

Nats ink York stars

CHRIS B. DODD

When the Toronto Nationals of the new Canadian Professional Soccer League begin their training camp next month at York, two players at least, will feel right at home.

Glen McNamara and Paul Berkhuisen of the Yeomen soccer team have been drafted by the Nationals in the league's inaugural amateur draft held last week.

Retains eligibility

McNamara, a 23-year-old goalkeeper, is the first of two players to sign a contract with the club. McNamara has signed with the team as an amateur, which allows him to continue his inter-collegiate eligibility.

McNamara was a CIAU all-star after sitting out the 1981 season with a broken leg. Berkhuisen, an all-star midfielder, has yet to put ink on a contract with the Nats.

The National's public relations director Tony Hutch believes the two Yeomen will be given every opportunity to become original members of the team. "Both are excellent players," said Hutch. "I believe both players will figure into the team's plans for the coming season. Our goal is to develop Canadian players such as these and the recruitment of these players and others (from other schools) will be vital to our growth."

The new league has been developed specifically for this reason. It is an alternative to the North American League which has only three Canadian teams and a high proportion of foreign players.

Nats open in May

The nationals will hold their training camp at York in April and will begin its season May 9 at Varsity Stadium.

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Umpire strikes back with a laugh

ELISSA S. FREEMAN

"During my career on the field I got to know, and like, numerous men who managed big league ballclubs. It's an elite, exclusive fraternity, limited to a membership of 26 men at any one time. But as I learned, old managers never die; they just end up working for George Steinbrenner."

Ron Luciano
Former American League Umpire

As one of baseball's most candid, brash and flamboyant personalities, Ron Luciano emerges from behind home plate to call the game as he really saw it, in *The Umpire Strikes Back* (Bantam Books, \$3.50). In collaboration with veteran writer and former baseball commissioner's office employee, David Fisher, Luciano has compiled one of the most humorous and in-depth accounts of baseball ever written.

Luciano, who has an incredible sense of recall, unleashed a torrent of marvelously detailed anecdotes about his 11 year career as an American League umpire. So precise is his memory, he recreated the scenes of each of his stories as if it all happened yesterday. Luciano doesn't pull any punches as he recounts how umpires root for rain shortened games or how baseball teams based in Arizona spring training are more concerned with their sun-tanning than baseball playing.

Each chapter of the book deals

with every aspect of the game baseball from the umpire's point of view. The reader will be entertained with stories of Luciano's outlandish arguments with a variety of baseball's most volatile managers (especially Earl Weaver, the recently retired manager of the Baltimore Orioles) and chuckle at Luciano's own theories on what makes a good hitter, pitcher fielder--and umpire. For example, on the role of the catcher, Luciano says, "The first lesson I learned was to be nice to catchers, for my own safety. Like most umpires I tended to think of catchers as brick walls, but often smarter."

Outlandish arguments

The book also gives Luciano's own account of his short-lived pro-football career to his flamboyant field umpiring. As one of the only umpires that fans would pay to see,

Luciano would certainly give them their money's worth with his high-flying 'Wild West' style of 'mock-shooting' a player 'out' with his index finger while screaming OUTOUTOUT! Luciano also shoots straight from the lip as he readily admits to missing a number of close calls as well as guessing on balls and strikes. "An umpire can be wrong. Whenever I made a mistake and know it, I really tried to keep the manager and players in the game. I rarely apologized and only when my mistake was obvious did I admit I might be wrong. No umpire can admit all his mistakes and survive."

But Luciano does manage to survive it all. Even when Frank Robinson, while managing the Cleveland Indians, threatened to impose a \$200 fine if his players talked to Luciano or when Weaver literally stole second base, taking it back to the dugout with him, Luciano is able to maintain his sense of humour as he fondly recalls his umpiring career.

With baseball season right around the corner, this novel is an excellent way for the baseball fan to get back into the swing of things.

Just say **OH**



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