

VIEW FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

by Mark Savoie

Sometime fairly soon Evander Holyfield will defend his Heavyweight boxing title against George Foreman. Foreman, of course, is safely into his forties. His bout with Gerry Cononey at Caesar's Palace last year was billed as "Two Geezers at Caesar's". In boxing chronology the forties don't even count as geezerdom. Once you hit forty you may as well be dead. And yet now Foreman is getting a shot at the title he once held in the early seventies.

The nineties, thus far, have been continuing a trend first seen in rampant fashion in the late eighties. This being sports nostalgia. People are increasingly willing to pay to see the stars of their youth ply their trade. It seems to be a feeling of growing old together that proves so attractive. The Senior's Pro Golf Tour is making big money, drawing large crowds, and although Florida's Senior Baseball League has failed, it did draw a disproportionate amount of publicity. And the NHL's inclusion of a playing honorary captain to get Guy Lafleur into the All-Star Game is just an attempt to capitalize on this phenomenon. I must admit that I am planning a trip to the Colisée in Quebec City for sometime next month just so that I can see Lafleur before he retires.

The problem with aging is speed. Sure, reflexes do deteriorate, but this is generally offset by an enhanced ability to predict the play because of your experience. But speed has no substitute, at least not adequately for very long. In basketball, if you can't make it up the floor on the fast break you'd better hope that your team starts to rely on a half-court game. In football if you can't outrun the corners you want to get a reputation as a possession receiver. In hockey if you can't keep up with Gretzky you better get ready for a trade to Toronto or Minnesota. Only baseball leaves a spot for the old and slow, that being either a DH or first base, and once you can't get around on the fast ball even those options are out.

There are several examples of athletes playing well into their forties. Kareem Abdul Jabbar played for the Los Angeles Lakers for just about forever, while George Blanda was on the active roster of the Oakland Raiders for forever. But hockey's Gordie Howe is the ultimate in geezer athletes, playing all 80 games of the Hartford Whalers inaugural season in the NHL at age 51.

As stated above though, baseball is the true sport for old people. Nolan Ryan is still throwing heat at age 43. Satchel Paige once threw three innings of one hit ball at age 65. The Phillies got into their last World Series with a team that was eight years past its prime. Three of the key members of that 1983 team (Pete Rose, Joe Morgan, and Tony Perez) were members of the Big Red Machine in '75 and '76. There has always been old baseball players, but these days they're all over the place. The reason for this, as I see it, are the huge salaries they can command. While it is true that they may lose some incentive to play because they no longer financially need to, it is also true that they aren't going to gross \$3,000,000 per year plus endorsements running some liquor store. And once you've started living a million dollar plus lifestyle it is not easy to cut back once you lose that revenue. So they keep playing, and we keep watching, and so long as we do things won't change all that much.

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Intramurals

Badminton Tournament

The winter term badminton tournament was played this past weekend but didn't have as high a participation rate as the fall term. For those who did take part, the enthusiasm was flying high. Almost all of the players were experienced, making the tournament very competitive. Brian Dewey was the winner of the singles tourney and the team of Steve Tarkowski and Dana Forgeron won the doubles championship. Congratulations guys!

Standing Summary

Ball Hockey League: White Division Final Standings

Teams	G	W	L	T	F	A	PTS	Def
Stick and Twigs	6	5	0	1	58	31	17	-
Flyers	6	4	0	2	61	28	16	-
Harrison House	6	4	2	0	59	45	14	-
Law School	6	3	3	0	36	34	12	-
Aitken	6	2	3	1	42	49	10	1
MacKenzie	6	1	5	0	22	62	8	-

League: Red Division Final Standings

Teams	G	W	L	T	F	A	PTS	Def
Bridges Blues Brothers	7	7	0	0	78	19	21	-
Knights	7	6	1	0	54	13	19	-
Law Stars	7	5	2	0	72	38	17	-
Bushwackers	7	2	3	2	39	46	13	-
Red Wings	7	3	4	0	34	29	13	-
No Control	7	1	5	1	23	60	9	1
Harrison Huskies	7	1	5	1	20	50	7	3
Neville Norsemen	7	0	7	0	12	91	4	3

League: Green Division Final Standings

Teams	G	W	L	T	F	A	PTS	Def
Kings	7	6	0	1	93	38	20	-
Hooters	7	6	0	1	69	30	20	-
Jones	7	4	3	-	60	45	14	1
Neill	7	3	4	-	52	59	13	-
Joe's Jades	7	3	4	-	56	57	12	1
Trojans	7	2	5	-	36	79	10	1
Harrington	7	1	6	-	45	70	8	1
McLeod	7	1	6	-	27	74	6	3

Men's Basketball

League: Green Division Final Standings

Teams	G	W	L	T	F	A	Pts	Def
Psycho Warriors	7	6	1	0	351	242	19	-
Orangemen	7	5	1	1	296	214	18	-
Rock-on-Raiders	7	5	2	0	360	288	17	-
Law II	7	4	3	0	213	268	15	-
Killer Lady Bugs	7	3	3	1	345	303	14	-
Opistaptors	7	3	4	0	342	295	13	-
McLeod	7	1	6	0	122	290	8	1
Law I	7	0	7	0	201	368	7	-

League: White Division Final Standings

Teams	G	W	L	T	F	A	Pts	Def
Bridges	7	7	0	0	365	214	21	-
Wild Stallions	7	6	1	0	351	269	19	-
Jones House	7	5	2	0	330	285	17	-
Howling T's	7	3	4	0	240	255	13	-
Timberwolves	7	3	4	0	263	305	13	-
Harrison	7	2	5	0	240	284	11	-
Flaying Moose	7	1	6	0	268	422	9	-
Chem Eng.	7	1	6	0	264	327	9	-

Keys: G - Games, W - wins, L - losses, T - ties, F - goals for, A - Goals against, Pts. - points, Def - Defaults

of 1:15.42.

of UNB made the competition 37 time in the event. Christine UNB also came up Beavers winning style event in a 06. Finally, the me up the victors m freestyle relay 4:56.40.

are coming to the ason very shortly. adily progressed n and the training Christmas break em a great deal. are to be held at ear at the Max Whether or not repeat as AUAA depends on the Dalhousie teams. can happen in the

ults from last e from a dual meet Dal tigers and the men and Axettes. made quick work eating them 138 to men from Dal also ess as they downed ettes 155 to 50.