

Overtime Headhunters alive and well in Baseball

By MARK ALBERSTAT

The count is three and two with a man on second and two outs, the batter crouches over the plate, the pitcher looks in for the sign. The pitcher winds up and throws, the ball's travelling between 70-80 miles an hour over 60 feet 6 inches and SMACK, not into the catcher's glove but into the arm of the batter, or even worse, TING—the ball hits the batter's metal helmet.

The incident described above has happened, is happening and will happen; it is the dreaded beanball or in the least brushback pitch. Its purpose is simple (as is often the pitcher that throws it)—they are thrown to intimidate batters and keep them off the plate so the pitcher has a better target.

In a recent game in Atlanta against the Padres from San Diego, such an incident took place and a bench-clearing brawl broke out. After it was all sorted out Padres manager Dick Williams was fined \$10,000 and handed a ten-day suspension. It should also be noted that in this brawl five spectators joined in and were later arrested.

Of course, it can't be proven that Williams gave the go-ahead to throw the pitch though most pitchers won't throw them intentionally without the manager's consent.

The most serious injury this year from a pitched ball was suffered by Houston shortstop Dickie Thon. He was hit near the left eye by Mike Torrez of the Mets on April 8th. Facial bones were fractured and Thon's vision is still blurred. He will definitely not be back this year and his ever coming back is now the question. The pitch was obviously an accident but it now plays on the minds of batters and pitchers alike.

Batters who crowd the plate are obviously more at jeopardy than those who don't, so why would Baltimore's Cal Ripken Jr. get hit when he is known to scratch out the white lines of the batter's box so he can stand back a little further? The answer is simply he is a good hitter and the pitchers want to shake him up.

The fines to pitchers that hit batters are usually, believe it or not, around the \$50.00 range and to a player making \$400,000 a year, \$50 is nothing.

In a recent CP interview, Bluejays manager Bobby Cox commented after a Yankee pitcher threw close to Willie Upshaw's head and the preceding brawl, "Throwing at a man's vital organs is a no-no."

With harsh statements like this and whopping 50 dollar fines the beanball will be around for a long time. So any of you considering professional baseball careers get a metal plate put in your head now and avoid the October rush. Either that or a lobotomy. □

Athletes of the week

Men: Sean Sweeney, a second year political science student and member of the Tiger Men's Soccer Team is Dalhousie's first male Athlete of the Week for 1984-85. Sweeney scored once and played well in two games as the Tigers opened their AUAA regular season last weekend in New Brunswick. The Tigers recorded 1-1 ties against New Brunswick and Moncton. A native of Washington, D.C., the soon to be 22-year-old Sweeney attended Vancouver Community College last year.

Women: Sharon Andrews, a fifth year veteran with the Tigers Women's Field Hockey Team is Dalhousie's first female Athlete of the Week for 1984-85. A recreation student, Andrews scored two goals in two games last weekend to lead the Tigers to a pair of 2-0 victories over Memorial University. According to Tiger coach Nancy Tokaryk, Andrews played two strong games both offensively and defensively. A native of Halifax, Andrews was last year's Tiger MVP as well as an AUAA and CIAU All-Star. □

Soccer Tigers record two ties

The Dalhousie Tigers men's soccer team collected two points this weekend in contests against Moncton and the University of New Brunswick. Both games ended in 1-1 ties.

Saturday's game saw first year Tiger player Sean Sweeney score the tying goal in the first half after the Blue Eagles went ahead on a goal by Arthur Bilete. Sweeney, a freshman in Political Science, is native of Washington, D.C.

Dalhousie had two goals which were called back on offsides in Saturday's match.

On Sunday, the Tigers went up 1-0 in the second half on a penalty kick by first year player Roger

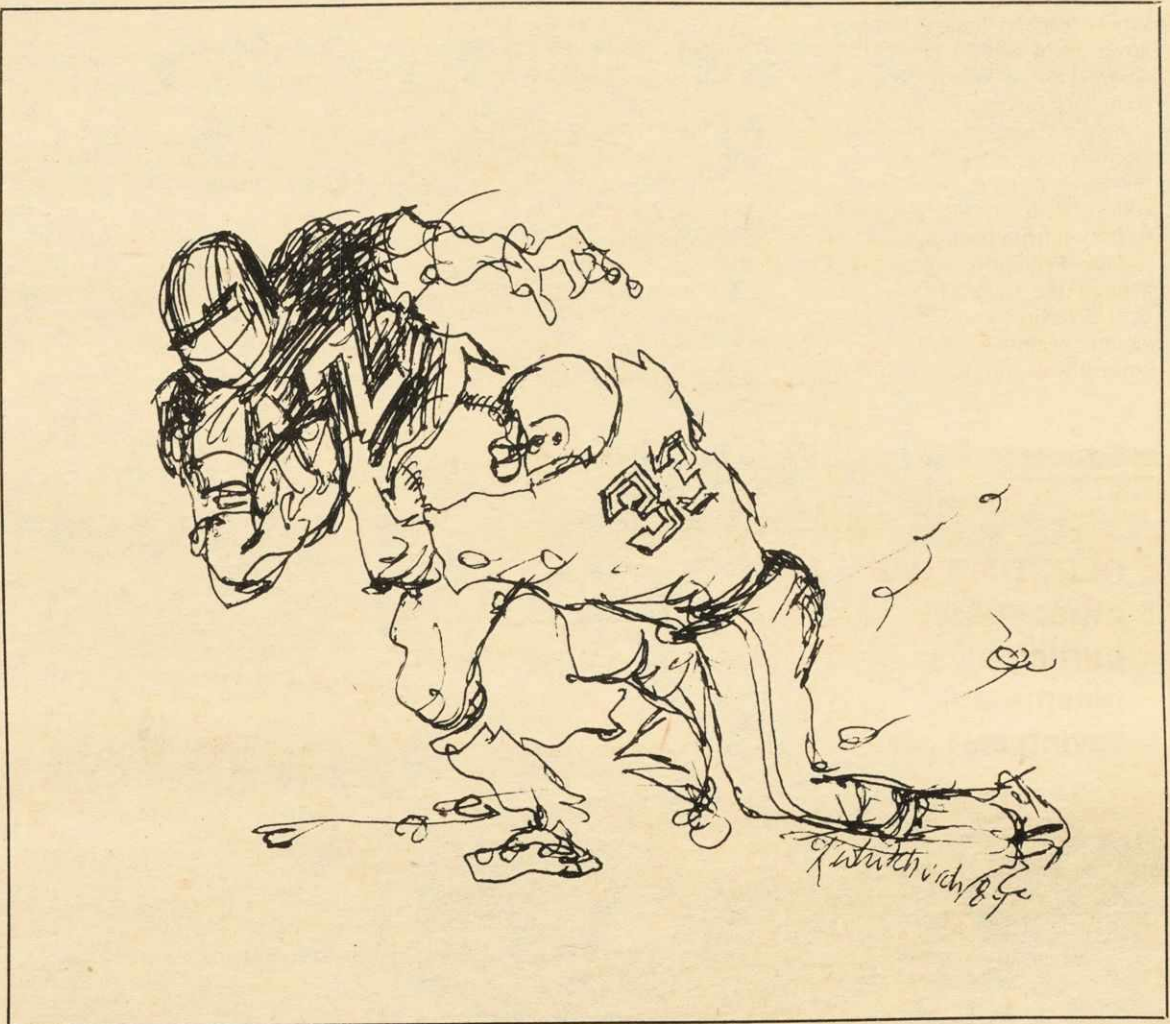
McIntyre.

New Brunswick came back and tied the games with 12 minutes left on a goal by Pat Sweeney.

New Tiger coach Eric McIntyre said that the team had met its objective for the weekend in collecting the two points, adding that seven of the 11 players on the field were rookies.

Dalhousie finished second in the Eastern Division of the AUAA last year, with Moncton coming third in the West and UNB second in the West.

The Tigers' next game is on Wednesday, Sept. 19th at 4:00 p.m. on Studley Field when they host the St. Mary's Huskies. □



Big Four aim to renew football rivalry

WATERLOO (CUP)—Four of Canada's oldest universities want to score financial points by reviving traditional football rivalries.

McGill, Queen's, Western and the University of Toronto want to re-establish the Big Four football conference which existed until the mid-1960's and often outdrew Canadian Football League games in attendance.

McGill's athletic director Robert Dubeau says the idea suits the four schools because they have similar philosophies on college athletics and like-sized varsity programmes. Each has at least 32 teams.

The change would allow players to spend more time on academic pursuits instead of athletics, he says. The season would be shorter and travel lighter, he added, saying travel costs would also decline. But Dubeau downplayed potential financial gains from the new league.

G.W. Chapman, U of T athletic director, says he wants problems such as low budgeting and poor scheduling addressed by the Ontario University Athletics Association, but his school is "flexible" on the issue.

Keith Harris, Carleton University's athletic director, reacted angrily to the plans because a new league would force a realignment of divisional and playoff structures and place a further burden on smaller schools.

"Whatever platitudes they care to wrap it in, it's pretty selfish," stated Harris. "We're all interdependent."

Rich Newbrough, director of athletics at Wilfrid Laurier Univer-

sity, also feels the large schools are already getting more than they are giving. "We can still salvage this but not without bending on both sides," he said.

Many believe the four universities don't intend to set up a new league for all sports, but are using the threat as a bargaining tool to organize the lucrative football league.

McGill's Dubeau remembers the prestige surrounding the conference in its glory days. "These schools have competed against each other for over 100 years. We have seen crowds for football drop from an average of 15-16,000 per game (in the late 50's) to two or three or four thousand."

Carleton football coach Ace Powell says Queen's is also banking on a renewed rivalry.

"They draw well cause they're the only game in town and they figure they'd get big crowds if teams like Toronto came in."

The league hopes a compromise can be reached, but not all schools will agree on the conditions.

"We would hate to see the schools leave the conferences," says OUAA committee chair Wally Delahey. But the league can do nothing to prevent the move.

Numerous compromise proposals are being discussed by the 16 members and a decision is pending.

Field Hockey Tigers shut out Memorial

The Dalhousie Tigers women's field hockey team began the AUAA regular season on a winning note, defeating the Memorial University Beothucks 2-0 and 2-0, in contests played this weekend in St. John's.



Fifth year veteran Sharon Andrews and third year Tiger Gail Broderick provided the scoring in both games, with Broderick opening the scoring in the first half of each match.

Fourth year Tiger and reserve

goalkeeper on Canada's Olympic Team, Claudette Levy, recorded the shutouts.

Tiger coach Nancy Tokaryk said that she was very pleased with the outcome of the weekend, and that it was an excellent way to begin the season.

Last year, Dalhousie finished on top in the Eastern Division of the AUAA with a record of 10-2.

Memorial placed third with a record of 8-4.

The Tigers' next game will be their home opener against St. Mary's on Studley Field this Saturday at 2:00 p.m. □