

Shoeless Joe not your average baseball book

By MARK ALBERSTAT

THE BOOK *SHOELESS JOE* is not, repeat not, your average baseball book, or for that matter in a more general way nor is it a normal sports book. Let's start at the source of the dastardly deed—the author, W.P. Kinsella.

Kinsella's home is in Calgary. True, that's not too strange, but when it is considered that he spends his summers travelling around the U.S. baseball capitals taking in games in a "beat up Datsun". I would classify this as a non-normal activity.

The book itself was called "curious, compelling, artful, and mysterious" by George Plimpton. Curious yes, compelling and artful you'd get an argument on. As for myself—I find it mysterious how it ever got printed.

The story line is about an Iowa farmer named Ray Kinsella (the same last name as the author, pretty clever, eh?). In my estimation Ray's elevator does not go to the top floor. In the first chapter (there are only five in the book) Ray hears a voice and from this voice's prompting he builds part of a baseball stadium in his



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cornfield. Completely normal right?

Ray built the baseball field (bleachers and lights included) to entice Shoeless Joe Jackson of the 1919 Chicago White Sox to Iowa to play on his field. Joe Jackson is remembered as one of the eight White Sox, afterwards known as Black Sox, charged and convicted for throwing the 1919 World Series. Jackson had twelve hits in eight games and played errorless ball, obviously he wasn't very good at throwing games. The book in part seems to be a one-man crusade to reinstate Shoeless Joe to his proper fame but the idea seems to fade from the author's mind after a hundred pages or so.

Jackson does eventually appear on the field (only as a ghost of course) and later so do the other seven Black Sox. Kinsella, the character not the author, then hears another voice telling him to go to J.D. Salinger (the author of *Catcher in the Rye*) and drags him to a ball game. Bizarre eh?

Kinsella, the character, and Salinger, the author, travel all over the eastern U.S. in a beat-up Datsun, what else, going to ball games and then—surprise, surprise—Salinger hears a voice and sees the vision about an extremely obscure ballplayer. They then try to track him down, going to Cooperstown, N.Y., and his home town.

After such histrionics as these the book is far from compelling and gets frustrating, to say the least. I will not ruin the ending for you, the author does that. But I will say that the book comes to no clear end and is wide open for a sequel.

Lord help us all if that should happen.

Volleyball Tigers still still on track

THE DALHOUSIE MEN'S volleyball team moved two steps closer to their fourth perfect season in the last six years over the weekend as they defeated the Memorial University Beothucks in a pair of AUAA matches in St. John's, Newfoundland.

The Tigers downed the Beothucks 15-3, 15-12, 15-7 on Saturday. The victories improved the Tigers' league leading record to 13-0.

Second place Memorial dropped to 6-7.

The Tigers, who have not lost a league match since Nov. 19, 1983, are attempting to win their sixth straight AUAA title under the direction of head coach Al Scott. Six consecutive titles would tie the league record set by Acadia between 1961 and 1967.

Against Memorial, the Tigers were led by Peter Hickman, with 14 kills, five blocks, and three ace serves, and Andy Kohl, with 21

kills and two blocks. Reid Umlah notched 14 kills and eight blocks, Chris Lohnes had 14 kills, and Jeff Bredin had 22 kills, two blocks and nine ace serves.

The Tigers have five league matches remaining this year. Their next encounter will be on Feb. 8-9 when they travel to UNB for an AUAA league tournament.

THE DALHOUSIE TIGERS women's volleyball team remained undefeated in AUAA play last weekend as they dumped UPEI in back-to-back contests played in Charlottetown.

The Tigers defeated the Panthers 15-10, 15-11, and 15-7 on Saturday and 15-6, 15-9, and 15-7 on Sunday.

The victories leave the Tigers in first place with a record of 9-0.

Leading the Tigers were Simona Vortel with 23 kills, Paula Clark with 8 kills and Donna Boutillier, with 19 kills, six blocks and three ace serves.

Athletes of the week

MEN: JEFF BREDIN, A 23 year old Physical Education student and member of the Tigers men's volleyball team, is Dalhousie's male Athlete of the Week.

Bredin, a transfer student from Laurentian in his second year with the Tigers, set a new team record of six ace serves in one game against Memorial last weekend. Bredin uses the spike-serve technique.

This is Bredin's second consecutive selection as Dal's male Athlete of the Week.

WOMEN: LISA BRIGGS, A 20 year old forward on the Tigers women's basketball team, is Dalhousie's female Athlete of the Week for the week of Jan. 21-27.

Briggs, a Bachelor of Physical Education student, played superbly in leading the Tigers to three victories last week. The

third year co-captain counted for 26, 17 and 12 points in games 26, 17 and 12 points respectively in a game against Acadia and two against Memorial



Saturday Afternoon
F-Tones
Jan. 31, Feb. 1 & 2
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Ginger's

Where friends join for local entertainment and good times
Hollis at Morris Street 1268 Hollis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia

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LT. COL. AMOS GILBOA

REPRESENTATIVE OF UNIVERSITIES IN ISRAEL

11:00 am - 1:00

INFO TABLE

Dal SUB Lobby

8:00 pm

ISRAEL'S FUTURE IN LEBANON

Talk followed by Question Period

Dal SUB - GREEN ROOM



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ATLANTIC PROVINCES JEWISH STUDENT FEDERATION

in conjunction with NETWORK CANADA



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★ 78th Highlanders



Candidates are required to portray soldiers of the Royal Artillery and the 78th Highlanders in the garrison at the Citadel in 1869. Successful applicants will participate in various historical demonstrations including foot and arms drill, artillery gun drills, sentry and signalling. There are prospects for employment and promotion in successive summers.

Application forms and information brochures are available at your Canada Employment Centre on campus. All applicants must register at one of these centres. Deadline for applications is **FEBRUARY 1, 1985**.

For additional information contact your Canada Summer Employment Centre on campus or phone the Halifax Citadel at 426-8485.