



SPORT SPOTS

BY RON CRAINE

Ho hum! Another World Series has dragged to a close and once again, just like always, the Danyankees are sitting at the top of the heap. Whether or not it was the prolonged series with the weather causing postponements or just plain boredom it would be hard to say but nobody, or almost nobody was able to drum up too much enthusiasm.

World Series time in other years always saw another few million baseball fans created, Johnny-come-latelies who only worked up a real interest at series time. Everybody became an expert overnight and dear old ladies could quote batting averages along with win and lose records for opposing pitching staffs. This year it seemed as if the old excitement just wasn't there.

Many articles have been written in the United States, articles which very learnedly point out that the U.S. national sport is losing its grip on the public as a sports spectacle. It's quite possible that the articles are a good part of the way right.

A local man we know took his son to see his first major league ball game this summer. It turned out to be a doubleheader, and father and son were in the stadium for seven hours! Father could gladly have left any time after the first game but junior had to stick until the bitter end. This is a way to attract fans?

In the last couple of seasons baseball has become a sport that is now renowned for rharbarbs on the playing field. Not so long ago a ball player who threw a punch was an oddity. They had much more subtle and less detectable means of retaliation to real or imagined dirty play — like the sharp spike lashed out on a slide attempt. This served to keep everybody in the game fairly honest for a good many years.

Pitchers are going head hunting with the hard, high, inside pitch more than ever before. At least it seems that they are, as batters are being forced to hit the dirt fairly frequently. Many major league ball players have gone on record in print as stating that the intentional beanball is being used as a real threat by pitchers on many National and American League clubs. They have even said that if the present trend is allowed to continue it won't be long before someone is knocked down — permanently.

Maybe this rough stuff and stalling is just what will help to kill baseball as a national sport. Canada's national sport, lacrosse, was almost buried when fans became sickened at the mayhem perpetuated in the name of sport. If baseball cleaned house a wee bit and insisted on pitchers not stalling to the point of being ridiculous, forcing them to stop head-hunting and got tough on brawlers things could be better. Give fans a fast game where a man can apply his skills without fear of his life and a team can win because of a real team effort, then maybe interest on a large scale will be revived. If not it begins to look as if football will be the number one game in the U.S. of A.

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Belated congratulations are due to the girls who play on the Richmond Heights Centre Ladies' Softball Team. The team was ousted from the P.W.S.U. play-downs but kept working their way along in the East York Ladies' Softball League.

Sheer persistence and determination finally paid off and the girls were rewarded by winning the league championship. They were the only Richmond Hill softball team that won anything at all in the way of a championship this past season. And of necessity this entitles them to a unique place all their very own. Good show ladies!

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In the interests of the United Appeal a lot of schools are featuring girls' football games. This is fine for a lark and raises the odd bob or two for charity. The football Amazons are even urged on by male cheerleaders who, while not quite as easy on the eyes as the conventional type cheerleaders, make a lot more noise.

And yet another male bastion has fallen before the onslaught of the fair sex! What's going to become of us all if this sort of thing is going to carry on? The only refuge left to us poor males will be field hockey, jacks and skipping ropes!

Just imagine what the future could hold for us all. Sister Mary will be out playing ball in the nearest sandlot league while brother John plays a really fast chukker of Yogi and the Kaiser. Revolting thought, isn't it? If the time ever comes when the girls turn up shooting pool at the Y.M.C.A. we'll take up needlepoint. It may be closer than we think — where is that darned thimble anyhow?

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Professional oddsmakers could go pleasantly daffy trying to figure out just what goes in high school football. Even on pro football games they can

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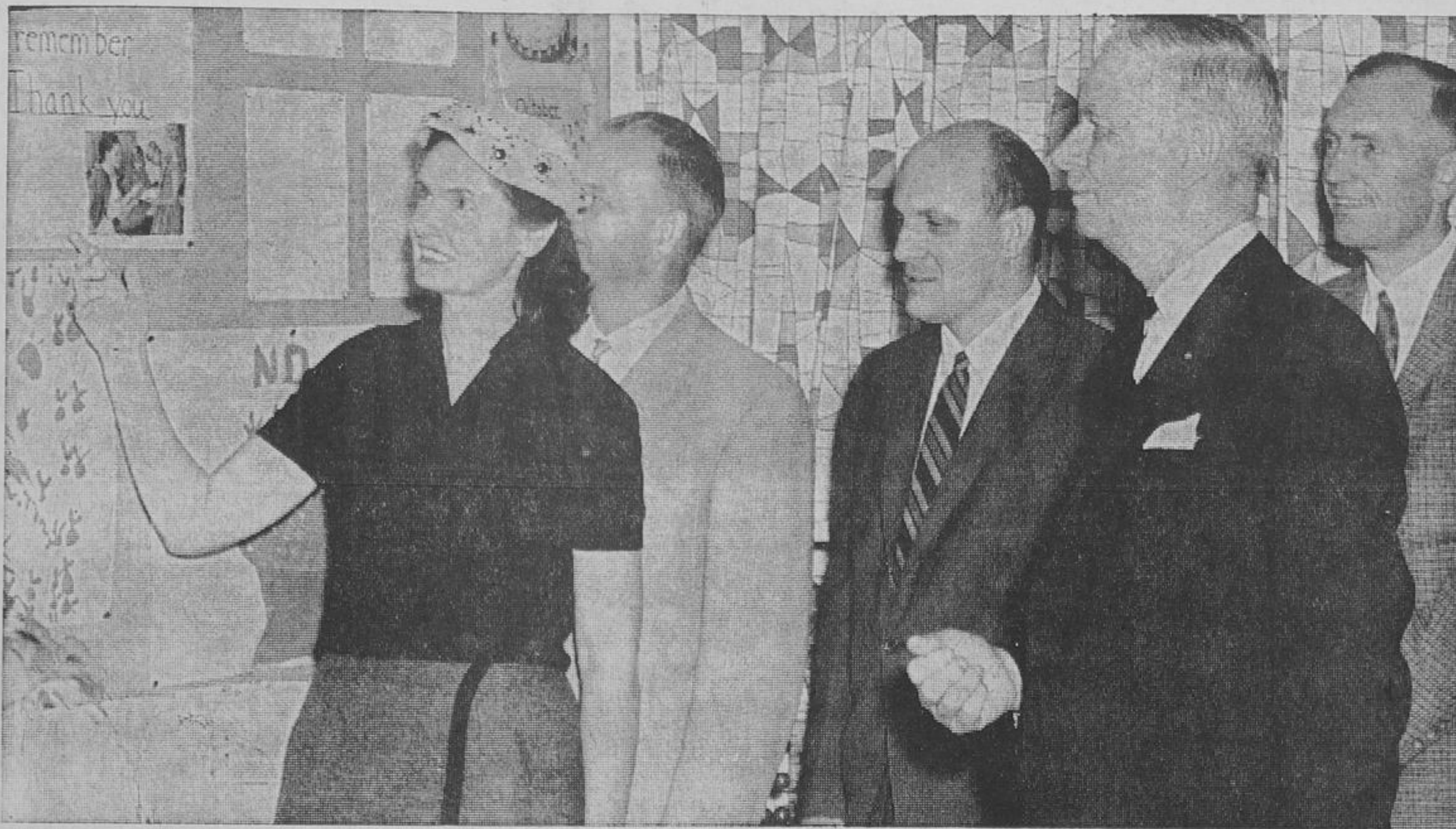
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Stock Exchange President Visits Thornhaven School

Lt. Gen. Howard Graham, president of the Toronto Stock Exchange made a tour of Thornhaven School for Retarded Children last week. The floor traders association of the exchange will meet the N.H.L. Old Timers in a benefit hockey game, with all proceeds going to the school, at the Ted Reeve Arena Friday evening.

Taking part in the tour were (left to right) Mrs. W. Dowell, wife of the association president, Past President Ted Jennings, Director John Graham, Lt. Gen. Graham, and Ray Nugent. A resident of Fernleigh Circle in Richmond Hill, Mr. Nugent is a member of both the retarded school association and the floor traders association. (Photo by Chaplin)

Indians Against Northwestern At Park Saturday

Richmond Hill's football Indians meet their arch rivals Northwestern Ghosts at the Town Park this Saturday. Game time is 2 p.m.

Both teams are vying for first place in the league. This past week the Indians were idle as they had a bye in league action. The lay off gave limping players time to recover from injuries and coach Del Madeley feels his team will be able to win their second game over the Ghosts this season.

CFGM Drops Tilt 2-0 To Don Mills Squad

Last Friday night the CFGM squirt hockey team was in action at Richmond Hill arena in an exhibition game against the highly touted Don Mills Squirts.

Only one player remains of last year's CFGM squad. Paul Brown is the only holdover from last year and coaches Ed Brown and Ray Brooks are looking to Paul to supply leadership to the team.

In the game against Don Mills, Paul Brown was digging and skating throughout the entire game. Gary Oliver was impressive on defence while Ken Hughes was very steady in the CFGM goal.

Brampton Teams Play Here Friday

Three hockey teams from Brampton will be in action at Richmond Hill Arena this Friday night.

Curtain raiser is the 7 p.m. between CFGM and the Brampton squirt team followed at 8 p.m. by the Hornets and Brampton in a pee-wee contest. At 9 p.m. the bantam Flyers and the Brampton Bantams start the nightcap.

Admission to the three-game opener is just 25c.

All the Richmond Hill teams show real promise of making their presence felt in hockey circles this year. Plan to come and bring the family to see minor hockey at its very best.

Sibbald Point Provincial Park's pheasant season will run from October 10 to November 24.

Fee for hunting is \$5 per day per hunter. Each hunter may take up to three birds between the hours of nine and five. The birds are released in the area by park staff in sufficient quantities to provide the hunters with a reasonable chance of filling their bag.

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