

VIEW From The Cheap Seats

By Mark Savoie

Even given that my ramblings are usually quite esoteric to begin with, I feel that it is my duty to warn you that this week's drivel is even more esoteric than usual. The reason is that I can't think of any topics sufficiently contentious enough to fill up even half of my required space, just a bunch of little ones which I will address at bottom. So, with your indulgence, I hope that you will excuse me if I wax a little philosophic for a moment.

There are two main branches of sport philosophy: aesthetics and ethics. My opinion of the importance of aesthetics to sports is on record. I don't care how you look when you do it, just go out there and do your job. Actually, that's not entirely true. I find individuals and teams that go about their business in a workmanlike manner more appealing than I do those who demonstrate a lot of flash and showmanship in their efforts. That is why I preferred Roberto Duran to Saccharine Ray Leonard, Joe Frazier to Muhammad Ali, the Boston Celtics to the Los Angeles Lakers, Larry Bird to Michael Jordan, and just about everybody to Rickey Henderson. My theory is shut up and do your job; there ain't no style points 'round here.

Ethics is a different story. There is a legitimate debate among sport philosophers about the role of ethics in sports. It all begins with the question as to whether it is ethically okay to intentionally commit the good foul or good penalty. The good penalty is one in which the punishment for committing the penalty is not as severe as the damage of not committing the penalty. An example would be tripping the puck carrier in order to prevent a breakaway. The purists in the study of sports ethics feel that any such deliberate attempt to break the rules of the game is inherently unethical. It is their argument that such an action is equivalent to electing to no longer play the sport in question. To intentionally trip a player, knowing full well that such an act is against the rules of hockey, is thus to them a tacit acknowledgment that the game being played is no longer hockey. Ultimately, they claim that all rules set forward by a sport must be followed if the sport is to be played in an ethical manner. Thus, there is no such thing as the good foul or penalty.

At first glance this seems reasonable. It would be nice if the rules were all followed. Only the extremely naïve among us would expect that this could ever happen in real life at the competitive level, but it is still a nice ideal to daydream about as Ulf Samuelsson gets yet another hooking minor. Unfortunately, a closer look at the concept reveals a breakdown when it is taken to its logical extremes. The purist line of thought, when taken to logical extremes, claims that in hockey it is unethical to intentionally ice the puck, that in soccer it is unethical to intentionally kick the ball out of bounds, that in baseball it is unethical to intentionally throw a ball or fail to swing at a strike. Each of these actions is against the rules, and each is accordingly penalized. However, the penalties are so minor that we often fail to recognize them as such. This is especially true of balls and strikes in baseball. Every time a pitcher throws an 0-2 pitch outside of the strike zone he is penalized by having a ball called (assuming that the batter does not swing). Every time a batter looks at a 3-0 pitch on the outside corner he is penalized by having a strike called. But does anyone really believe that these are actions of an unethical nature? Somehow, I doubt that all but a very few purists - determined to fight a losing battle - would think so.

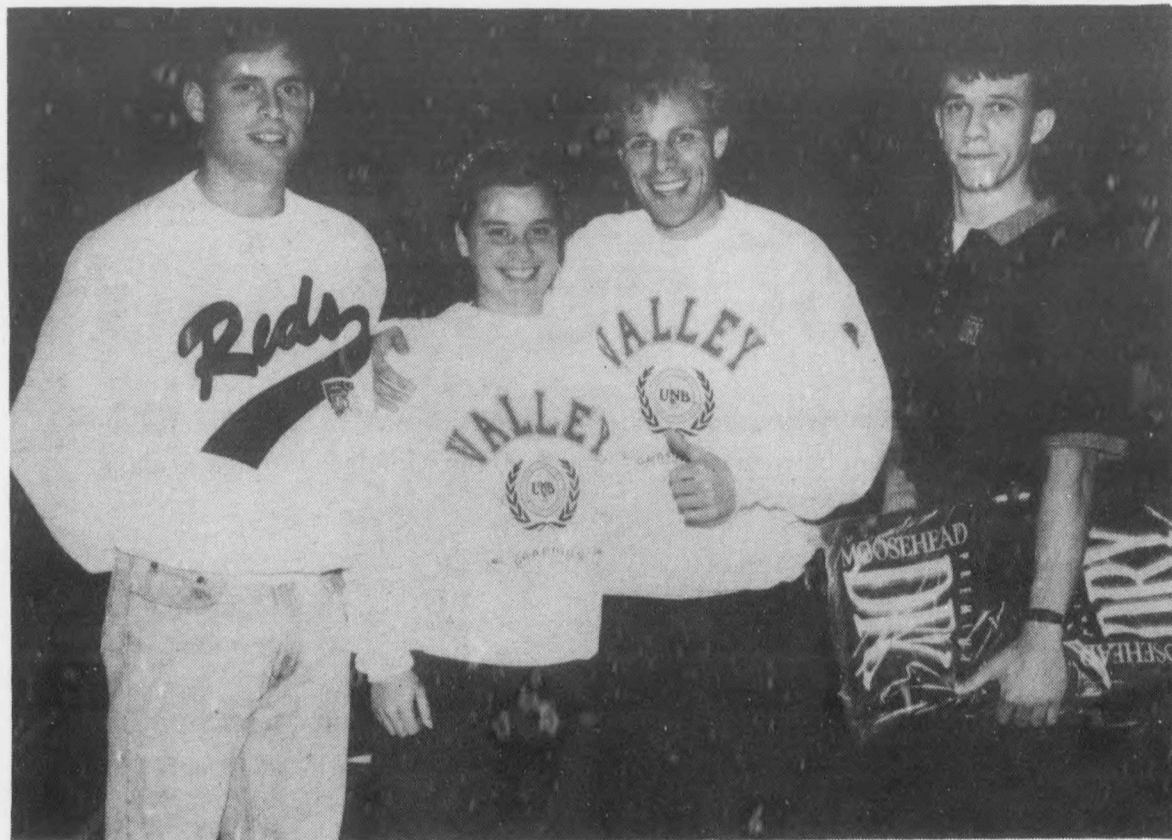
From these logical extremes it becomes obvious that there is in fact such a thing as the good foul. The only element of doubt is to what extent the rules can be broken whilst maintaining ethical integrity. It seems to me that this point is the one at which the breaking of the rules is deemed to be acceptable by the sports public at large. So long as the sports public does not deem it unethical to take a penalty which will help the team, then that player is not acting in an unethical manner. Not all penalties which help the team are deemed acceptable by the sports public. Even though it would be a winning strategy, it is not considered as acceptable to intentionally injure an opposing team's star player. Thus, throwing at a batter's head or Bobby Clarke pole-axing Valeri Kharlamov in 1972 are both obviously considered unethical. However, a potentially dangerous act such as the brushback pitch must be considered as ethical, since it has long been accepted by the sports public as a legitimate part of the game. But... all of this is simply common sense and of little or no value in the real world (much like philosophy in general), so I once again must apologize for wasting your time.

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I realize that this may seem kind of petty and minor in light of recent events touching upon the topic in the past few weeks, but doesn't it seem like a good idea to test the NHL's gag order for players with regard to the scab referees. As I understand it, any player found to make disparaging remarks about the replacement officials will be faced with heavy fines from the NHL. If this is not a blatant example of a restriction of free speech then I don't know what is. I hate to have to point it out to the NHL, but the NHL players are not employed by the NHL, but rather by their respective teams. As such, any comment which a player may make should not be construed as representing the NHL. Thus, where does the NHL get off in this heavy handed restriction of the player's right to expression? The scabs should receive the same protection from criticism and abuse as do the regular officials. No more, no less.

UNB Athletes of the Month

Stacey Bean, Bryan Pollman take October honors



L-R: Jonathan Thompson (Valley Graphics), Stacey Bean, Bryan Pollman, David Erb (Moosehead)

Photo by Rob Blanchard

UNB Press Release

UNB announced its Athletes of the Month for October at the Varsity-Mania basketball game last weekend.

This month's Female Athlete of the Month honours go to Stacey Bean of the Varsity Reds field hockey team. Stacey, originally from Brampton, Ontario, is a transfer student from Laurentian University and is pursuing her Master's Degree in Physical Education. "Stacey's work ethic, maturity and leadership has made her a real example and asset to the team", says coach Hornibrook.

Stacey was one of the Reds'

keys to success this season. The Reds finished the season as AUSA Champions and silver medalists at the CIAU Championships. Stacey scored some timely goals this season, including the winning goal against The University of Victoria at the CIAUs that qualified the team to be in the semi-finals.

Stacey has been honoured by both the AUSA, as an All-Star, and the CIAU, as a second team All-Canadian.

Bryan Pollman, of the Varsity Reds cross country team is this month's Male Athlete of the Month. Bryan is an exchange student from Hannover University in

his fourth year of engineering. Bryan had three first place finishes in the three AUSA competitions he entered in October. He was also named Diet Pepsi Player of the Game for all three events. Bryan placed first overall in the AUSA Championship race, helping the Reds place second in the AUSA conference.

Bryan fared very well as UNB's only representative at the CIAU championships, placing 11th overall amongst some extremely tough competition. Bryan finished with a season's best time of 32:03 minutes for the 10 K course, and was named 2nd team All-Canadian.

CLUB SPORTS

Ironmen celebrate season

by Bones Sports Staff

On Thursday the 18th the UNB Rugby Football Club held their end of year banquet. The Ironmen gathered to celebrate their season and honour several of their key members.

Coach Bob Cockburn opened the evening by commenting on the past season. Foremost on the mind was the huge success of the University team lead by captains Iain MacKintosh and John Couleles. They steam-rolled over their new opponents 155-129 on route to a 7-1 record. Their group achievement came when, playing Acadia for the Maritime University Championship, they marched away with a 27-0 victory and the championship.

Playing on the championship team were forwards Jeremy Donald, Eric Ednie, Kevin Kerstens, Troy Bryenton, Derek Jenkin, Andrew Lauchlan, Jeremy Battye, and captain Iain MacKintosh. In the backfield were Mike Reeves, Dylan Ashpole, Troy Stevens, Frank Dolan, Dean Plant, Craig Blair, and Tim Keddy.

Players who contributed throughout the season and enabled the team to reach the championship match are Scott Good, Brent Kay, John Croucher,

Kray Robichaud, Jay LaFrance, Mark Grotorex, Shawn Young, John Bujold, Jason Beggs, John Beggs, Jamie Flynn, Dave Murchison, Dave Clinton, Yuri Thomas, Chris MacDougall, Paul Jaros, Andy Van Wart, Yoshi Inoue, Jason Peacock, Paul Mysak, Eddy Park, Chris Ives, Hal Brothers, and Jeremy Small.

The team unity displayed during the championship exemplifies the Ironmen spirit. This camaraderie bodes well for the team and promises a fruitful season next year.

A new change in the league schedule will see the creation of a 'B' side University League next year. With this change many deserved players will have the opportunity to prove their worth as the club will put forth three teams. Great optimism surrounds the club as they look forward to the challenge of sweeping the University League.

Over the night several key awards were handed out. The first award for service was specifically created for its recipient Brent Key. Due to his hard work and dedication in organizing events and fundraising, the club is marching forward and is poised to dominate the Maritime League.

The award for Most Improved Player went to hooker John

Beggs. Always striving to increase his ability and skill, he has become a force to be reckoned with in the Maritime Rugby Union.

Best forward and Best Back went to Jeremy Battye and Dean Plant respectively. These two players were able to play offense and defence. Both were able to run with the ball and throw the devastating tackle. They promise to be staples of the future Ironmen teams.

The Ironmen of the Year was jointly won by David Murchison and Yoshi Inoue. Both Yoshi and Dave were hard playing rugby players willing to play whatever position required of them and aid in any and all aspects of the club. It was due in large part to these two that this year's 25th anniversary reunion was able to fly.

The most valuable player was won by captain Kevin Kerstens. His devotion and loyalty to the team throughout his 5 years at UNB combined with his tremendous playing ability has earned him the respect of both teammates and foes alike.

With these award winning athletes returning and the young players coming in to their own the team will put forth a serious challenge for next year's Caledonia Cup.