

Sporting View

The Reds and flightless waterfowl

by John Musser
The Collegian

Here are some of my sporty thoughts as I try to recover from Cincinnati's sweep of Oakland in the World Series.

- Speaking of the Series, did anyone think that the Reds would win in four games? While I believed that Cincy would win the Series (see last week's column), I thought that it would take a few more games, like six.

- I think Reds Owner Marge Schott should send Pittsburgh Pirates General Manager Larry Doughty a share of her World Series money.

Doughty, who used to be a scout for Cincy, is responsible for most of the players on the team being there. Plus, as the Pirates GM, he accepted only two minor league players (quick, name them) in the Billy Hatcher trade. And Hatcher was nearly unstoppable at the plate against Oakland.

- For somebody who makes big bucks, Jose Canseco sure does quite a disappearing act when the postseason comes around. His batting average in the last three Fall Classics is barely over the Mendosa line (that's .200). When A's Manager Tony LaRussa benched the right fielder for game four, the move caused some controversy. But as everyone knows, when you don't hit, you sit.

Unfortunately the flightless waterfowl still aren't playing defense, which is necessary if Pittsburgh ever wants to be more than a playoff contender. In the NHL, where 16 of 21 teams make the postseason, anybody can be a playoff contender.

- Penn State's Shelly Hammonds didn't have any time to sit in Saturday's game with Boston College.

Hammonds got a chance to play in the backfield when the Lions top three tailbacks went down with injuries. The sophomore had practiced for only a couple of weeks at the position after spending most of the season as a reserve defensive back. So the new guy probably struggled, right?

Oh yeah, he struggled. Hammonds barely managed to get over 200 yards (actually 208 yards on 24 carries), only scored two touchdowns, and merely broke D.J. Dozier's freshman single-game rushing record, set in 1983.

After the game, Hammonds still professed that he preferred being the "hitter" rather than being the "hittee." I guess being successful just isn't enough for some people. I suppose you've got to do what you love to do, especially if you're the one that gets to hit other people.

- You ever wonder why if we can make Erie Hall so nice and beautiful we can't get a decent softball field on campus?

The women's softball team, which has been 37-20 the past two years (that's a winning percentage in the neighborhood of 65 percent), can't play home games on campus because the softball field is so terrible.

Even if they hadn't been as successful, don't they at least deserve as good a practice facility as the other varsity squads have?

- While I'm at it, did you ever wonder why colleges the same size as Behrend have auxiliary gyms bigger than Erie Hall?

- Isn't it amazing that New Jersey Nets forward Chris Dudley has a contract paying him one million dollars a year? While the Dudster is a fine rebounder and hustles as though his life depends upon the game's outcome, he is perhaps the worst free throw shooter (.319 free throw percentage last season) I have ever seen.

I guess the Nets management is going to use this fact as some kind of marketing tool.

- So far, it doesn't look as though the Pittsburgh Penguins have learned much under new Coach Bob Johnson.

Despite the loss of scoring machine Mario Lemieux because of his continued back problems, the Pens still have plenty of offensive punch with John Cullen, Kevin Stevens, and perennial All-Star Paul Coffey. So much punch that Pittsburgh is averaging six goals per game.

Unfortunately the flightless waterfowl still aren't playing defense (they've scored 36 and given up 38), which is necessary if Pittsburgh ever wants to be more than a playoff contender. In the NHL, where 16 of 21 teams make the postseason, anybody can be a playoff contender.

Flag football, soccer intramurals postponed Seasons should resume in a couple of weeks

The intramural flag football and soccer seasons have been postponed, according to Athletic Director Herb Lauffer.

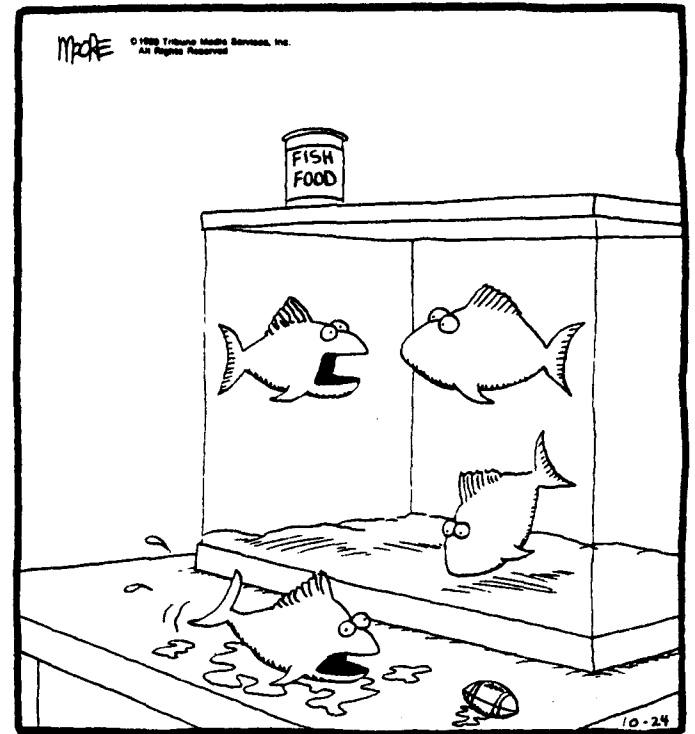
Lisa Butch, Behrend's intramural supervisor, has been diagnosed as having mononucleosis and will be unable to run the program for several weeks.

According to Lauffer, the athletic department had no alternative but to suspend the intramural flag football and soccer seasons. He also indicated that by end of this week, the athletic department will release a date when the seasons will resume.

Lauffer hopes that the students participating in the two sports will be understanding and return in a couple of weeks to finish their respective seasons.

IN THE BLEACHERS

by Steve Moore



"It's a complete pass, Bozo. He had possession of the ball before he flipped out of the tank."



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