

CLUE SPORTS

Ironmen charge into final

Lose two on weekend but confident for provincials

by Bones
Sports Staff

On Saturday the UNB 2nd XV soundly defeated the UPEI Panthers 18-3. Unfortunately the first team fell in their semifinal match 18-0.

The Ironmen took immediate control of the game. Capturing their own kickoff the Ironmen drove the ensuing maul downfield.

Caught by their surprise at this devastating onslaught, the UPEI backfield was called offside. Troy Stevens converted the penalty for a 3-0 lead.

Refusing to yield their lead, the Ironmen began to pummel UPEI. Lead by captain Ian McCintosh the pack began to drive forward on almost every scrum. In the backfield, centres Troy Stevens and Brent Kay destroyed opposing backs with crushing tackles.

Maintaining control of the ball in the rucks and mauls aided by the kicking of flyhalf John Croucher, the Ironmen contained the Panthers to their half of the field.

Wilting under pressure, the Panthers were barely able to hold back the Ironmen charge. With ten minutes left in the half the pack secured possession on a lineout. The ball was spun out to Troy Stevens who after breaking yet another tackle, a feat which he and the other two centres Brent Kay and Scott Good seemed to do at will, swung the ball wide. Fullback Tim Keddy received the pass and tore down the sideline for the try.

Coming into the second half leading 8-0 the Ironmen set about adding to their tally.



John Croucher on the run last Sunday. Photo Kevin Porter

Again the Panthers' offence was shut down. UPEI's only points came from a converted penalty kicked from the 40 yard mark.

Midway through the second half whatever doubt of the Ironmen superior strength and skills that may have remained was dispersed. The pack mauled and rucked up the field for fifteen yards, blowing the Panthers off every ball. Scrumhalf Hal Brothers then passed to Scott Good who carried

two men with him as he drove in for the try.

The final try came at the end of the game. The ball was spun out wide to Jamie Flynn who dove into the endzone.

With this win the Ironmen were crowned winners of the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Division of the Maritime University League.

Tomorrow in Sackville at 2 PM they play the Acadia Axemen for the championship.

VIEW From The Cheap Seats

By Mark Savoie

A couple of years back all of sports was rocked by the announcement of Magic Johnson testing positive for HIV. The method by which Magic acquired this dreaded virus was immediately obvious; he even admitted it to be the case. This was, of course, his willingness to 'accommodate' as many of the almost countless women who wanted to have sex with him. Given the aura of invincibility which often afflicts the male of the species - particularly the young, athletic male - it is not surprising that much of this sex was of an unprotected nature.

Although he is the only athlete to come forward as testing positive for HIV contracted through sexual contact [Arthur Ashe died of AIDS contracted through a blood transfusion], Magic is by no means the only candidate among topflight athletes for the disease. Shortly after Magic's announcement, Wilt Chamberlain bragged in his autobiography of having had relations with over 1000 women. The Wade Boggs - Margo Adams affair was a surprise only so far as the depth of their relationship, not that they had a relationship. Even Steve 'Mr. Clean' Garvey had two paternity suits slapped upon him. These after he had an elementary school named in his honour.

These players are hardly unique in their sexual encounters off the playing field. Sex is almost as synonymous with sports as is the home run or the touchdown. The initial reason for this is that for some reason many women look to athletes as the answer to their sexual fantasies. I must hasten to point out that this is not true of all, or even most, women. [I have to say that or SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED might kick me out of the office.] Nevertheless, the truth of many women's attraction to athletes may be seen in the number of 'groupies' who habitually gather around the players' exit.

Groupies were perhaps best described in Jim Bouton's ground breaking book *Ball Four*, published in 1970. In this book he describes the easy access that members of his Seattle Pilots had to groupies in the various cities in which they played. One of the more amusing, and telling, anecdotes is of a player reminding his fellows to act horny upon greeting their wives after returning from a long roadtrip.

Another aspect of Bouton's book is the extreme willingness of the players to avail themselves to the proffered sex. It is easy to blame the players for doing so, even though a large measure of the responsibilities must reside in the groupies. Perhaps the blame/responsibility should be decided evenly. The groupies must face the consequences of their action of pursuing athletes, and the athletes must face the consequences of their irresponsibility in accepting these offers.

Accountability is sadly lacking in the athletes of today in their dealings with women. This is not too surprising, given the plethora of court cases brought forward in recent years by people not willing to be held accountable for their own stupidity. Baseball players who allow themselves to be pursued in this manner are behaving stupidly. Especially if they are not taking precautions. Aside from the dangers of AIDS and the venereal diseases, there is the danger of being sued in a paternity suit. Plus, with the media jackals that are out there these days, there is the huge negative publicity which will be encountered, doing damage to the player's family and career.

The problem is that professional athletes are commonly established as athletes in their puberty days. As a result many of their outlooks on life were developed during this time. If you think back to your attitudes to life and sex during your puberty days then I'm sure that you'll agree that these are dangerous attitudes to be held by grown men. Many athletes see themselves as indestructible, and are also used to being given allowances throughout their careers. They're given cars and scholarships, cushy jobs, and often a free ride through school. As a result when a woman throws herself at an athlete the athlete begins to accept this as his due. For some of them, Mike Tyson comes to mind, they begin to expect it as their due and view the offer of sex as being present even when in reality it is not.

What can be done about this? From the sport perspective, ... nothing, zilch, de nada. There is no amount of education which will inform athletes of the dangers they face or the necessity of responsible behaviour. What needs to be changed are the societal attitudes towards gender relations. Unfortunately, it is doubtful that our society will see the type of education required anytime in our lifetimes. It is possible - although the thought is disturbing - that even given our pretensions towards sentience and free will that no amount of education will suffice. Quite possibly the mammalian male reproductive strategy will continue to prevent alterations to the stereotypical 'men are pigs' behaviour patterns.

What does this all mean? The answer is "Not much, when all is said and done." So long as there are female groupies willing to provide their bodies for mutual gratification with male athletes, these athletes will continue to enjoy the proffered sex. As long as cultural standards and mores remain as they are in North America, we have little right to condemn them. Perhaps indeed we should step up efforts to hurl plaudits at those athletes who are able to resist the temptation.

All of this is however implying that there is something inherently wrong in what the athletes and groupies are doing. Although some may disagree for religious or other reasons, I cannot bring myself to agree with this line of thinking. The relations between two consenting adults do not strike me as being morally or ethically wrong. Magic Johnson's behaviour is not so much wrong as it is immature, and even that criticism may well be too harsh. However, his failure to properly protect himself and his partners was definitely irresponsible. Although given that he quite likely contracted HIV before it was commonly known to be a danger to heterosexuals, it may not have even been extraordinarily irresponsible. The bottom line becomes that neither you nor I, nor anyone else is properly qualified to judge Magic's or any other athlete's actions.

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