Paints Scenes With Spray Gun — Fred Lawrence of Barrie is pictured with one of his works of art, done entirely with the power spray gun he is holding. He has done scores of murals for business places in Ontario. The type of paint Lawrence uses dries almost instantly.

Sports – And One Thing or Another

By FRANK MANN HARRIS

("A Sixbit Critic")

Just who was the original inventor of the "mass interference" play in hockey is a matter of controversy. But whoever it was, there might come a time when he bitterly regrets having done so. For with more and more of our pro. teams adopting this play in tight spots, we fully expect to see a real Battle Royal break out some evening, ending up with a few fractured skulls or even worse.

* * *

When playoff time rolls around, and winning or losing a game really means something—possibly a difference of a thousand dollars or so per man—tempers are liable to run considerably hotter than during a regular season. Nor do we know of anything more liable to make a player "see red" than having a game, which looked to be safely tucked away in the bag, tied up and perhaps eventually lost by means of such tactics.

* * *

The idea of the play, of course, is basically simple. You have a faceoff in enemy territory, bench your goaltender, and play six men up. Five of these aren't supposed to pay any attention to the puck, but each to mark an opponent and—as soon as the face-off is made — to take him out of the play, just like running interference ahead of the ball-carrier in American football. Your sixth man then—if everything goes well—has the defending goalie more or less at his mercy.

* * *

From the comparative safety of a seat up among the spectators, it's a rather interesting play to watch, and productive of considerable excitement. And perhaps this is all that really counts, from a Promoter's standpoint. Personally, we have just two objections to it. For Number One, it isn't Hockey. And for Number Two, it's likely eventually to produce fatalities. Some enraged defender will cut loose with a swing which will really connect. And if some of those same promoters will recall days when they went about in fear and trembling lest "Ace" Bailey shouldn't recover — and what that might mean to their game! — we think they'll probably do away with such tactics before it's too late.

* * *

Still, lest you might imagine we look with distaste on everything modern, just because it is new, we might break down and admit that back in the old days things happened in Hockey which weren't strictly "according to The Book", and which you don't hear about nowadays. Recent power blackouts many places have been experiencing recall a Certain Ontario town which we needn't identify more closely than to say it was one of the hottest hockey centres in the entire Province.

* * *

There, when the home team badly needed a score, and one of its players was just taking dead aim on goal, it was rumored that the electric lights had a peculiar habit of blinking off, then on again. This "blackout" possibly didn't last for more than a split-second—just long enough for the defending goal-tender to lose sight of the puck. And it was even suspected that one of the home team's officials, who sat right alongside the switch that controlled the lights of the rink, might have had something to do with this pheonomenon.

But, so far as we remember, nothing was ever proved. Maybe, after all, it was no more than mere coincidence.

* * *

Branch Rickey, of the Brooklyn Dodgers, now contends that his fellow-magnates attempted to "gang up" and keep dark-skinned Jackie Robinson from playing in organized baseball. They, of course, deny that anything of the sort ever happened. And no matter who is right, the story got considerable space in the papers—which, coming right at a time when really 'live' baseball news was scarce, probably wasn't exactly distasteful to either Mr. Rickey or the others.

* * *

Everybody knows there was plenty of opposition to Robinson's being allowed to play. This wasn't because he was the first person of his race to make the grade. He was by no means that. It was rather because he frankly admitted to being a Negro—even took pride in it—instead of allowing himself to be put away as a "Cuban", a "Mexican" or even as an "Indian", as had been the quaint baseball custom in the past.

* * *

What actually matters is the fact that Robinson finally got his chance—managed to keep his temper in spite of great provocation—and made good. From now on, in baseball at least, it's going to be impossible to draw any "color line" — although there might come a day, as has happened in the boxing game, when white athletes will regret that it was ever wiped out. With colored boys doing so well in so many lines of sport, the wonder grows why so few show enough aptitude for hockey to scale the heights!

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