



All Sorts Of Sports

By BOB CARTON

Meathead Of The Year Award

This is the first of seven columns to come throughout the fast descending winter of 1971-72, in which there is no high school sports to report. So I will have a chance to voice my own opinions on some of the current events which are taking place in the world of sports.

This week I would like to discuss topics which have been very prominent to most sports fans as of late. Namely, the trades that have been conducted during the baseball meetings down in Phoenix, and the announcement that the NHL would expand again next year.

BASEBALL'S BUSY WEEK

The bartering and trading that has taken place this past week down in the sunny climate of Phoenix, Arizona has, to say the least, been very extensive and somewhat surprising.

Probably the most astonishing of all the trades, was most likely that which sent Cincinnati's 39 home-run man, Lee May, to the Houston Astros along with second baseman Tommy Helms and utility infielder Jimmy Stewart.

In today's type of baseball, where most of the emphasis is put on the power hitting of certain players, it is indeed surprising that a team would let a player of May's calibre go to get the type of player that they considered to be the key man in the trade from Cincinnati's standpoint, Joe Morgan.

May's importance really shines when you consider that almost every player on the Reds slumped drastically from 1970, when they won the pennant. Yet May did not slump, in fact he improved greatly.

Regardless of the fact that he will not hit as many homers in the expansive confines of the Astrodome, May will still get his share, and before the 1972 season is over, will probably have the Cincinnati Reds wishing that they had him back.

Another somewhat controversial trade was that of the power hitting, team leader Frank Robinson, being dealt to the Los Angeles Dodgers in exchange for four young players who have a future.

The way I see it, the Dodgers received the better of the deal. Without a doubt the Los Angeles team is doing everything possible to ensure their chances of winning the National League's western division next year.

They came very close last season, and during these baseball meetings, are attempting to secure the needed players to push them up just that little bit farther they have to go in order to win their division.

The acquisition of Steve Huntz and Tommy John from the Chicago White Sox will most definitely help their cause, but they are most likely looking towards big Frank as the key to success for them. Not only does he supply the Dodgers with extra power and hitting ability, he also provides strong leadership qualities for the younger players to follow.

On the other hand, the Orioles were looking into the future when they acquired the four young players for Robinson. Two of them, Alexander and O'Brien, both pitchers, were on the big team for part of last season. Because of this experience, the Orioles may intend to insert them into the somewhat aging Baltimore bullpen.

The others may, in a few years, make it with the Orioles and do a fine job for them. But, it is unlikely that any of them will play a major role throughout the entire season in winning the pennant, as the Dodgers plan Robinson will, if and when they do win it. For this reason alone I feel that the Dodgers did make a very smart trade.

There is one other trade which I feel very strongly on. And it is a rather controversial one at the same time.

As everyone knows, the San Diego Padres last season ended in last place for the third year running. They are also the only team in the whole National League which is suffering from poor attendance.

They have been slowly building a team out there which they hope will draw crowds. So, they finally construct a respectable pitching staff which would have more than likely improved next year. Even if the rest of the team was just as bad as ever, the staff of Tom Phoebus, Steve Arlin, Clay Kirby and Dave Roberts would have kept the lack lustre Padres in the game for a reasonable amount of time. And quite likely they would have cut down on the lopsided scores the San Diego fans have been exposed to in the past three years.

So what does the seemingly unintelligent front office do, they trade away their best pitcher for three minor leaguers. Now heaven knows that the Padres already have too many minor leaguers on their team to start with, so what do they need with three more.

The idea of trading is to improve the team, not weaken it.

The pitcher in question, Dave Roberts, ended the season off with a 12-14 win-loss record, as well as being second in the league in ERA.

All that I can say on the matter is, "C'mon San Diego ya bums, use your head for once."

NHL EXPANSION

The recent announcement by the NHL's board of governors that the league would again expand in the coming 1972-73 season, was met with feelings of disgust by me as well as by many other people.

The money greedy owners (who wish to put another million into their pockets by granting Long Island and Atlanta franchises) are making the once highly revered game of hockey into nothing more than a second class exhibition of men skating around with sticks in their hands.

It is not that I am completely against the idea of expansion, it is just that I feel the game should be expanded when the league has reached a parity.

As it stands now, it will take the original expansion teams, except Minnesota, at least another four or five years to reach some sort of parity with the established clubs. With the announcement of this new expansion, it may take even longer.

New teams are being formed faster than Canada and the States can turn out players to fill the positions. Granted, they are turning out players which they could use in the NHL, but which could not play in the league.

Meaning, that just because there are thousands of excess players hanging around in the minors and in the amateur ranks that are overly willing to play, it does not mean the NHL should expand to meet the needs of these second class players.

As for the money aspect of expansion, I cannot

Always Know Right Ice Thickness, Don't Bunch Up

By GIOVANNI JONES
Centennial Pool Reporter

Awareness is the key word in water safety, and common sense the guideline. And at pools across Ontario, instructors are teaching folk of every age the life saving value of awareness and common sense as applied to use and enjoyment of our water resources.

Winter is now almost upon us; the tinges and hues of the leaves, the frosty explosion of our breath in the crisp morning air, the cold morning breezes reddening our cheeks, are some of the signs. With winter, many people tend to forget the fundamental rules of water safety, and every winter people mourn the untimely loss of a loved one, who either through carelessness, thoughtlessness or accident, died needlessly. In many cases a few water safety rules could have saved these lives.

As we wistfully ponder the imminent joys of snowmobiling, ice fishing, hiking, ice hockey, and ice boating we should also be preparing basic safety equipment and practices for use in water emergencies. Too often, in the pursuit of our pleasures

in these sports, we forget our water safety basics.

Always know the thickness of the ice. A four inch thickness is considered safe for human safety, but much thicker ice is required for cars, if ice fishing, and for snowmobiles. If you are not familiar with the location, check with the local Lands and Forests Department, for maps, general information, ice conditions, and to at least let someone know you are around. Ice conditions are especially precarious in the fall and early winter, and the spring.

Before venturing out, look at your map to see where water areas are located. Too often, snowmobilers plunge recklessly across areas where drifting snow has hidden streams, rivers and ponds, where ice has not yet formed to safe thicknesses. Always avoid parts of moving water where fast currents exist. Judge by the summer flow. If the current is fast in July, the ice will be thin in January. Standing water or slow moving water builds the safest ice levels. Never bunch up. Whether ice fishing, hiking, or snowmobiling, spread out and

distribute your weight evenly. On ice, safety is NOT in numbers, so don't follow the crowd. Never park snowmobiles, cars or ice huts close together.

If you are hiking or travelling across ice, beware of these signs. Dark patches indicate soft ice. Water seepage and air bubbles in the ice indicate cracks and poorly formed ice. Good ice is a clear light blue (steel blue), and becomes progressively whiter as it becomes thicker. Always hike with a companion; never alone.

A pole, paddle or long, strong bar or rod of any material carried in front of you, parallel to the ice surface, will prevent you from falling under the ice should you break through the ice surface. It will keep your head from going under and prevent you from being sucked under the ice surface. Remember: you are wearing boots, heavy clothing, mitts, and undergarments, and you need every weapon available to keep you from sinking, especially if you are a weak or non-swimmer. This pole, or a length of rope that you should also carry, can be used as a reaching aid to

pull someone else out from potential disaster. You should also carry a knife, or a few sharp, pointed spikes, outside of your pockets (possibly on a string tied around your wrist). Once through the ice, it will be impossible to pull yourself back out, unless you can quickly "dig in" with a sharp pointed object that is easily accessible. You won't have time to search through your pockets or purse.

If you do fall through the ice, remember: "STAY CALM. Panic is the greatest killer of all. The key to staying calm and collected is Awareness. Know what to do. Have your equipment ready and with you. Always have someone with you to help. Never take chances.

To get out, break the ice around you, in one direction with your hands and feet until you reach thicker ice. Kick your feet with a fluttering motion to keep you up. Use your spike or knife to secure a hold to pull yourself slowly up and out. Keep low, on your stomach, until you come to safe ice. Then move slowly, carefully away along safe ice to shelter.

To help someone else, keep low, with your weight spread out. The fact that they have fallen in means the ice is thin; so BEWARE. Use a scarf, belt, rope, pole, glove, jacket, sweater, or any strong material, to reach out to help them pull themselves out. Talk to them in a loud clear voice and tell them to pull slowly and carefully, and once out to keep low. Have them crawl to safe ice on the stomachs, and get them to shelter. Never let them get a hold on anything that they can pull YOU in with. Always reach out with something that you can let go of, if they start to pull you in. Two deaths is infinitely more terrible; and if they pull you in, you are no longer able to do anything to help them.

Canadians are blessed with bounteous winter prospects for fun and enjoyment. But common sense, awareness of safety rules, and preparation of the proper equipment will save lives; possibly yours. Winter fun and winter water safety go hand in hand, like a glove and a hand, and shoes and feet. So have fun and be safe.

Aurora Downs Rams For Second Loss Of Season

Richmond Hill Junior "B" Rams found out a little about the other side of life Sunday as they took an 8-4 thumping from an aroused Aurora Tiger club in Aurora.

It was only Richmond Hill's second loss of the 1971-72 Metro Junior "B" Rams found out a little about the other side of life Sunday as they took an 8-4 thumping from an aroused Aurora Tiger club in Aurora.

The Rams fared better against the lowly Downsview Bees Thursday night of last week winning 5-2 in Downsview. "Aurora was full value for their win," said Coach Karl Brimblecombe who seemed to be taking this traumatic experience of losing a game in his stride.

"We're in a bit of a slump," he said. "I expected us to tail off a little. I'm glad it's now instead of at the end of the season."

It just wasn't the Rams' night Sunday and the story of the game was forecast early as Richmond Hill found itself behind the eight ball early on two quick goals.

CRAZY HOP GOAL
The first one saw a shot from the Aurora blue line by Lorne Allen at 2:33 which took a crazy hop in front of Goalie Gary Carr and into the net.

Carr, incidentally, didn't have one of his better nights although he couldn't be blamed for the loss.

The Rams were further handicapped in the same period when their starry winger Daryl Rice engaged in a fisty brawl with Aurora's Rick Hampton. Both were thrown from the game for being the second two into a fight. This is forbidden in junior hockey.

The loss of Rice, one of the Rams' most effective players of late, seemed to leave a void in the Richmond Hill attack.

AURORA FIRED UP
This, coupled with the continued absence of defenceman Steve Lyon and the limping leg injury to Bill Weber, found the Rams unable to contain a fired-up Aurora squad. Lyon had been playing well enough to stay up with them.

"If we do lose Lyon," said Brimblecombe, "we're going to have to go out and get us another defenceman. You don't have a fellow like Lyon out of your lineup and not be hurt."

"Lyon is a good player and could have helped any 'A' club for the past two seasons. He adapts quickly and I think he has a good future in hockey even though this is his last year in Junior."

The scoring end of Sunday's game saw Steve Boyle and Mike Hammond netting two goals each with the others going to Lorne Allen, Glen Greenslade, Craig Evans and Don Wakeman.

For Richmond Hill it was Steve Colp, Alex Pirus, Craig

Terry and John Barnett doing the scoring.

Rice was the big scoring triggerman in Thursday's game against Downsview firing home three goals. The other two went to young Colp.

Play was fairly even for two periods but Richmond Hill turned on the heat in the third period as they outshot Downsview 33-3. Downsview Goalie Jim Pettie was spectacular in this period as he held the flying Rams to two unanswered goals. Richmond Hill outshot Downsview 65-32 on the game.

The Colp line of Rice and Craig Terry controlled play at all times when they were on the ice.

A fight in the third period between Richmond Hill Captain Wayne Stokes and Downsview goalkeeper Pettie saw Stokes winning a clear decision.

Gary Buck and Bill Menachin scored the two goals for Downsview.

PUCK SHOTS
Richmond Hill's next home game is Tuesday night against Scarborough Sabres at 8 p.m. They play St. Mikes this Sunday at St. Mikes.

Aurora had a new coach behind the bench for Sunday's



DARYL RICE
3 Goals, Fight

see any way that this action will do anything for hockey in Oakland except make it an even less interesting sport to watch.

From the standpoint of where the new franchises were dealt, I think that it is completely insane to hand one out to Atlanta, Georgia of all places.

This town has never even had minor league hockey, plus the fact that it is so far south, it is doomed to the same fate which has befallen both Los Angeles and California — no fans.

Simple logic points out that just because Atlanta is building a brand new 15,000 seat arena, it does not mean that the people will support the team, especially if it is of as low a calibre as it promises to be at this time.

Hockey franchises do not survive on extravagant new arenas, but on the human element of interested spectators. Personally I cannot see Atlanta getting too many of them.

For this dumb move I feel that the NHL governors should get the 'Meathead of the Year' award. They certainly deserve it.

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