimming (W)	Volleyball (W)	Track (W)
1. Alberta (2)	1. Calgary (1)	1. Toronto (4)	1. UBC (2)	1. Western
2. Moncton* (3)	2. Regina (2)	2. McGill (1)	2. Manitoba (1)	2. York
3. Calgary (1)	3. Laurentian (3)	3. Alberta (2)	3. U. Vic (3)	3. Windsor
4. Waterloo (4)	4. Lethbridge (4)	4. Laval (3)	4. U. Sask. (5)	4. Toronto
5. Wil. Laurier (7)	5. U. Vic (5)	5. Montreal (5)	5. Calgary (4)	5. UBC
6. Manitoba (5)	6. McMaster (6)	6. UBC (NR)	6. Regina (6)	6. Guelph
7. UQTR (6)	7. Lakehead (7)	7. McMaster (6)	7. York (8)	7. Waterloo
8. Western (8)	8. Winnipeg (8)	8. Calgary (8)	8. Ottawa (9)	8. Laurentian
9. UPEI* (NR)	9. Western (9)	9. Western (NR)	9. Alberta (7)	9. McMaster
10. U. Sask. (NR)	10. Ottawa (10)	10. Guelph (10)	10. Laval (10)	10. Sherbrooke
Hockey (M)	Basketball (M)	Swimming (M)	Volleyball (M)	Track (M)
1. Alberta (2)	1. St. FX* (1)	1. Calgary (1)	1. Manitoba (1)	1. Western
2. Moncton* (3)	2. U. Vic (2)	2. Toronto (6)	2. Laval (6)	2. Windsor
3. Calgary (1)	3. Western (3)	3. Laval (4)	3. UBC (3)	3. York
4. Waterloo (4)	4. Alberta (4)	4. Alberta (5)	4. Calgary (8)	4. UBC
5. Wil. Laurier (7)	5. Concordia (6)	5. Brock (7)	5. U. Sask. (5)	5. Toronto
6. Manitoba (5)	6. UBC (4)	6. McGill (2)	6. Waterloo (4)	6. Laurier
7. UQTR (6)	7. Calgary (7)	7. Western (8)	7. Sherbrooke (2)	7. Laurentian
8. Western (8)	8. Brock (NR)	8. McMaster (NR)	8. Alberta (7)	8. Waterloo
9. UPEI* (NR)	9. UPEI* (10)	9. Guelph (9)	9. U. Vic (9)	9. McMaster
10. U. Sask. (NR)	10. Brandon (NR)	10. Laurentian (10)	10. Dal* (10)	10. Guelph

* denotes a school in the A.U.A.A.