

Hockey, skillful, thrilling, has gone downhill

We are well into another season of what passes these days for that once-thrilling Canadian sport of hockey.

Far more interesting than being a spectator at games will be watching from the sidelines some renewed and determined attempts to decrease the potential mayhem in the former sport.

As any intelligent eight-year-old knows, hockey is no longer a sport. It is an entertainment, superior to professional wrestling in this department only because it is faster, bloodier, and most of the participants, though not all, are not fat and middle-aged. Some are fat and young.

Some are also middle-aged. Some are old enough to be grandfathers. And 80 per cent of the so-called athletes in this new form of Grand Guignol vaudeville are grossly over-paid.

A few discerning sports writers, and a good many former fans of the game, are sick at heart over what has happened to what was once the fastest and most thrilling game on earth.

The great majority of the so-called fans,

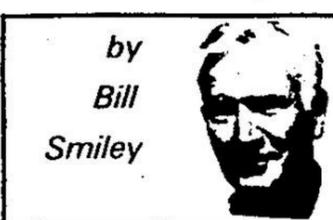
however, along with most sports writers and nearly all of management, derides any attempt to restore the skills and thrills of what used to be the most skillful and thrilling sport of them all—professional hockey.

Perhaps that is because the current crop of fans consists of yahoos looking for blood, the sports writers are sycophants looking for an angle, and the owners are stupid, as they have always been, looking only for a buck.

In my view, a determined effort should be made to stamp out the viciousness that has turned pro hockey into a Roman circus.

Assault and battery on the ice should be treated the same as it is on the streets—with a criminal charge.

Let's put cops in the arenas and lay charges against the goons who try to decapitate an opponent with a stick, or emerge from a spearing duel with the enemy's guts wrapped around the point of their sticks.



by Bill Smiley

Suck a move, of course, will likely be greeted with hoots of scorn by the yahoos, the sycophants and the manipulators.

Or as Variety, the showbiz magazine, might put it in one of its succinct headlines: "Hock Jocks Mock Socks." Translated, that would mean that hockey people make fun of any attempt to stop the fighting and violence in the game.

of the game, who have seen their favorite sport turned into a carnage of clowns.

Surely even the robber barons of hockey, the owners, with their nineteenth century mentality, can see the handwriting on the wall, large and clear. The game is going down the drain.

Let me give some frinances. When I was a youth, our town had a Junior A team. They played it fast and tough and clean. The referees jumped on slashing, spearing, boarding, kneeling. Fights were infrequent. In a town of 4,000, there were 1,500 at every game. A hundred cars would accompany the fans to play-off games 50 miles away.

When I was a youngish man, I lived in a town of 2,000. We had an Intermediate C team, made up of young local fellows who loved the game. So help me, there would be 1,200 at every match.

Today, I live in a town of 11,000 which boasts a pretty fair Junior B team. The crowds at games run around two or three hundred.

Hockey Night In Canada used to bind

this whole nation together, from radio days well into television. Its ratings have dropped disastrously.

What's happened? A lot of things. First, the quality has gone down and the price has gone up. That's a no-no in any business.

Sixty per cent of the pros today couldn't have made a fair-to-middling senior amateur team 25 years ago.

Arena owners, egged on by greedy players, and those parasites, their managers, have hoisted the cost of tickets to the point where ticket scalpers are committing suicide.

But most important of all, the sheer viciousness of today's game, with its Nazi storm-trooper techniques, its open support of "intimidation," its appalling message for young players that violence beats skill and speed, has made a great segment of real fans turn their backs on it in disgust.

When the players are all millionaires, and the arenas are half empty, maybe the people who control the sport will get the message.

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1 Births

BOWEN—Paul and Kim are very pleased to announce the birth of their second son, Joshua Stanley arrived Saturday February 25, 1984, weighing 10 lbs. Proud grandparents are Stanley and Florence Bowen of Acton and Richard and Barbara Jackson of Kitchener. Ryan is thrilled with his new baby brother.

CONQUER, Dick and Wendy (nee Dimock) are proud to announce the birth of their first child, a girl, Amanda Lee, 8 lbs., 2 oz., at 4:21 a.m. on March 15, 1984 at Grace Hospital, Ottawa, ON. First grandchild for Mr. and Mrs. R. Dimock of Norval and 3rd grandchild for Mr. and Mrs. A. Conquer of Napan. Great grandchild for Mrs. A. Casagnette of Hamilton, and Mrs. S. Conquer of Ottawa.

GOURLAY—Mark and Chantal are pleased to announce the safe arrival of their twin sons Ryan Dennis, weighing 4 lbs. 5 oz. and Adam Hugh weighing 4 lbs. 12 oz. on March 13, 1984 at Guelph General Hospital. Two brothers for Guelph. Proud grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Gourlay and Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Cole.

IT'S A BOY—Mr. and Mrs. A. Hurlay and Mr. and Mrs. J. Pacheco are thrilled to announce the safe arrival of their first grandchild Brendan Anthony Hurlay, born at Toronto East General Hospital on Wednesday, March 6, 1984. Proud parents are Maria Pacheco and Peter Hurlay.

OSTLER—Gregory and Lee, sons of Larry and Bonnie of Georgetown, are proud to announce the arrival of their new brother and sister, Timothy James, (5 lbs., 7 oz.) and Sabrina Jane (4 lbs., 1 oz.) at Toronto General Hospital on March 5, 1984.

PERKINS—Jeffrey and Bradley are happy to announce the safe arrival of their new brother, Steven Cyle, at Guelph General Hospital on March 14, 1984. Proud and happy parents are Craig and Linda Perkins of Acton. Many thanks to Dr. Bandeen and the nursing staff of Guelph General Hospital.

4 Coming Marriages

VERA and John Knipe of Bramalea, formerly of Georgetown, wish to announce the forthcoming marriage of their son Ross to Corinne Godfrey, daughter of Joan Streets Godfrey and Dennis Godfrey of Vankleek Hill. Wedding will take place on April 6, 1984 at 6:30 p.m. at Grace United Church, Brampton.

6 Deaths

BROWN, Herbert J.—At his home R.R. 1, Acton on Tuesday, March 13, 1984. Herbert J. Brown in his 93rd year, son of the late John and Fannie Brown and brother of the late Grace Atkinson. Rested at Shoemaker Funeral Home, Acton where funeral and committal service was held on Saturday, March 17 at 1 p.m. Spring Interment Rockwood Cemetery.

DAVISON, Gordon Edward—At St. Joseph's Hospital, Guelph on Wednesday March 14, 1984. Gordon Edward Davison in his 67th year. Beloved husband of Agnes Macdonald and dear father of John and Gail Bouwmeester. Dear grandfather of Mark, Shelley and Matt. Funeral service was held at the Shoemaker Funeral Home, Acton, on Friday at 3 p.m.

LIEDER, Willi, suddenly on Friday, March 16, 1984 at Brampton. Willi Liedler beloved husband of Kathleen Allen and loved father of Isabel Bragg of Ottawa, Harry Liedler, Rosemary Harris and Kathy Tomlinson all of Georgetown and the late Nancy Liedler Anderson. Dear brother of Liselle Herrman and Adolph Liedler. Grandfather to Jennifer Liedler, Dannel Harris, Steven and Katie Bragg. Rested at J.S. Jones & Son Funeral Home, 34 Edith St., Georgetown. Funeral service was held Monday morning at St. George's Anglican Church. Interment contributions to the Ontario Heart Foundation would be appreciated.

POINTNER, Caria Magdalena on Saturday, March 17, 1984 at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto. Caria, beloved infant daughter of Frank and Lisa Pointner. A private family mass was held at Holy Cross Church on Tuesday, March 20. Interment Greenwood Cemetery. Those who wish may make contributions to the Easter Seals or any charity of your choice.

SMITH, Arthur William (Bill)—At Guelph General Hospital on Tuesday, March 13, 1984. Arthur William (Bill) Smith of Acton, aged 58 years. Beloved husband of Joyce and dear father of Richard and his wife Patricia of Acton, Mitch and his wife Joanne of Barrie. Loved grandfather of Kristi, Martin, Darryl and Wayne. Brother of Vera, Gerald, Marjorie Atkin, Rita Redfern and Kenneth Smith. Rested at the Shoemaker Funeral Home, Acton, where funeral and committal service was held Friday at 1 p.m. followed by cremation.

6 Deaths

DILLON, Gladys Christina on Thursday, March 15, 1984 at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital. Gladys C. Wellfauer of RR 1, Glen Williams, wife of the late Thomas A. Dillon and loved mother of Thomas of Toronto, Catherine of Glen Williams and Patrick of Toronto. Grandmother to 12 grandchildren. Dear sister of Conrad, Nancy and Bernice. Predeceased by George and Edward. Rested at J.S. Jones & Son Funeral Home, 34 Edith St., Georgetown. Christian Burial Mass was held at Holy Cross Church Saturday, at 12:00 noon. Interment Greenwood Cemetery. In memory contributions to Ontario Heart Foundation would be appreciated.

DINNEY—At Georgetown Memorial Hospital, Georgetown, Ontario on Tuesday, March 6, 1984. Isabella (Wareing) Dinney in her 85th year. Beloved wife of the late Christopher Dinney (1947). Dear mother of Charles and Donald of Crediton, Robert of Huron Park, Lucinda (Mrs. Jim Taylor) of Georgetown, Katharine (Mrs. Don Winter) of Exeter and Ethel Masse of Dashwood. Predeceased by her son Stanley, her brother Bill Wareing and her grandson Shawn Dinney. Also survived by 27 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. Rested at the R.C. Dinney Funeral Home, Main Street, Exeter for visitation on Thursday, March 8 from 2-4 and 7-9. The funeral service took place on Friday March 9 at 2 p.m. at the Trevelth Memorial Anglican Church with Rev. J.W. Suttun and Rev. George Anderson, DFC officiating. Interment Exeter Cemetery. Donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society.

FORD, Frederick—At the Guelph General Hospital on Saturday, March 17, 1984. Fred Ford in his 39th year. Loving husband of Gwen Mainprize of Guelph. Beloved father of Marilyn, Sharon and Richard all at home. Dear son of Mrs. Muriel Ford of Guelph and the late William Ford. Loving son-in-law of Doris and Elmer Mainprize, Acton. Loved brother of Leonard and Grant Ford, both of Guelph, Laurie of Vancouver and the late Ronald. Funeral service was held Tuesday, March 20. Interment Woodlawn Cemetery.

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8 In Memoriams

BINGHAM, William J.—In loving memory of a dear husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather who passed away March 21, 1981. Our family circle has been broken. A link gone from our chain. But though we're parted for a while, We know we'll meet again. Some day we hope to meet you, Some day, we know not when, We shall meet in a better land And never part again. We shall meet with many a loved one That was torn from our embrace, We shall listen to their voices, And behold them face to face. Sunshine passes, shadows fall, Love's remembrance outlasts all. Sadly missed, lovingly remembered by wife Annie, sons Bill, Ron and Bob and families, daughters Margaret Hillier and Adah Gibbs and families.

PATTERSON—In loving memory of a dear friend Sandi who passed away March 24, 1979. We never lose the ones we love. For even though they are gone within, The heart of those who care The memories linger on. Always remembered by Dave and Sue, Steve and Eva.

WILLIAMS—In loving memory of a dear husband Colin, father, grandfather and great grandfather, who passed away March 23, 1983. Little did we know when we awoke that morning. The sorrow that day would bring, The call was sudden, The shock severe, To part with one, we loved so dear, You didn't have time to say farewell, Or for us to say good-bye, You were gone before we knew it, And only God knows why, Our hearts still ache with sadness, Our silent tears still flow, For what it meant to lose you, No-one will ever know, Sadly missed but always remembered by your wife Marion, family and friend Fernie.

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10 Coming Events

A BANQUET sponsored by World Christian Ministries—in Action Behind the Iron Curtain—Hear up-to-date reports and see slides from behind the Iron Curtain, Thursday, April 5 at 7 p.m. The Holiday Inn, 601 Scotsdale Road, Guelph (near Stone Road Mall). Hot dinner for only \$5.00 each. For tickets call Pat 853-2714.

ACCOUNTANT Barry Timleck will give some FREE INFORMATION about the 1983 tax forms of the CBC on Friday, March 23 from 2-3:30 p.m. at the Georgetown Public Library. The tax information will be geared to Seniors and the disabled in our community.

ACTON Figure Skating Club presents "Bon Voyage '84" at Acton Arena March 31st. Two performances—2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

BEEF Dinner, Ballinatal United Church, Saturday, March 24. Sitings at 5:0