

Capitolizing on Sports

Sports Scoop An Inside Look

By Darrell Reider And Kevin Spiegel



Now that all the vacationing of the Memorial Day weekend is over, it's time to concentrate on sports. Summer is just around the corner, and the number of sports in action is finally dwindling down to a respectable amount.

The NHL season has finally ended, after more than a month of post-season play. Hockey is the one sport where, of the 21 teams in the league, 16 get a spot in the preliminary playoff round. Why is this done? We sure wish we knew. Money is probably the main factor, because more and more clubs sell out home games against the better teams, which, according to the NHL, means 16 teams.

The inevitable finish to the season happened last Thursday, when the New York Islanders outplayed the Minnesota North Stars 5-1 to grab the coveted Stanley Cup in five games. That's all well and good, but usually when a team is victorious it's time to look toward next year. Here's where the problem lies in the Isles' organization. Several players are entering the option year of their contracts, and it's time to prove to the management how much they're worth. The two most important players involved in this are defenseman Denis Potvin and the leading scorer of this past season, Mike Bossy. Potvin, perhaps the best defensive player in the NHL, has demanded to be the highest paid player in the league. Where has this been heard before? Dave Parker, Dave Winfield, O.J. Simpson, Earl Campbell, Magic Johnson, and (almost) Ralph Sampson all have earned enough money to lead their respective sport in salaries. For Potvin, this means a long-term contract in excess of—are you ready?—\$800,000 annually, almost as much as the editors of this paper make. If money reveals the quality of the player, then where does Mike Bossy fit in? It wouldn't be surprising to see a few of the champion Islanders move on to clubs that have plenty of money to spend, like the New York Rangers, Buffalo Sabres, and Los Angeles Kings. Too bad George Steinbrenner doesn't own an NHL team. He would be offering rebate checks on his ships to pay for all the salaries!

In baseball, there's a new epidemic going around. It's called manager-itis, and it has already claimed the jobs of two skippers and is looking for more. After Maury Wills got his pink slip for lengthening the batter's box, Calvin Griffith, the stingy "Scrooge" owner of the Minnesota Twins, dismissed John Goryl. At the time, the Twins boasted an 11-25 record. We're taking bets on the next manager to join the unemployment line. Kansas City skipper Jim Frey is 10-1 and New York Mets Manager Joe Torre is 15-1, but the favorite has to be Chicago Cubs skipper Joey Amalfitano at 4-1. And let's not forget the Yankees' Gene Michael at 50-1, since Steinbrenner has had more managers than Bill Neil had votes in the SGA election.

Is there a draft going on somewhere? It seems that more and more pro football players are heading north to Canada, where they play the sport quite differently. New players in the CFL include

former Los Angeles quarterback Vince Ferragamo and former Houston wide receiver Billy "White Shoes" Johnson. There was also some speculation that Georgia's running back sensation Herschel Walker would join the other league, but those rumors were squelched when he decided to try to qualify for track and field events in the 1984 Summer Olympic Games. Now that these athletes have gone north, NFL fans will forget their names and accomplishments, and some people will even consider them traitors for departing to Canada.

Let's turn our attention to Capitol Campus sports, where there is no draft dodging, only intramural softball championships developing. The final four teams are the Sultans of Swing and E Street from the West/East, and the No Names and Nightriders from the other division. First round action started yesterday in the double elimination tournament.

Unlike Route 283 or any other Pennsylvania highway, where the speed limit is restricted to 55 mph, top speeds of well over three times that were recorded at the Indianapolis 500 this year. Marred by a breathtaking crash by Danny Ongais, the 65th annual event ended with some protests. It seems that Bobby Unser accelerated past a half dozen or so cars during an exit from pit row while under the yellow flag. The rules governing auto racing at Indianapolis—which, incidentally, have been under fire for years—require cars to blend in with the pack when entering the track under the caution flag. When the unofficial winner was announced, for the first time in Indy history the first car to cross the finish line wasn't declared the official winner because of the violation. Instead, Nazareth, Pa. resident Mario Andretti won the prestigious race for the first time since 1969. Both drivers are protesting and appealing the decision. Whoever says auto racing is boring should have his head examined.

As we head into the middle of the Major League baseball season, the threat of a strike once again looms over the baseball world. Marvin Miller and Company are trying to negotiate with the baseball owners over compensation for free agents. For example, when Dave Winfield was signed by the New York Yankees, the Yanks gave San Diego some players in exchange for Winfield. As of now, teams aren't required to give up any players, but the Yanks, being nice guys, were willing to part with some. Let's face the facts: when Winfield was signed by New York, the Padres lost any hope they had of becoming a competitive team. It's a shame that ballplayers (free agents) are always looking toward the same teams. Why don't they ever sign with the Chicago Cubs or the Seattle Mariners? It's always the Yankees who are doing the signing. Just recently, when Yankee catcher Rick Cerone was injured, owner George Steinbrenner went out and bought a catcher. It's that easy. Last week, Steinbrenner made yet another move to strengthen his powerhouse by

trading Jim Spencer to Oakland for Dave Revere plus four bats and a glove. What it must all come down to is whatever George wants, George gets!

Big things have been happening lately in the sports world. There was another no-hitter in baseball, and it was a perfect game. Len Barker of the Cleveland Indians faced 27 batters and retired them all. But did you know who the pitcher is who starts the NBC Game Of The Week by throwing a ball onto the backstop? Let's set the stage: Bases loaded, tie score, full count, the winning run on third. The wind-up, and the pitch... and it sails over the catcher, batter, and umpire, and onto the backstop. The pitcher who had that misfortune was Len Barker, then hurling for the Texas Rangers. Congratulations to Barker and to his #1 fan in W309.

Continuing with the baseball scene, guess who didn't win a game last week? Fernando Valenzuela. Yes, the Phils beat him 4-0, and this past weekend the Reds held the screwballer intact until he was removed in the late innings. The result was a no-decision. By looking at the records of Valenzuela and Steve Carlton, one might think that they're dominating the league. Wrong! Burt Hooton (7-0) is quietly pitching the best ball of his knuckle-curve career. The Los Angeles Dodgers are the best team (record-wise) in baseball at the present time. Their pitching staff is led by starters Hooton, Valenzuela (8-1), and Jerry Reuss (7-1), while Bobby Castillo (5 saves) leads the relievers. As for hitting, names like Garvey, Cey, Baker, Lopes, and newcomer Ken Landreaux lead an awesome attack. It could be the year for a West Coast World Series.

As of this writing, the four division leaders are Baltimore, Oakland, Los Angeles, and St. Louis. Perhaps the biggest surprises have been the Redbirds of St. Louis. Hitting has never been a problem for the Cards, but pitching has always been their downfall. There is one good place to start when in need of pitching: buy Bruce Sutter. The ace reliever has already pitched in a lot of games, and he'll most likely end up saving about 25-30. His strength is his split-fingered fastball. Don't ask us how he grips it. All we know is that it drops off a table, a la Steve Carlton. The Cards' offense is led by All-Star first baseman Keith Hernandez. What else can be said about this guy? Nothing, right? Good, next topic. In the power department, George Hendrick leads in round trippers. So, if the Redbirds can get some seven-inning pitching from Silvio Martinez, Lary Sorenson, Bob Forsch, and Bob Shirley, Sutter will nail the door shut. Watch out Phils. The Cards are for real!

Closer to home, intramural bowling was a big disaster for the Strat-A-Matics

last week. We dropped four to the L.O.E.'s, because Donna Wilson and Company bowled 50 pins over their average. Thanks. Our record is really bad. In fact, it's so bad that you'll have to guess what it is.

It's official, folks. Papa Joe Bosik (Oops, Bozik!) has relinquished his reign as president of WSDC. We have yet to be informed as to the new officers, but we pass on our congratulations to them. We're sure that the new president will live up to the immortal Bozik. Or, can anyone follow in Joe's sneakers? On the subject of Joe Bozik, we would like to pass along more congratulations to Joe's better half, Joan. Good luck, Joan, as you head into the real world. We will sure miss seeing you every time we come down to attack Joe. On the subject of good-byes, good lucks, etc., Rosanne Rosenberger is finally leaving Capitol Campus, and no matter what anyone thinks, she is very nice and tall. And we love tall women. Good luck, Rosanne, and we'll miss you. By the way, did any of you girl watchers out there see Rosanne in her semi-formal outfit? If not, I'm sure she wouldn't mind getting into it again. It looked beautiful!

Sporting life just wouldn't be the same without a Harry Moyer update. Harry is much healthier this week, because he spent the weekend at the shore with three lovelies. No, it's not what you think. He was invited down to "get away from it all" for the Memorial Day weekend. We're glad, too! Harry, tell us some stories about spending the weekend with lovely ladies. We dare you. Try lying to us!

Commentary: If there was ever a time to speak out against something, it's right now. We are totally for equal rights, and we pose this question to PBL: How come you didn't have a male legs contest and a female legs contest. ERA all the way! ERA here to stay! Get with it!

Finally, we would like to acknowledge some seniors who will be shoving off in a few weeks. They include Mike Shuchart, John Harvey, Marty Lindenberg, Ethan Kern, Fleet Becker, Jack Wilson and the family, Ray Spellbaum, Kevin Keffer, Eric and the future Mrs. Roth, Kathy, Maryellen Ginther, and Jill McCormick. There are many more, but these people paid the most. Good luck to all of you as you leave the booming metropolis of Middletown.

One final note, and it's a quote from Joan Wike, the former secretary of WSDC: "I really think the Sports Department of the C.C. Reader needs a good secretary like me. Joe never paid me enough." Joan, you're right!

Until next time, remember: When the situation calls for a fastball, call time instead. Then punt!



Middletown Lanes

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WEDNESDAY - Campus League Nite

Ball drilling services, Bags,

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