

Point of View

by Ralph Pohlman



MY CAREER IN SPORTS
My dad, who was a big baseball fan and a pretty good player in his youth, used to dream about the sport.

One morning he told us at breakfast that during the night he had been playing for the New York Yankees and had hit a home run. "The amazing thing was not the home run," he said, "but that I was my present age. (He was then 65.) Everyone was astonished that a 65-year old could not only play for the Yankees but hit a homer."

He was quite pleased with himself.

Ever since Sigmund Freud came along, folks have paid a lot of attention to their dreams. It appears that what happens in one's horizontal life is important. Well, perhaps I should rephrase that. In any case, I've had some good ones over the years, (dreams, that is) mostly having to do with my athletic exploits.

Yes, there's no doubt I've had quite a nighttime sports career. I've tended to favour the popular sport of the day. For example, I

was watching the U.S. Open tennis finals a few weeks ago so, of course, come bedtime I was part of the draw.

Baseball, track and field, football, hockey, and occasionally golf and boxing are my other favourites. There are sports I never play, like soccer. Who wants to play something where nobody seems to score?

But back to the tennis. The major secret of my success is that I don't have a backhand at all. Just two forehands. You see, I simply switch hands with the

racquet and hit a forehand on both sides. Sort of a switch-hitter. Especially effective when serving. It always baffles my opponents. Pete Sampras never knows what to make of it. The crowd goes wild.

Now I'm not a big guy. Not tall, anyway. I'm about 5 feet 10 and a little thick in the centre, but it's us little guys who produce the big thrills in sports, eh? Despite my years of playing in the NFL (mostly for the Bills) and in the CFL for the Argos, I've had to cut back some since I passed the age of 45.

The coach tends to send me in whenever the team is third and 17 and back on our own 10-yard line. A mere 90-yard field goal. I don't recall ever missing one, which has earned me the moniker of Dependable Pohlman. Of course, there are times when I fake a kick and then run the ball the length of the field, straight-arming 300-lb. linemen and gracefully eluding tacklers, into the end zone. Mustn't get too predictable.

There have often been well-known fans in the stands, cheering me on. Elizabeth Taylor was a favourite in the past, before she gained so much weight. More recently, Madonna likes to show up for my performances. Once I even noticed President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky in a box seat at one of my games. Monica was shouting and

cheering, but then, she was always all lip.

One night, after one of my games, while having a romantic dinner with Cher, I noticed she had my picture tattooed on her butt. I'm not sure how I noticed that at dinner, but there you have it.

As an NHL hockey player for the Leafs, I have also been able to use my talents as a champion figure skater. Carrying the puck toward the opponents' blue line I perform a double axel while deftly stick-handling the puck. This move leaves the defence in disarray, allowing me to move in alone on the goal. A final spin fakes out the goalie and I flip the puck into the upper corner of the net.

Again, the crowd goes wild.

In one baseball game I started as the catcher but then was also the pitcher, my speed allowing me to throw the ball and then

get back behind the plate before the ball arrived, much to the confusion of the batter. Like my dad, I've hit a lot of home runs but I've noticed that they are almost always in the bottom of the ninth, two out, a man on second and we are one run behind.

I guess my most thrilling exploit was the night I decked Mike Tyson in the first round while James Bond and his ladies were cheering at ringside. Of course, the girls soon abandoned 007 to climb into the ring with me.

To be candid, I'm not much interested in what might be called the Freudian interpretation of these heroic nighttime triumphs. I don't want to hear they may represent anxieties, conflicts or chauvinistic erotic stuff.

I am content to remain the modest hero with a nonchalant demeanour in my lifelong late night sports career.

FAITH & LIFE

A MENNONITE PERSPECTIVE

by
Gord
Alton



Is Your Family Driving You Crazy?

You are not alone. Conflict is a common reality for families, even for Mennonite families. I think all families can resonate with issues like power struggles and communication breakdowns, especially between youth and parents. To help families explore alternative approaches to family conflict that strengthen relationships, our church is hosting workshops led by the Peace Troupe on December 6/7. The Peace Troupe, a project of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, is a group of two facilitators especially trained to help people understand and apply conflict resolution principles and strategies to conflictual situations. The Peace Troupe normally goes around to schools and churches teaching children and teachers strategies to deal with conflict issues like bullying. However, since home is often the place we experience the most conflict, the Peace Troupe will help families apply these conflict resolution techniques in the home environment.

We have divided the weekend into three workshops, one workshop for Junior Youth (grade 5 to 8), one workshop for youth (high school age), and one workshop for parents. In each session, the participants will explore different pictures of conflict, how conflict happens at home, and alternative approaches to family conflict, and work at trying some of these approaches. The details of the workshop are below.

SAT. DEC. 6 12:30-3:00 P.M.: JUNIOR YOUTH COST: \$5 (pizza provided)
SAT. DEC. 6 7:30-9:30 P.M.: YOUTH COST: \$5
SUN. DEC. 7 1:15-3:15 P.M.: PARENTS COST: \$5

All workshops will happen at Parkview Village Auditorium at 12184 Ninth Line Stouffville.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, PHONE THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY MENNONITE CHURCH AT (905) 640-9730 OR EMAIL SCMC@ROGERS.COM

Feedback? We'd love to hear your comments. Please contact us at:

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Community Mennonite Church

Parkview Village Auditorium
12184 Ninth Line • 905-640-9730

Sunday School: 9:45 - 10:30 am
Coffee Time: 10:30 - 11:00 am
Sunday Worship: 11:00 am

This Space Sponsored by Community Mennonite Church of Stouffville

Lions Club welcomes donations

The Stouffville Lions Club is seeking donations of toys, gifts and non-perishable food items which will be distributed to needy Stouffville families at Christmas.

Drop off points are the town offices, Lebovic Leisure Centre, Community Care Access Centre, Co-operators Insurance, CIBC, Birkett & Hassard, ScotiaBank, TD Canada Trust, Bank of Montreal, Pace Savings & Credit Union and Randy's Appliances. Referrals of families in need will be treated with strictest confidence.

For more information on donations or to make a confidential referral call Lion president Helene Johnson at 905-640-6134 or project chairman Ivan Harris at 905-640-2264.



*I would like to
thank the residents of
Whitchurch-Stouffville
for your support.
I am looking forward to
working with you.*

Working for a better community...

Sue Sherban