

## Sports Views



by Ron Johnson

### Junk, journeymen and jib sails

Let's have a look at the professional sports scene this week. There are some interesting and important things going on which are worth mentioning.

In National Hockey League news, a major suspension, and an overlooked retirement come to mind.

Ric Natrass, a Hamilton, Ontario native who plays for Montreal Canadiens, got word of his suspension from the league after being arrested for possession of some marijuana and hashish.

For having on his person a small amount of hashish, each of these lightweight, but nonetheless illegal substances, the NHL and its president John Zeigler, saw fit to suspend Natrass for the whole 1983-84 season.

This sentence could be cut back to "just" 40 games, if Montreal asks that it be commuted.

It may seem harsh that Natrass gets a year's suspension for holding grass and hash, when in the National Football League four players got the grand total of four-game suspensions in connection with a cocaine bust.

Surely the marijuana caper pales in comparison to charges dealing with coke.

Not to the NHL. The laws governing big league hockey state that no one associated with hockey will be also connected to illicit drugs. That's the rules, and that's the way it's interpreted.

Too severe you say?

Not nearly. We're glad that one official body had the guts to really do something about the problem of drugs in sports, and didn't try to whitewash the issue, or deny its existence.

Pro sports - take notice. The NHL is right on!

And now to the retirement mentioned earlier.

Last week in the Toronto Star, there was an amusing and well written article about ex-NHL'er Larry Hillman. Hillman was a journeyman defenceman who holds the record for having been traded 18 times in his 22-year-career. The writer was making a case for Hillman's admission to the Hockey Hall of Fame.

Likewise, this week out of Buffalo comes the unpublished news of the retirement of defenceman Bill Hajt.

The tall, rangy defenceman was the backbone of Buffalo's considerable defence for about a decade, and received very little notice from the fans or the press.

However, ask Scotty Bowman who his best defenceman was over that period, and he'll tell you about Hajt.

So, just as his play went unnoticed, so also does his departure from pro hockey.

Where do the journeymen of sport go to retire? Are they local heroes in their home towns? You bet! But that doesn't somehow seem to be enough.

Pro sports could not survive if it didn't have the ordinary, mortal players with which to compare the so-called superstars.

They should have a retirement benefit for all the Bill Hajt's, Larry Hillman's, and Bob Uecker's of the world!

All the rage lately in the world of sport is about something taking place off the east coast of our southerly neighbour.

Our thoughts on this matter is this - What's all the fuss about?

So America has held the America's Cup for 132,000 years. It's only a big deal if the Yanks are about to be upset. How many of us had ever heard about any of the participants in the event until just recently?

Oh sure Canada built a special boat to try to dethrone the Americans, and that caught our fancy for a while. But, try to name any of the crew of the Canada I.

My favourite sailor still is Popeye, and I'll still favour "The Lollipop" as a good ship!



### Reason to smile

Coach Rick Presse of St. Theresa's senior boys Crusaders volleyball team looks pleased with his squad in this shot from Saturday's Huronia Volleyball Club Invitational Tournament at MSS. Presse had good reason to be happy, as his

charges went on to win the championship with a solid 15-4, 15-11 win over crosstown rival Midland Secondary School. Could be the first of Many of St. T's.

## St. T's dominates MVC Invitational

by RON JOHNSON

St. Theresa's High School continued their dominance in local boys volleyball on the weekend, as they took two of three titles in the Midland Volleyball Club Invitational high school volleyball tournament.

In midget action, Crusaders split their round-robin games, winning three and losing three, and were relegated to the consolation side of the tourney.

STHS then proceeded to beat Orillia Park Street 15-12 and 15-13, and Collingwood 6-15, 15-6, 15-3 to cop the consolation championship.

Rookie coach John Madden, a newcomer to the school, is doing an excellent job of instilling the strengths of St. Theresa's programs - spirit and togetherness.

Madden noted that

Ken Moreau was a real inspirational leader, and that captain Peter Lalonde was instrumental on offence, putting away several solid smashes.

STHS juniors, with coach Jean Goodrow leading the way, took the junior title with a hard-fought 16-14, 15-6 decision over Midland Secondary School Marauders.

Goodrow described the championship games as "very exciting," featuring some great power volleyball displays from both sides.

On the day, the defence of Keith Proulx, Greg Swick, and Pat Marchand was very solid, and the net play from Rob Weber, Pat Woods, Proulx, and Kevin Belcourt was outstanding.

Junior Crusaders went 5-1 in round robin play, and then 4-0 in the

playoff section.

In the senior portion of the Saturday tourney at MSS, St. Theresa's won their second championship of the day.

Crusaders took this one by once again defeating a very tough Midland Secondary School team in the finals. STHS took the title with a 15-4, 15-11 verdict over Midland. Coach Rick Presse was extremely pleased with the balanced attack which was the cornerstone of his team's win.

On defence, when the opposition got the ball by the blocks of Doug Haworth, John Swick, and Kerry Heins, the secondary lines, led by Steve Charlebois, pulled off some outstanding digs to salvage many points.

"The ability of the defence at this early stage of the season is

very surprising," explained the coach yesterday.

Doug Haworth, a grade eleven student, who is still junior-aged, came in for some high praise also from coach Presse.

"He has worked very hard at his skills, and has won a spot in the starting line-up. He typifies the drive, spirit and dedication of this team," enthused Presse.

Also outstanding for our team were co-captains Kerry Heins and Kris Cote, who exemplified the determined efforts of the team as a whole.

St. Theresa's High School boys volleyball team has made two consecutive trips to the all-Ontario tournament, and by the looks of this team's early efforts, this could be the year of "Three for St. T."

## 'skins on top, beat Eagles 26-6

Brooklea Eagles' Ken Maheu scored an early touchdown on their second possession which held up until near the end of the first half when Commodore Redskins' quarterback Andy Wicksted scampered into the endzone from 10 yards out. The convert was incomplete and the half ended deadlocked at six.

Second half was all Redskins as they scored 20 unanswered points to knock off the previously undefeated Eagles 26-6 in Penetang-Midland Touch Football League play on Sunday.

Bill Hartman, Dave Mink, and John Brown had the majors, and Wicksted added a 2-point convert.

Once again the Redskins' defence was the force behind the win, as pass rushers Rick LeClair, Dave Ogilvie, and Rick Presse put constant pressure on the Brooklea quarterback, allowing defensive backs Jeff Attwood, Dave Mink, and Glen Bannon to pick off several passes to set up key field position, enabling the Redskins to maintain their unblemished record.

## Toros get first win

In their third game of the Penetang-Midland Touch Football season, Granada Toros finally put together their first win, downing the Town TV Unknowns 12-0.

Sporting their new green and gold sweaters, Toros moved the ball well in the first half, finally scoring six points on a pass from Jim Szarka to Karl McAllan. The duo connected again in the second half to put the Toros up by 12.

Szarka and McAllan shared the quarterbacking chores, and their job was made easier by good organization and the adeptness of the receivers.

Unknowns fought valiantly to come back and held the Toros in their own end for most of the final quarter. Toros made a goal-line stand on several occasions, shutting the Unknowns out.

Good sportsmanship was evident throughout the game, and the victorious Toros celebrated the win later with their sponsor the Granada Inn.

## -take junior, senior titles