

# Overtime

## Canadian sports media

by Mark Alberstat

Canadians have just about every sport going, professional or amateur. In the professional field we have football—our own league yet—baseball, with two major teams and maybe soon to be a third in Vancouver; soccer; and basketball in the CBA, but let's not talk about them.

In the amateur field we have everything from alpine skiing to water polo. Many of our amateur athletes and teams compete very strongly in international competition, be they world championships, Olympics or otherwise. Let's face it, we Canadians have little to complain about when talking about sports in this country.

An often sadly neglected area of sports in this country is the sports media. The writers, commentators, and photographers are often overlooked as Joe fan focuses in on the superstar being written about, photographed or commented on.

One problem (problems can be good or bad) with the Canadian sports media is that we have no infamous Howard Cosell to either love or hate. We have no super-polished Brent Musberger, crazy Marv Albert, or "I don't know much about sports but you can watch me as I speak" Jayne Kennedy or Phyllis George.

Canadian sportscasters simply have no spiff and biff to them. They tell us what is happening on the ice or on the field and don't tell us that their pet dog Foo Foo threw up over the players list and they can barely read the names. I truly believe our sportscasters have more respect for their viewers than do sportscasters south of the border.

Many of us have seen U.S. broadcasts of hockey games and I think we should praise the CBC for Hockey Night in Canada (no matter how many poor match-ups they show us). A generation or more of Canadian hockey fans have grown up listening to Danny Gallivan, Bob Cole, Jim Robson, and Dan Whitman, on HNIC. If you really reflect on it, these men do a superb job of keeping on top of a sport that is lightening fast at times. The true nod should go to Foster Hewitt, who was the first "great" play by play man when it was all on radio.

Hockey still remains the major sporting event on Canadian T.V.s. Two million of us watched the Super Bowl, but eight million watched the Grey Cup—that tells you something. The baseball playoffs also drew around two million Canucks but would surely skyrocket if one of the Canadian teams made it into October.

With Dave Van Horne and Duke Snider doing the Expos telecasts for the CBC and their American league counterparts, and Tom Cheek and Tony Kubek doing the Blue Jays, Canadians have little to moan about.

But, you say, he is leaving out one thing the U.S. viewers have that most of us don't—the famous, wanted, craved, much-loved, and terribly envied ESPN. Well sit down Canadian sports fans, we might have one yet.

That's right, two groups have approached the Canadian Radio Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) with proposals for an all sports network for Canadian pay T.V.

The first proposal was put together by about 30 national sports associations. It would be a non-profit network whose profits would be put back into the station. It would cover national, international, professional, and amateur sports, with the emphasis on Canadians and Canadian teams.

The other proposal, called Action Canada Sports Network, was put together by Labatts (of Toronto Blue Jays fame) and Alt foods. They would also carry the same type of programming. This plan was taken more seriously by the CRTC because of the money backing.

In any case, sports fans, we may yet see 24-hour sports in Canada and who knows, we may get a sportscaster who tells jokes.



Coca-Cola Athletes of the Week Since January: Bernie Derible, Andrew Cole, Karen Fraser, Chris Lohnes, Cathy Blight, Bo Hampton, Patti Boyles, Bo Malott, Mary Mowbray, Peter Hickman, Shelly Platt, Donna Boutilier, Simona Vortel

## An overview of St. Mary's eligibility problem

by Mark Alberstat

St. Mary's University has caused more of a stir in the CIAU and AUSA than a cat in a dog competition. The following is a brief summary of the incidents so far.

The Huskies had three players declared ineligible - one hockey player and two basketball players. The hockey ineligibility was clear-cut - the player had dressed for 11 games, trying out professionally, while the CIAU rules permit five only.

The basketball players in question were Ron Lardge and Donald (Buck) Williams alias Greg Williams. Williams was the first one found ineligible but it was after he had already returned home to St. Petersburg, Fla. and therefore he could not be punished. Williams had only played in two games for the Huskies. St. Mary's had to forfeit the two games which dropped them from first to second place in the AUSA but they then went on to win the AUSA championship.

Duck Williams had run out his eligibility in North America by playing two years at a junior college and two years at the University of Alabama, and saw St. Mary's as a way to further his academic career and continue playing basketball.

Duck took his brother's name because his equally talented brother, Greg, had been in a car accident and couldn't play basketball after the accident. Williams left St. Mary's at Christmas time when he came up one credit short. In an interview with *The Chronicle-Herald*, Williams said, "I might still be there (St. Mary's) if I hadn't flunked out." He obviously wanted to continue the sham as long as he could.

The other basketball player declared ineligible, Ron Lardge, was one of the brightest new stars in the AUBC and had collected the "Rookie-of-the-Year" award. Lardge was ineligible because he failed to sit out a year before playing for St. Mary's. The Huskies had to forfeit every game Lardge played in, dropping them to last in the league.

The controversy isn't over yet because the university that Lardge played for in the States has dropped its basketball program and there is a CIAU ruling to the effect that if this happens,

athletes won't have to sit out a year. The question is, does this ruling apply in the Lardge case?

St. Mary's, as of March 22, has ended its recruiting for the hockey and basketball teams and is awaiting the outcome of the two committees set up to look into St. Mary's recruiting practices and problems. The reports from these committees will be out in mid-April.

Dr. Ken Ozmon, President of St. Mary's, said in a recent CBC

interview, "If the athletic program, intercollegiate program, for us is distractable or detracting from our essential function (academics) then I think it (intercollegiate athletics) should be sacrificed."

A 1979 report from the St. Mary's senate warned Dr. Ozmon that the recruiting operations of the athletic department were likely to produce eligibility problems. Five years later the warning was not heeded but did, in fact, become prophetic.

## Levy to attend camp

by Lisa Timpf

When the Dalhousie Tigers' field hockey goalie yells out her characteristic "Gone!" as the ball passes by the net, or calls out an encouraging, "Come on, Babe!" to a teammate, you can hear her from most places on the field.

One wonders, who is this person under the helmet and pads whose voice carries so well?

The person is Claudette Levy, and the intensity in the voice matches the determination which has enabled her to hone her fitness and skills to a point where she has become one of the best field hockey goalies going.

That this is believed by the powers that be at the National level was indicated recently when an invitation was extended to Levy to attend a pre-Olympic training camp for the Canadian women's field hockey team April 9-25. This training camp will give coaches Marina Van der Merwe and Kathy Broderick a chance to take a last look at potential players before they solidify the national team alignment for the '84 Olympics.

Canada will be one of six countries to take part in Olympic women's field hockey action in Los Angeles this summer, and, after their 1983 second-place finish in the World Cup, they could well be medal contenders.

But back to Levy. Claudette's field hockey career began at an informal level in junior high school, when she first became acquainted with the game. Introduction to the goaltending position came when her sister, who was playing goal decided to quit half-way through a match. Claudette strapped on the pads in her stead, and enjoyed playing

the position so much that she came back for more.

"It's a very individual position," said Levy. "You can be told how to play it, but a lot of it is anticipation and reacting to the ball."

"It's the sort of position where on any given day you're either very good or you're terrible," she said. "It's hard to be consistent, but I'm working at it. A lot of it is mental preparation and staying in the game."

After playing high school field hockey at St. Patrick's, Levy came to Dalhousie in 1981, and since then has been playing for the Tigers. In addition, she was a member of Nova Scotia's Junior National silver medal team in 1980, and played on the 1981 Junior and 1982 and '83 Senior Nova Scotia teams.

What does Levy think of her upcoming chance at making the L.A. Olympics team?

"It's exciting, but it has to be kept in perspective," she said. "I want to get school out of the way before I really start thinking about it."

Whether she makes the Olympic team as a result of the trials or not, Levy's chance to attend the training camp is an honour in itself.

## Thanks

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