

GEORGE BEAHON
"In This Corner"



Bill Russell is big, bearded and black. He is the free spirit analyst who voiced the color commentary for nationally televised (ABC) roundball games played by the world's biggest athletes for the richest per-man playoff prizes in history. Also the champion of the National Basketball Association.

Russell is hardly super articulate. He is ungrammatical. He also is the greatest thing to happen to sports-casting on the tube. Ever.

As an ex-jock, he declines all the shelters and "no-nos" employed by most others. As an expert, his credentials are not too shabby: In 13 years with the Boston Celtics he starred on 11 world championship teams. He is now retired as player and coach, still the No. 1 rebounder in NBA history, credited with 21,721 by official count. He was Most Valuable Player five times while the Celts were enjoying the greatest dynasty in sports history. He revolutionized the sport of run-and-shoot by making defense the hallmark of champions.

Russell's color commentary frac-

tures some of the rules ("Never criticize a player or official") and he also fractures many of his listeners. His candor and humor are without precedent in network TV mike work.

As a former jock, Russell's disregard for the unwritten rules on the mike first came to attention here when his partner, play-by-play man Keith Jackson, a great craftsman in his speciality, tossed the routine shot at Russell. Jackson was enthusing about the action between Milwaukee and Los Angeles.

"Bill," asked Jackson, "did you EVER see two teams play so intensively?"

"Yes," said Russell, without batting an eyelid.

If Russell has any flaws — and how many humans can handle his big league, on-the-spot commentary without a few boots? — one might be that he goes with the flow, or plays results. (When the Knicks drop 15 back, he says, "They gotta do something to change the direction of this game." Too obvious.) Another knock: Too of-

ten he tells us, for openers, "This is a very physical game."

But mostly, Russell's contributions made the ABC-NBA sets a delight to watch.

A reporter's mental notebook of some of Russell's gems might present a case for his being named the most refreshing new personality in the entire corps of space cadets.

After two quick personal fouls and a teck against the same team: "That makes three guys don't think Don Murphy is a good referee."

Madison Square Garden is jumping with another nearly 20,000 Standing Room Only crowd: "They're just tryin' to get in out of the rain."

Gail Goodrich of the Lakers is burying Earl Monroe of the Knicks, game after game. "Gail has embarrassed The Pearl! . . . it's a long day for Monroe. Everybody he bets on, gets hot . . . And in a post-game interview with Goodrich: "Have you taken out a short-term lease on Monroe?"

New York wipes out LA in the first game; LA smothers NY in the second. "One thing about these games . . . they're not close."

Another is a close ballgame, but both clubs are making too many turnovers and booboos. "If this wasn't a playoff game, you'd call it a bad ballgame."

Same game: "You know, Keith, I'd LIKE to analyze what's going on out there, but there's not much really going on out there."

Wilt Chamberlain, 7 feet, 1 1/2 inches high, leaps up to stuff in a two-pointer, unopposed, "That's a very high percentage shot."

The same Chamberlain, noted for his awful foul shooting, blows 3 for 3 from the line. "He just got the hat trick."

New York is playing Boston in Boston. "I'm not impartial."

On a technical foul, with an accompanying \$25 fine to the player. "For \$25, you ought to get to say more than just one word. A whole sentence, or even a paragraph."

A borderline foul call. "I'm not so sure about that one."

An apparently bad foul call. "Yeah, he fouled him. He hit him on the elbow with his cheekbone."

After the Boston-NY fight. "That didn't count. They was only substitutes."

Milwaukee is losing the game and the series, 4-2. "If Milwaukee loses this one, they get to spend next summer explaining why . . . You know, Costello (Milwaukee coach) said this series would be over in six."

The "1 on 1" halftime atrocity is being filmed, and Jackson notes that the winner gets not only \$15,000, but a TROPHY! "I'm sure he's thinkin' a lot about that trophy, with that \$15,000 up there."

"Lucas now has five fouls, and you're only ALLOWED five fouls in the NBA. Because if you get six, you get to go and SIT."

"I've always wondered what's the difference between forced out of bounds, and a foul. Why isn't forced out of bounds a foul?"

Think about that one. Right on, Bill Russell! And many happy returns.

JOHN DOSER
Scholastic Notebook



Pittsford High baseball coach Bill DiPaulo took exception to Don Murray's remarks printed in this space two weeks ago.

He wasn't that upset that he demanded equal space or anything, he just wanted to impart his ideas.

DiPaulo figured Murray took a shot at his Section 5 baseball champions when Murray said "Who do they think they're beating when they beat our third best?"

Murray, ex-baseball coach at Charlotte who is now athletic director at East High, was referring to the Monroe County League in general, not Pittsford High in particular.

Murray really got into the nitty-gritty when he asked why Monroe County schools continue to vote to keep Catholic schools out of Section 5. The county people keep bringing up old arguments about summer camps, early practice dates, recruiting, etc., to justify their actions, but we feel that the Catholic schools' offer to be "policed" by the County from the outside or by themselves from the inside melt those arguments.

The City-Catholic League's best last year was Coach Ed Nietopski's Cardinal Mooney Cardinals; the team couldn't enter the Sectional tournament because the players go to a Catholic school; No. 2 was Jefferson, which on the basis of its school population chose to compete in the Class A tournament; No. 3 went to the sectionals instead.

DIPAULO, whose Pittsford team won the Section 5 baseball title twice in a row, said he has no feelings one way or the other about Catholic schools playing in the sectionals.

He said he wasn't familiar with

the pros and cons but thought "they didn't follow our rules for starting times etc."

He said his teams over the years have never refused games with any City of Catholic teams.

"We have played Bishop Kearney for eight or nine years now; we've scheduled McQuaid on and off for a number of years; we played Madison this year and have a few times in the past couple of years.

"If someone calls me for a game, I'll play," DiPaulo said. "But I'd do anything to enhance baseball," he added.

We can think of lots of things that might be done. If county coaches agree with DiPaulo's thinking, they might open up those sectional doors and make their post-season tournament a true test instead of a half-truth.

Junior Prom Set At Botsford's

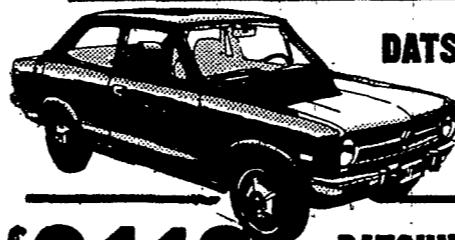
Mercy High School juniors will add a little "color" to Saturday, May 20 when they attend the Junior Prom, which will be held at Miss Botsford's Dancing School.

Roger Eckers will provide the music as the juniors dance, surrounded by decorations suggesting the theme "Color My World."

The general chairman of the dance is Diane LaFleur. Eileen Trohanowsky, Meg Keller, Anne McGrant, Andy Ciaccio and Ann Farrell are heading the various committees.

The St. Christopher Social club for single adults 25-45 years of age announces an open dance and cocktail party from 8 p.m. until midnight Sunday, May 21, at the Parliament Lounge, 2620 W. Henrietta Rd.

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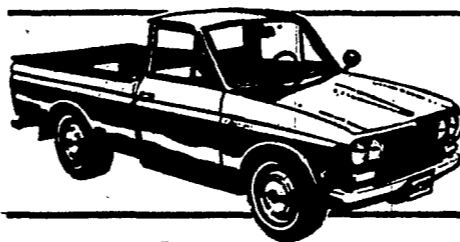


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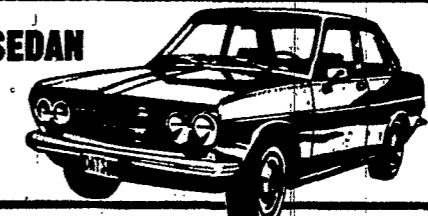


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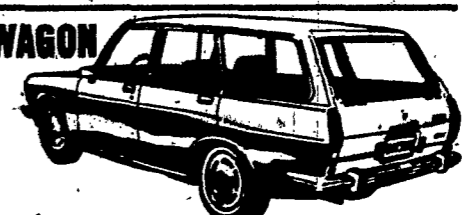
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