

View From The Cheap Seats

by Mark Savoie

Last Sunday night I watched "Ken Dryden's Home Game" on CBC at 8 PM. It was a quality show and I highly recommend that you make the effort to catch the next five episodes of this limited edition show. I'm not going to write about the show; you can watch it yourself, but I am going to write about what the show made me think about. It made me think about hockey... and why I love the game.

First and foremost, baseball is my game. Not so much to watch; it is sort of boring on TV, but to follow. The tension of the pennant race, the agony of playing 162 games only to fall one game short, the history, the statistics, the aura, and the mystique: all serve to make baseball the prime passion of my sporting life.

But to watch, or to play, give me hockey. Maybe it's something as simple as the fact that I'm a Canadian that makes me a hockey fan. I'm not going to be so poetically and romantically stupid as to suggest that it's genetic for Canadians to love hockey; just as it's not genetic for blacks to love basketball. But maybe it's cultural. Probably it's cultural. Probably the fact that my father, his father, my friends, and their fathers mostly all loved hockey causes me to do so as well.

However, I don't have that cultural background for baseball. At least, not to the same extent. And yet I am a huge baseball fanatic. Maybe not all of my interest in a sport is cultural in origin. Maybe I should take a look at how and why I look at sports.

In North America there are five major team spectator sports: baseball, basketball, football, hockey, and soccer. Actually, soccer is more European and Latin American (where it is called football and football is called rugby) than North American, but since the 1994 World Cup will be hosted by the States, I'll include it as well. Of these five sports only one does not lay claim to being an "action sport". That is, of course, baseball. Baseball, along with its English counterpart, cricket, is a contemplative, sedentary sport which is perfectly suited for the lazy summers that most of us want.

The other four sports promise action. They are all played in the late fall and through winter when the blood is pumping hard out of necessity to keep warm. However, one of these sports is a fraud. It calls itself an action sport, but it really isn't. This is football (sorry, Carl). Football is a half-breed. It has brief furious spurts of intense action followed by frequent long periods of standing around deciding what to do next. None of the other action sports allow you the luxury of taking the time to decide what you want to do before every play. Basketball has a plethora of timeouts, hockey has one per team, and soccer has none. Football has one every play, plus a possibility of twelve extra long timeouts every game. Rugby is an action sport, and football evolved directly from it, but football has long since passed the day when it could honestly call itself an action sport.

This leaves three others. I'll start with soccer. Soccer is an incredible game. Some of the things they can do with a soccer ball are simply unbelievable. To watch, really watch, soccer is to be awed by the talent with which these people are playing this simple sport. Unfortunately, the artistic skill of soccer is all too often stifled by the defensive domination of the sport. They've got that huge net and yet the scores are still frequently 1-0, 2-0, 2-1, 0-0. And that's the problem. A goal in soccer costs too much. Once a team gets a two goal lead you can go home. With Liverpool or another if the first division's better teams you might as well go home after a one goal lead. The excitement is the first goal. After that everything becomes anticlimactic.

Basketball has the opposite problem. A basket is much, much too cheap. Sure, watching Michael Jordan fly through the air with a hang time of 7 1/4 minutes whilst doing five arm pumps, a back flip, and bicycling the whole way is impressive, but it's still only worth two points. Larry Bird from the far outside is worth three! So what? There are so many baskets per game that it is impossible to get excited or dejected over every basket. That's why basketball had to become the "showtime" sport in order to survive. As the scores skyrocketed the fans lost interest until Dr. J put a little bit of excitement back into the game.

Finally there's hockey. Hockey has a far better balance than the other two sports. I'm not trying to say it's perfect, 'cause it's not. The offense is ahead of the defense right now (note this year's All Star game), but the proper balance is slowly being achieved. Hockey is a sport in which the comeback is common, but yet it is possible to sit on a lead. It is dangerous to do so, but you can protect a one goal lead for an entire game. But by the same token, it is also possible to blow a five goal lead in the third period. This makes hockey different from the other action sports, the fact that no lead is too big or too small; and that is why I love hockey.

UNB Athletes Of The Month

Peggy Ackerl, 17, of Montreal, PQ has been chosen as this month's UNB Female Athlete-of-the-Month. Peggy had a really super month,



Beaver Peggy Ackerl

leading the women Beavers to first place at the AUAA Invitational at Acadia. This was the first time UNB women have defeated either DAL or been first in a conference Invitational in many, many years. Her personal results were: 1st - 200 BACK - 2:29.35 (a UNB team record and CIAU Championship qualifying time), 2nd - 100 FREE - 1:01.36, 1st - 50 FREE - :27.99, 1st - 200 IM - 2:34.36. She also swam on 2 1st place relays: 400 Medley Relay - 4:41.20 (6th fastest CIAU time in Canada this year) and 400 Free Relay - 4:06.80. According to coach Fisher "Peggy had a really good month. She swam back to back races against Acadia and Dalhousie and still managed season best times. With

continued work and effort Peggy will have a tremendous AUAA Championship, and will be ready as well at CIAU's in March."

Brian Woods of Norwich, England has been named as this month's UNB Male Athlete-of-the-Month. The 20-year old had a very strong weekend for the Beaver swim team with some terrific times in two meets. His results on Friday as the Beavers defeated the University of Ottawa 69-12 and lost to the University of Sherbrooke 48-38 were: 1 - 400M IM, 4:52.62, 1 - 100M FS, :57.07, 1 - 200M FS relay, and 2 - 400M MR. On Saturday his results were: 1

Black Bears Second

by Kelly Craig

This past weekend the UNB Black Bears wrestling team traveled for a tournament in St FX. The Black Bears placed second over all among four Atlantic schools. Despite the second place team finish there were several first place individual placings.

Memorial University of Newfoundland finished ahead of the Black Bears and Mt Allison came in third. According to coach Multamaki, Mt A and Memorial are, as yet, the toughest competition for the Bears. Memorial has put together a very strong team this season. Beating them will be a difficult task for UNB if they wish to take the AUAA title.

UNB had several wrestlers place in the top three this past weekend. Finishing in first place for the Bears was Sean Dockerill

in the 150 lb class, Don Ryan in the 180 lb, and Quincy Knox in the 198 lb class. Steve Doucett placed second in the 158 lb division along with Brad Scott at 198 lbs. Placing third for UNB was Stacey Desroches in the 143 lb division.

Overall it was a good weekend for the Bears. The team got off to a slow start but immediately battled ahead to finish strong. The wrestlers have improved a great deal over the season and are very optimistic about the upcoming AUAA's.

This weekend, Quincy Knox and Brad Scott will compete in the NB Open. The NB Open was set to go three weeks ago, but was rescheduled due to unforeseen difficulties. The rest of the Black Bears team will be heading for a meet against the University of Maine at Orono. On February 17, the UNB Black Bears will be hosting the AUAA's.



Beaver Brian Woods

- 400M FS, 4:16.00, 1 - 200M BS, 2:31.24, 1 - 200M FS, 1:58.96, 1 - 100M FS, :54.10, and 2 - 200M FSR as he was named the outstanding male swimmer of the meet. According to coach Fisher "It was a really great weekend for Brian as he established personal best times in 3 events. Brian has the potential to win 3 events at the AUAA championships, and to qualify for the CIAU's in March."

CIAU Top Ten Rankings

Hockey (M)

1. Alberta (1)
2. Calgary (3)
3. Waterloo (4)
4. UQTR (5)
5. Moncton*(4)
6. Wil. Laurier (8)
7. Acadia* (10)
8. McGill (7)
9. Regina (NR)
10. Manitoba (9)

Volleyball (M)

1. Manitoba (1)
2. Laval (2)
3. Calgary (3)
4. U. Sask. (5)
5. Waterloo (6)
6. UBC (4)
7. Sherbrooke (7)
8. Alberta (9)
9. U. Vic(8)
10. Dal * (10)

Volleyball (W)

1. U. Vic (1)
2. UBC (3)
3. Regina (5)
4. Manitoba (2)
5. U. Sask. (4)
6. Calgary (6)
7. York (7)
8. Laval (NR)
9. Ottawa (8)
10. Alberta (9)

Basketball (M)

1. Western (2)
2. St. FX* (3)
3. UBC (1)
4. U. Vic (5)
5. Alberta (4)
6. Calgary (7)
7. Concordia (6)
8. Brandon (8)
9. Acadia* (9)
10. Guelph (10)

Basketball (W)

1. Calgary (1)
2. Laurentian (2)
3. Regina (3)
4. Lethbridge (4)
5. McMaster (5)
6. U. Vic (6)
7. Winnipeg (7)
8. Lakehead (8)
9. UBC (9)
10. Bishop's (NR)

Track (M)

1. Windsor (1)
2. York (2)
3. Western (3)
4. Manitoba (4)
5. Toronto (5)
6. U. Sask (8)
7. Queens (6)
8. UBC (7)
9. Laurier(9)
10. Alberta (10)

Swimming (M)

1. Calgary (1)
2. Toronto (2)
3. McMaster (3)
4. U. Vic (4)
5. Laval (5)
6. Manitoba (NR)
7. Alberta (6)
8. McGill (7)
9. UBC (8)
10. Western (9)

Swimming (W)

1. Toronto (1)
2. Alberta (2)
3. McGill (3)
4. UBC (6)
5. Manitoba (4)
6. McMaster (6)
7. Montreal (7)
8. Calgary (NR)
9. Western (8)
10. Brock (9)

Track (W)

1. York (1)
2. U. Sask (8)
3. Manitoba (5)
4. Western (3)
5. Windsor (4)
6. Toronto (6)
7. Calgary (7)
8. UBC (8)
9. Alberta (9)
10. Queens (10)

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

Varsity Schedule

Friday, February 9

Volleyball (W) UNB at Mt.A

Saturday, February 10

Basketball (M) MUN at UNB
8:30 Main Gym

Basketball (W) Halifax Srs at UNB
TBA Main Gym

Volleyball (M) UNB at UdeM

Wednesday, February 11

Hockey STU at UNB
2:00 A.U.C.

Basketball (M) MUN at UNB
3:00 Main Gym

Basketball (W) Halifax Srs at UNB
TBA Main Gym

Volleyball (M) UNB at UdeM

Volleyball (W) UNB at UdeM

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