

Promising young athletes need proper guidance

"Sports sure ain't what they used to be!"

That is the dirge that increasingly crops up whenever - and wherever - sports fans gather to discuss their athletic heroes, or anti-heroes, for that matter.

To point out the obvious, of course sports ain't what they used to be. But in a changing and supposedly evolving society, nothing remains the same for very long.

It might also be suggested that perceived changes in sports are mainly in the eye of the beholder because the majority of major sports, hockey, football, baseball, soccer and basketball, have changed very little - in terms of rule changes - over the years.

Increased media coverage, coupled with the mind-set Watergate so-called investigative reporting of media types have uncovered the blemishes, the scars and the skeletons in the closets that for years went by unnoticed by an uncaring public who just wanted to know the final score, who got the points and where their team stood in the standings.

Yes, times and sports coverage has changed but the basic premise for athletic supremacy remains the same. Talent, hard work, practice and dedication to your sport will always win out in the end.

All too often this is forgotten when previously unheard of salaries are paid out to athletes who seem to hit the headlines, more for their antics away from the game than for the effort they put into the contest.

Now, all athletes are tarred with the same brush, regardless of the

Colin Gibson
Sports Editor

"AS I SEE IT"



sport. "Overpaid whiners, who leave their best game in the bedroom and abuse their bodies with illegal substances while laughing all the way to the bank."

What of the young athletes merely playing for the love of the game. Where does this negativism leave him, in the scope of things. What of the borderline player who only knows athletics and is viewed with scorn.

Child prodigies in the arts, music, and literature are lauded early, then coaxed, cajoled, and counselled every step of the way until "The time is right."

Why can't this be done for promising young athletes without them being viewed as a scourge on our so-called intellectual piety?

Why is it that young athletes, who clearly don't have the talent to make it all the way to the top are given false hope than, for the most part, discarded like yesterday's garbage. Where is the guidance for the player that nobody wants?

You can't help wondering when watching a minor hockey tourna-

ment - or any other minor sports tournament for that matter, just how many future stars are participating.

You see a youngster exhibit a neat bit of stickhandling or throw a perfect pass or lash out line drive after line drive and you think, "Maybe I'll be reading about him in years to come!"

Envy sometimes sidles into your thoughts when you think of the money, fame and adulation that gifted athletes are accorded. To many people, the best thing that could happen to them, or if not to them, then their youngster, would be to become a professional athlete.

"Good God, think of it! To be able to play a game and get paid for it."

There is another side to the story and because it's not exactly what you would term the happy face of sports, it's been lurking in the background like an unwanted relative. It is, however, very much a part of the sports world and has been straining for the light of day.

The youngster who almost made the grade but not quite; the hockey, baseball or football player whose glory days are behind him - brief as they were - and now must face the shadows instead of the limelight.

It is a fact of life in sports, but no one involved in sports, least of all the athletes, wants to admit it's there.

The proliferation of professional sports teams is allowing more and more young people to make large sums of money playing sports.

Unfortunately, few of them realize how fleeting this moment in the sun can be.

Only the top athletes, regardless of the venue, last 15 or more years in their chosen sport. And what is 15 years out of 75 years or even 60 years. Similarly, there is a lot more to life than sports. Sports is basically an entertainment industry and should be looked upon as such, not the be all and end all that some people regard it to be.

Minor sports organizations, public schools, high schools and universities should offer counselling services to young athletes. It happens for every other career-oriented profession.

The young people who aim for a professional career in athletics have a right to be made aware of the pitfalls and disadvantages they could encounter in later life.

Parents, who are sometimes blinded by the side benefits of a youngster's athletic career, should make a point of seeing that their children are fully aware of what they may be letting themselves in for.

Broken-down stumbling, sometimes drunken, ex-athletes have often been made to bear the brunt of many a joke.

The unfortunate part about this scenario is that there was no one around when they were young, to offer them advice.

Help and advice should be there for young athletes, for no other profession can raise a person to the heights or similarly, sink them to the depths that athletics can.

As I see it, anyway.



VAL WALDRUM (left) and Marlene Bayko of Georgetown lean heavily on the brooms in an effort to get their rock in the house during play in the Ladies Invitational Curling Bonspiel staged last Saturday at North Halton Golf and Country Club's curling facility. Sixteen rinks, including four from the host club, challenged in the event won by the Bette Zahayko rink of East York Curling Club. (Herald photo)

East York rink captures bonspiel

Sixteen rinks, including four from the host club, competed in a Ladies Invitational Curling Bonspiel Saturday at the North Halton Golf and Country Club's curling facility and the East York foursome of Bette Zahayko, Donna Sutton, Jill Prentice, and Elsie Jackson walked off the ice with the top prize.

In a rather complicated scoring formula, each team played two games with 10 points gained for a win, 1/4 point per scoring rock and one point for winning an end.

Competing rinks included two from Milton, two from Richmond Hill and two from Humber Highland Curling Club in Etobicoke.

The rink skipped by Mary Hutton of Milton placed second, while the North Halton Curling Club rink of skip Joan Shapcott, vice Peggy Darmody, second Theresa Smith and lead Enid Muir finished third.

The high one game winner, while finishing fifth overall, was the

North Halton Curling Club rink of skip Karin Henderson, vice Betty Cox, second Dolores Houghton and lead Sandy Peer.

Also representing North Halton Curling Club was the rink of Jane Gilmour, Brenda Smith, Sabra Stephens and Deanna Bayko and he rink of Ev Cadenhead, Val Waldrum, Erica Thompson, Susan Feuvre and Marlene Bayko.

Georgetown to ice two tourney entries

The host community, Georgetown, will have two entries vying for top honors when the 30th Annual 1990 Georgetown Minor Hockey Association Bantam International Hockey Tournament gets underway this Saturday at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena.

M and M Pro Sports will challenge in "C" Division, while the Georgetown "B" team, Domtar, carries local hopes in "D" Division.

The Domtar "B's" see action first, going head-to-head with Ancaster II in a game scheduled for 6:45 p.m., Saturday.

Immediately afterwards, M and M Pro Sports lace-up the skates against Royal York in an 8 p.m. scheduled game.

All tournament games will be played at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena.

MAND M PRO SPORTS ROSTER

Coach John Wright. Assistant coach Rod Presswood. Players: Tom Spencer, Jake Mashinter, Mike Large, Steve Wright, Dustin Thompson, Ryan Ward, Tom Diardichuck, Dave Osborne, Chris Barrow, Shawn Pearson, Tim Presswood, Brent Couling, Matt Downs, Mark David, Shaun Curry and Derek Ellard. Rick Downs is the team manager.

DOMTAR ROSTER

Coach Barry Mills. Assistant coach Jim Pirie. Team manager John Kalbarski. Players: Randy Bond, Paul Kalbarski, Tim Kingston, Mark St. Pierre, Marc Johnston, Corey Rioux, Jim Kavanaugh, Steve Leoni, Troy Gardiner, Scott McGuigan, Greg Dawson, Jeff Pettigrew, Matt Deruchie, Grant Bowler, Ryan Pirie and John Kalbarski.

Thirty-two teams are entered in this year's bantam hockey extravaganza, including a team from Granby, Quebec.

Four division championships are up for grabs and all division champs get a chance to capture the Grand Championship trophy.

Games this Saturday run from 8 a.m. through 9:15 p.m.

Games are scheduled every day next week from Monday through Friday, with Saturday being reserved as Division and Grand Championship day.

The Grand Championship game is slated for 8:30 p.m. March 17, at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena.

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