

Hockey violence in spotlight

By Rod Beaumont

Hockey violence was in the spotlight last week, specifically, fighting. The CRTC has deemed this to be excessive and wants to pan away from fights and just show crowd response. I believe this to be blatant censorship and have to ask where will it all end.

Hockey has always been a close-quarter contact sport where tempers occasionally flare. I would rather see two guys go toe-to-toe than have one chop the head off the other with his stick.

Watching prime time television last week, in 15 minutes I witnessed four shooting deaths, a dismemberment and a throat slashing where blood was the highlight of all.

Don't believe me, rent DieHard 2.

The NHL is policing itself having hefty penalties for stick work and by introducing penalties for goonism. I hate to tell you, Mr. Spicer, Chairman of the CRTC, but Jason from Friday the 13th was not a deranged goalie from the Maple Leafs and you would do better looking to other areas than picking on what I call a national tradition.

On the local scene, the Raiders closed out another season being knocked out by the Burlington

Rodent's Racket

Cougars in the first round of the playoffs, three straight. The Raiders played their best hockey of the season three weeks ago to enable them to jump ahead of door mats, Royal York, for the final playoff berth. It's unfortunate some of that fire could not have been saved for the Cougars.

The Ben Johnson affair has me confused. Johnson having tested positive weeks before, why did the IAAF wait until the Toronto media made the results public to take action. Toronto is the host of the World Indoor Track and Field Championships this week and we did not need another Seoul-like drug incident. A blow of this nature is extremely detrimental to our track program.

If I was a paranoid person, I would have to wonder if we were being set up. I'm not, but it does make you go Hmmm. In any case, I think a general house cleaning is in order.

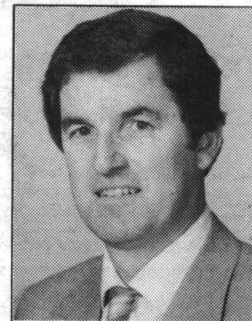
Do you have a topic for discussion or an opinion on the past week in sports? Write me care of Halton Hills This Week, 232 Guelph St., Georgetown or phone 873-2254. If it makes me go Hmmm, I'll include it in my column.

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