

VIEW FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

by Mark Savoie

In 1877, during the second year of its existence, the National League (baseball) was rocked with scandal. With only 15 games left to the season the Louisville Greys had a comfortable five game lead over the perennial favourite Boston Red Stockings. Then the inexplicable happened, Boston got hot while Louisville turned very, very cold. At the end of the season Boston had won the pennant by seven games. It was a thrilling collapse and pennant drive, but there was a stink in the air.

It was soon discovered that key members of the Louisville club had been on the take from the local gambling interests. These interests had a large amount of money down on (presumably) a Boston victory or a Louisville loss. The end result was that four members of the Louisville squad were suspended for life by League President William A. Hulbert (there was no Commissioner of Baseball in those days). Among these players were star outfielder George Hall and star pitcher Jim Devlin.

Hulbert felt that this strong stance was justified as a measure to prevent the destruction of league integrity that happened to the ill fated National Association of Professional Base Ball Players from 1871-75. In its short existence the N.A. had been rife with gambling, to the point that the outcomes to many games had been predetermined. Hulbert had created the National League partially as a way of escaping the gambling pressures on the National Association.

Gambling in baseball went underground until the advent of Hal Chase. Hal Chase was probably the most corrupt player to play the game, and was such from his rookie season in 1905 until he retired. Bill James wrote the following:

Hal Chase involved in an endless series of gambling escapades; prominently mentioned as one of those constructing 1919 fix. Accused by his manager, George Stallings, of trying to throw a game in 1910. Charged by Christy Mathewson, his manager in 1917, with throwing games that year. Charged by Lee Magee with bribing him to lose games in 1918. Suspended by Giants for allegedly throwing games during 1919. Alleged by Rube Benton to have won \$40 000 betting on 1919 series. Banned from Pacific Coast League parks in 1920 for trying to bribe an umpire. Presumably holds the all-time record for games fixed.

As mentioned Chase was prominent in the biggest baseball scandal ever; the Chicago Black Sox. As chronicled in the movie *Eight Men Out* several members of the 1919 Chicago White Sox threw the World Series to the Cincinnati Reds. This was done as a result of pressure from high level gambling interests. Bill James, in *The Bill James Historical Baseball Abstract* lists 38 players or coaches who were seriously involved in gambling charges from that era.

However, Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis did a remarkable job of cleaning up the game and baseball retained its squeaky clean image up until Bowie Kuhn's laughable attempts to maintain the integrity of the game. Still, gambling in baseball was kept under the table until this summer with the Pete Rose case.

Baseball is not the only sport with a gambling history. One of football's greatest heroes, George Gipp probably spent more time on the gambling house than on a football field or in a classroom. His career at Notre Dame was immortalized in a movie starring Ronald Reagan, but that movie never mentions that the 'Gipper' often bet on games involving his own team.

The NFL also had its gambling scandal. Stars Alex Karras and Golden Boy Paul Hornung were both suspended for betting on NFL games in 1963. Their suspensions were only for one season, as Commissioner Pete Rozelle has never tried to maintain the squeaky standards of Major League Baseball.

Basketball has not been immune to gambling controversy either, as evidenced by the Tulane point shaving scandal in the college ranks a few years back, or Coach Doug Moe of the Denver Nuggets involvement in point shaving at the University of North Carolina in 1961.

The point of this gambling-sports history lesson is that gambling pervades sports, always has, and probably always will. Hockey pools abound this time of year, and although it is theoretically illegal to bet money in these pools, it is a fair bet that most, if not all of these pools are for money. Another example of sports gambling's public acceptance can be found in many of the newspapers (including Fredericton's own *Daily Gleaner*) that have called down Pete Rose for letting the sport down as well as being a bad role model for the children who idolize him, also have on the next page the NFL point spreads with advice on how to bet.

It is not a surprise that someone intimately involved with professional sports was found betting on sports. It is a surprise that we are so surprised and disgusted about the whole scenario. Gambling has pervaded sports from the very beginning, and in sports such as horse and harness racing gives the sport meaning. If we allow illegal gambling to remain acceptable, then athletes gambling on sports will remain a facet of the game.

CIAU RANKINGS

SOCCER (M)

1. Victoria (1)
2. McGill (2)
3. St. Mary's* (3)
4. UBC (5)
5. Laurentian (4)
6. Western (6)
7. York (8)
8. **New Brunswick*** (9)
9. Sherbrooke (10)
10. Toronto (NR)

* denotes AUAA team

FOOTBALL (M)

1. St. Mary's* (1)
2. Saskatchewan (2)
3. Western Ontario (3)
4. Queen's (4)
5. Alberta (5)
6. Guelph (6)
7. Calgary (7)
8. Wilfrid Laurier (8)
9. Concordia (9)
10. Acadia* (10)

SOCCER (W)

1. Acadia* (10)
2. McMaster (2)
3. York (3)
4. Alberta (4)
5. Concordia (5)
6. Wilfrid Laurier (6)
7. Queen's (7)
8. UBC (8)
9. Memorial* (9)
10. Toronto (NR)

FIELD HOCKEY (W)

1. Victoria
2. Toronto
3. York
4. UBC
5. Calgary
6. St. Mary's*
7. **New Brunswick***
8. Manitoba
9. Guelph
10. Alberta

SWIMMING (M)

1. Calgary
2. Toronto
3. Alberta
4. Laval
5. McMaster
6. Manitoba
7. Victoria
8. McGill
9. UBC
10. Western

SWIMMING (W)

1. Toronto
2. Alberta
3. McGill
4. Montreal
5. Calgary
6. Laval
7. UBC
8. McMaster
9. Waterloo
10. Brock

CROSS-COUNTRY (W)

1. Western (1)
2. Dalhousie* (2)
3. Victoria (3)
4. Toronto (4)
5. Waterloo (5)
6. McMaster (6)
7. Guelph (7)
8. Queen's (8)
9. Laval (NR)
10. UBC (10)

CROSS-COUNTRY (M)

1. Manitoba (1)
2. Toronto (2)
3. Queen's (3)
4. UBC (4)
5. Western (5)
6. Waterloo (6)
7. McMaster (7)
8. Windsor (8)
9. Victoria (9)
10. Sherbrooke (NR)

Varsity Schedule

Saturday
 Cross country
 UNB at Dalhousie
 Soccer
 Dalhousie at UNB 4:00 pm
 Sunday
 Soccer
 Acadia at UNB 3:00 pm

Tough Losses for UNB Ironmen

by Thee Iron Ghost

Many unknowing people may agree with the above statement. Indeed, most people would simply say that a loss adds nothing to a team's position in the standings and that is what counts. Well, between you and I boys and girls, this just ain't so.

Members of the 1st XV of the UNBRFC may have agreed with this, before this past Saturday, that a loss is a loss any way you cut it. But no longer.

Down by a score of 27-0 only 30 minutes into a match versus the Moncton Marshhawks, the Ironmen took stock of themselves, and began to roll. Like the spearhead of an army, the Ironmen came on, thundering downfield with devastating effect, pounding their opponents into the sloppy turf. Respect was demanded from their opponents and it was taken!

Every point scored by UNB in the next 50 minutes was a

point scored by the team, there was not an individual on the field who stood out. The Ironmen moved smoothly as one unit the way they will the rest of this season. The effect totally demoralized their opponents on Saturday.

While the final score stood at 31-26, in favour of Moncton, that statistic means little. Both teams knew who had won the real victory and was sure to win the next match between the two clubs in two weeks time, College Field, October 28th, 3:00 PM. Come for the fun.

The 2nd XV also had a match this past holiday weekend, and they too were on the road, this time in Bathurst where they strongly upheld the tradition of good solid UNB rugby.

After the torturous drive, the lads were tired and stiff, but they courageously moved on. Not the cold wind, not the driving sleet, not the horrible pitch, not the spiteful crowd, nothing could

intimidate the 2nd XV.

The game was an extremely hard fought affair, the score saw-sawed back and forth between the Ironmen and Bushpigs all day, but alas, our side fell ever so short. As the final whistle blew with the score 16-15, UNB was right at their opponents' goaline, striving to score yet more points that would have given them the victory. Despite such horrible odds, these brave souls almost did the impossible! What more is there to say with regard to this tragic event?

So once again you read of victory and defeat involving the Ironmen of UNB and you say to yourself "What great guys, how can I meet one of them?" Well, if you feel you are ready for such a momentous occasion, there is a game tomorrow at College Field 3:00 PM, versus the best team in the Maritimes. No doubt the Ironmen will rise to the occasion in their never-ending quest for excellence of sportsmanship!

UPDATE

Here are a couple of late breaking stories. UNB Red Shirts **Todd Slaney** has been named CIAU athlete of the Week. Slaney scored three times last weekend in the Shirts' two victories... The **UNB Red Sticks** are still undefeated in AUAA women's field hockey. The **Sticks** tied Moncton 2 - 2 last Wednesday on the road.

