

SPORTS

The yearly epidemic hits selected few

by Mark Spector

Have you noticed anything strange about the university campus in the last couple of weeks? Perhaps I should ask if you have 'sensed' anything funny going down in our hollowed halls.

Chances are that you haven't.

There is, however, a few people who have been transmitting a particularly mind-altering affliction known in medical circles as Baseball Fever.

To the casual observer, there are plenty of visual signs which may help them to recognize those that are in the grasp of the Fever: the sight of a Bluejays jersey in V-Wing; a familiar Twins jacket in Hub; the clerk at the SUB cigarette store restocking the Skoal chewing tobacco.

But only those people who actually experience the spring itch, and they know who they are, can truly know the effects of this annual epidemic. But before we discuss the effects, let's talk about the causes.

To the uninterested, baseball is a

slow moving game that is "fun to play, but I never watch it." A common misnomer. The game that these athletic enthusiasts play is softball, not baseball. A fine game indeed, but hardly conducive to the utter preoccupation that leads to a yearly case of the fever.

Baseball is a game that is lived, not merely viewed as a spectator. Unlike other major sports, the ballpark is a place where fans can communicate with players and coaches. When was the last time that Glen Sather or Jack Parker ever joked with the paying customers the way Trapper manager Moose Stubing was known to do? Or bowed to have a picture taken as coach Ed Ott did last summer during one game.

The ballpark is a fun place. It's the only sporting venue in North America where a manager and a groundskeeper can have a yearly tomato growing contest (a la Earl Weaver at Baltimore Memorial stadium).

Where else can you see everything from Oldtimers games to

cow milking contests, and everything in between, in a pregame show that is free of charge?

Speaking of free, no other sport regularly has a giveaway days at which every paying customer (or sometimes just kids) receives anything from a team hat, to an autographed ball, to, in one instance, the managers recipe for chile.

Baseball teams respect their supporters opinions so much, that they leave it up to the public to choose the players for the mid-season All Star game. When will the N.H.L. learn? The N.F.L. Pro Bowl is nothing more than a Hawaiian-holiday for players and wives, and falling on the heels of the Super Bowl it is a yearly exercise in futility; not to mention a snoozer. In the C.F.L. fans don't even care enough to warrant the playing of any such game.

Where else does a big-league club travel abroad, using one of their few days off in a gruelling 162 game schedule, to play at the home of their top farm team? Would the N.H.L. do this for their fans in such

places as Moncton, Hershey, and Springfield? Hardly.

Baseball has survived two world wars, and a couple of "police actions"; try to find a professional North American sport that did not suspend play during the Great Wars — you won't.

These are all reasons why baseball has to its credit, an equal number of addicts as it has mere fans. Men, women, and children alike; if you don't believe it, just drive through rural Saskatchewan during a summer weekend and notice the hundreds of baseball (along with fastball and softball) tournaments that run until sun down Sunday nite.

At L.A. (Lacombe Alberta), they have certain senior citizens who haven't missed a single Lacombe Senior Baseball Tournament in the 65 some years that it has been running. These are not merely fans.

Yes, this is the time of year when certain students find themselves sitting in a carrel in Rutherford, reading Street and Smiths baseball yearbook instead of their biology

texts.

Players and followers alike. Until that first pitch is thrown every spring in the home of baseball's oldest team, the Cincinnati Reds, 'ball fans fall victim to periodic spells of divided attention, a sudden interest in the last page of the sports section where the latest transactions are listed, and an overpowering craving to hear the words "Play Ball!"

So as you wind down the school year, trying to cover the assigned chapters from January and February as well as current ones, please be patient with that guy wearing the Red Sox hat that is chewing tobacco in the library. Or the two people that are arguing loudly over whether the addition of a change-up to Dwight Gooden's repertoire is going to help him beat the sophomore jinx. These people will be okay in a couple of weeks. Once NBC starts delivering their weekly fix of baseball again, victims of the Fever will once more fade back into obscurity. Until then, this is Mark Spector, signing off from a crowded 'Unknown Afflictions' ward, at the University Hospital.

Bears and Pandas throughout spring 'n summer

The Golden Bear football team is putting out the call for offensive and defensive linemen, although they welcome all comers. Yearly the Bears lose a third to a quarter of their 50-man roster, either to graduating, the pro's, a change of heart or a lucrative job opportunity.

Spring Camp, June 1-8, gives the Bears' coaching staff an opportunity to grade prospective players and send them in an appropriate direction, either the juniors or the Bears summer camp. All potential Bear players receive an invitation from

head coach Jim Donlevy upon discussion with their high school coaches or a personal talk.

Summer-Fall camp, starting August 23, has approximately 85 players (whittled down from spring's 150 hopefuls) competing for a chance to don a Bear football uniform. Those who do make the team will be off to North Battleford Labour Day Weekend to take part in the third annual Border Bowl.

Taking over offensive co-ordinator/running back duties from Clarence Kachman is Wildcats Dal-

Eva

Bears All



ton Smarsh. Kachman is taking a well deserved rest after 12 seasons as an assistant coach for the Bears. The Bears still have to confirm Mark Coffin as defensive line coach.

The Bears coaching staff will be conducting two player development camps in May. The purpose of these camps is to seek out potential players in an early stage and to promote Bear football. From May 10-11 the camp is being held in Vermilion (Wheatland football conference) and from May 24-26 the camp is being held in Grand Prairie (Mighty Peace football conference).

Football sports camp is being held August 5-10 for boys 15-16 years and August 12-17 for boys 17-18 years.

Tim Becker, Tom Demeo and possibly Mike Suderman will not be playing for the Golden Bear basketball team next season. Demeo will be trying out for the Bears' football team and Suderman

must decide whether he can devote the necessary time to the team.

Coach Don Horwood has a number of prospects lined up for next year. From Edmonton alone he has his eye on 6'2" Ed Joseph from M.E. Lazerte, a strong player who is an excellent prospect; 6'3" Sam Satadi from St. Joseph's, also an excellent player who averaged 30 points a game; 6'8" Brian Masikewich; and David Youngs from McNally. Horwood is very excited about the coming season.

"We have a nucleus of returning players; I feel they are strong enough for us to be legitimate contenders next season. With one or two key rookies we will be in good shape.

"We do have to make progress in a positive direction. Some of our bigger players and guards have to play better. I felt our forwards, Mike Kornak, Chris Toutant, and Dean Peters all played well," said Horwood.

April 13 the Bears will hold an orientation camp for prospective players. The Bears summer basketball league will run from the middle of June until August (approximately two weeks). It is open to the whole city. Horwood is expecting 100 players, so 10 teams will be drafted. The basketball summer camp will be from Aug 18-24.

The Panda basketball team will have a new coach for the 1985-86

season. After 11 years as head coach of the Pandas, Debbie Shogan is stepping down.

"It was not a sudden decision. I've been preparing this for three or four years. I've been working on a PhD program and want to move more into academia. I want to develop my interest in sports philosophy (Shogan currently teaches an ethics class). I felt it was time for a change.

"I think its a positive decision. I've had 11 good years and have enjoyed every minute. I'll definitely miss the involvement with the players," said Shogan.

The list of potential coaches is good so Shogan is not worried about the basketball program losing any of its strength. Shogan is hoping a decision will be made by the end of the month so contact can be established between the players and the new coach.

Although the losses of Laura Cabott and Sue Tokariuk (to graduation) are significant, Shogan is confident that the Pandas will have a good team next year because "there should be a strong nucleus of players returning.

Shogan will maintain administrative duties until September. Included will be the running of the basketball sports camp Aug 12-17 for girls ages 12-17.

Continued on Wednesday.

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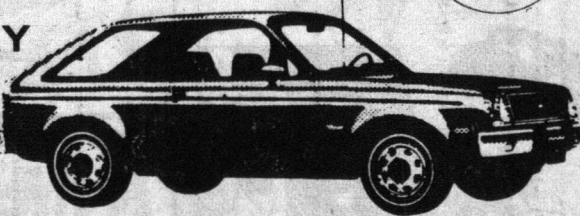
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