

VIEW FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

by Mark Savoie

A few years ago I had the pleasure of covering the Fredericton Express for *The Brunswickan*. During this season an award of some type was given to the player who had accumulated the most "three-star" points. There were three points for being selected first star, two for second star, and one for third star. The "three-star" selections were made by the media, although I (as low man on the totem pole) never had the honour.

Come the last game of the season Alain Lemieux (brother of Mario) lead Tony Currie by two points. The only way he could lose would be if Tony Currie was selected first star and he was not selected at all. A few clarifications are necessary. Tony Currie was a very personable man with family in Oromocto. He had a great deal of class and was easily the most popular player on the team. Alain Lemieux was not happy with the idea of being in the AHL and he let people know it. He was moody, prone to sulking, and had a tendency to loaf through the occasional game. Worst of all, he refused to talk to the media.

Why am I telling you this? It's because despite my current position as co-sports editor and my decidedly unbrilliant history as a reporter I am disturbed by sports media's megalomaniac attitude towards the field of sports. Reporters are often entrusted with the responsibility of voting for various award recipients. However, all too often the reporters cast their vote based on a personal, rather than professional, basis.

Ted Williams was jobbed of the 1956 AL MVP because of a single Boston reporter who didn't include Williams on his ten man ballot. It is true that Ted Williams public persona at that time was not that of a particularly pleasant individual, but nowhere in his job description does it say that he had to be. His job was to play baseball, and he did that job better than any man since Babe Ruth. Whether or not he was a nice person while doing that job was irrelevant.

Another problem with sports media is their negativism. This is particularly true in Fredericton. It takes more talent to write a positive opinion than a negative one (note that this is a negative opinion) and thus many sports reporters seem to be just looking for targets.

A particularly easy target this year was the Toronto Blue Jays. Last year it was Ben Johnson. All year long the Blue Jays were hammered by the press: Jimmy Williams, George Bell, Jesse Barfield, Lloyd Moseby, and others were dumped on time and again. Of course once the Jays started winning all was forgiven. Forgiven, but not forgotten. After the Athletics beat the Blue Jays in the ALCS the Blue Jays were once again under fire. Even Cito Gaston took some heat. The biggest complaint was that the Blue Jays were overpaid babies whining and complaining rather than realizing that they didn't belong on the same field as the Athletics.

As for that, remember that the Jays made a better showing than the Giants, so maybe they're not as horrible as the media would have us believe. One final question: How come it was alright for the St. Louis Cardinals to complain about Jeffery Leonard's hotdogging while when the Toronto Blue Jays did the same about Rickey Henderson and Dave Parker's hotdogging they were cry babies? Historically the A's were more out of line by hotdogging than the Jays were for complaining.

To close, at no point do I advocate the Fergie Oliver of journalism. We as the media do have a duty not to be blind and to report on the real stories out there. But I am a fan, and I write for other fans. So, given a choice, I will write positive stories and let management deal with personnel changes. I find it scary that there are reporters who take pride and pleasure in running a manager/player/coach out of town. I truly hope that I never become that jaded, or that bad, a reporter.



MOOSEHEAD

CIAU RANKINGS

FOOTBALL :

1. SAINT MARY'S* (1)
2. WESTERN ONTARIO (3)
3. SASKATCHEWAN (2)
4. QUEENS (4)
5. OTTAWA (5)
6. TORONTO (10)
7. ACADIA (9)
8. BRITISH COLUMBIA (NR)
9. ALBERTA (10)
10. CALGARY (6)

FIELD HOCKEY (F)

1. VICTORIA
2. TORONTO
3. BRITISH COLUMBIA
4. YORK
5. NEW BRUNSWICK*
6. CALGARY
7. SAINT MARY'S*
8. ALBERTA
9. GUELPH
10. MANITOBA

SOCCER (M)

1. BRITISH COLUMBIA (1)
2. SAINT MARY'S (2)
3. MCGILL (3)
4. LAURENTIAN (4)
5. TORONTO (6)
6. WESTERN ONTARIO (7)
7. VICTORIA (5)
8. NEW BRUNSWICK (8)
9. SHERBROOKE (9)
10. WINDSOR (NR)

Friday

Basketball (W)
UNB at U of T Tourney

Field Hockey
UNB at CIAU's at U of T

Swimming
UNB at Dal

Volleyball (M)
UNB Invitational
7:00 pm Main Gym

Saturday

Basketball (W)
UNB at U of T Tourney

Cross Country
UNB at CIAU's at UBC

Field Hockey
UNB at CIAU's at U of T

Hockey
UCCB at UNB
2:00 pm LBR

Soccer
AUAA's at UNB
12:00 pm Chapman Field

SOCCER (W)

1. ACADIA* (1)
2. MCMASTER (4)
3. TORONTO (3)
4. ALBERTA (2)
5. MEMORIAL* (7)
6. YORK (5)
7. BRITISH COLUMBIA (6)
8. MCGILL (8)
9. MAURIER (9)
10. CONCORDIA (10)

CROSS COUNTRY (M)

1. MANITOBA (1)
2. QUEENS (2)
3. BRITISH COLUMBIA (3)
4. WESTERN ONTARIO (3)
5. TORONTO (4)
6. WINDSOR (8)
7. WATERLOO (7)
8. VICTORIA (9)
9. MCMASTER (6)
10. LAVAL (NR)

CROSS COUNTRY (W)

1. WESTERN ONTARIO (1)
2. TORONTO (2)
3. VICTORIA (7)
4. DALHOUSIE* (3)
5. WATERLOO (4)
6. MCMASTER (5)
7. BRITISH COLUMBIA (6)
8. MANITOBA (NR)
9. QUEENS (9)
10. MCGILL (NR)

SWIMMING (M)

1. CALGARY (1)
2. TORONTO (2)
3. ALBERTA (3)
4. LAVAL (4)
5. MCMASTER (5)
6. MANITOBA (6)
7. VICTORIA (7)
8. MCGILL (8)
9. BRITISH COLUMBIA (9)
10. WESTERN ONTARIO (10)

SWIMMING (W)

1. TORONTO (1)
2. ALBERTA (2)
3. MCGILL (3)
4. MONTREAL (4)
5. CALGARY (5)
6. LAVAL (6)
7. BRITISH COLUMBIA (7)
8. MANITOBA (8)
9. MCMASTER (9)
10. BROCK (10)

* denotes AUAA school

Ironmen

by Thee Iron Ghost

Well all good things must come to an end, and with this we bid farewell to the Ironmen "A" team for this season, but the powerful "B" squad has playoffs yet to come!

The 2nd XV grabbed the playoff position on Saturday by defeating the Fredericton Loyalists 25-18. It was a strong test of the UNB team but the challenge was met head on.

Allowing the Loyalists several early points UNB steadily recaptured the lead they never had. While the forwards eventually wore down their counterparts, the backs put on a masterful show of tackling, passing and running. The new Ironmen fullback played a decent enough game to earn this small bit of praise - yeah Mike.

The 2nds travel to Saint John tomorrow to take on the Trojan "B" side in a semi-final matchup. Wish them well.

For the 1st XV the weekend was not quite so successful. A horrible loss to Moncton on Saturday knocked UNB out of the playoff scene while an equally

CONSOLATION VICTORY

by Mark Savoie

Last weekend the UNB Red Bloomers traveled to Quebec City for the Laval Tourney. They played three games, first a tough 50-48 loss to U of T, and then handling Windsor 51-44 and Brock 65-54 to win the consolation final.

As has been the norm over the past few years, Pauline Lordon led the offensive effort of the Bloomers, with 45 points on the weekend. Jennifer Hale managed 33 points while Kara Palmer hit for 26 points of her own.

The Bloomers had the edge on the boards for all three games, with first year player Stacey Robertson proving herself to be a strong rebounder, grabbing a total of 18 over the three games. Also strong on the boards were Tracy Ross and Kara Palmer, continuing last year's efforts.

The U of T game saw the two teams tied at 24 at half-time. The second half remained close as well, with Toronto managing one

extra basket for the win, delegating the Bloomers to the consolation tourney.

In their first match of the consolation tourney the Bloomers were matched against the University of Windsor. Half-time against resulted in the tie score of 24 apiece, but this time the Bloomers were able to win the second half, earning the right to face Brock University in the consolation final. Here the Bloomers played an excellent first half and went into the second half with a 39-19 lead. They held onto this lead and emerged as consolation victors with a 65-54 win.

The Bloomers had only eight players available to them last weekend. Liane Force has decided to leave the team, leaving the roster at nine. On top of that, Jill Jackson still has commitments to the Red Sticks. After the Field Hockey CIAU's this weekend, Jackson will become more available to the basketball team.

This weekend, the Bloomers

travel to Toronto for the U of T Tourney. Play began yesterday and will conclude tomorrow as the Red Bloomers continue to prepare for this year's women's basketball season.



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