

GEORGE BEAHON

## "In This Corner"



### HOPSCOTCHING THE SPORTS BEAT

— Ignored if not maligned by much of the national media, the sport of soccer is making statistics that indicate it may beat the commended-to-death rap. Attendance for organized soccer in the United States has spiraled from under 2,000,000 in the year 1960, to more than 4,500,000 last year.

Organized soccer at the high school level offers the most encouragement for the sport's chances of eventually going bigtime. Five years ago only 1,392 scholastic teams were in action. Last year there were 2,487 high schools scheduling soccer.

In Rochester, N.Y., where the Lancers have fielded winners against much bigger cities in the North American Soccer League, the reaction at the high school level is notable: In 1971 there were 1,000 high schoolers in soccer; this year the total has boomed to 5,000.

Best of all, in this era of decreasing

school athletic budgets, soccer is among the easiest on the bankroll.

### FOOTBALL STEALING HEADLINES

— It may be Duane Thomas' problems with Dallas, or Joe Namath's annual summer holdout or hijinks, but football is stealing ink already from baseball, at the height of the latter's schedule. Now it's Paul Brown, coach, GM (and mostly owner) of the Cincinnati Bengals. He grabbed space by pooh-poohing the value of a heisted and offered for-sale team playbook, which the pros would have you believe should be kept in safety deposit boxes, or at least under the pillows. Now Brown says his expansion Bengals can go all the way, and in so doing steals even more space, in July, already.

There are countless stories about the legendary former Cleveland Browns coach, including the one about the time the bus taking the club from Yankee Stadium to the airport got lost. When the driver learned he was enroute to Connecticut, instead, Brown seemed to reassure the embarrassed bussie. "I'm not mad at you," the coach told the driver, who relaxed a little until Brown added, "I'm mad at the guy who hired you."

**TRPB STRIKES BACK** — About that smear job done on racing by that convicted felon before the House Select Committee on crime (Courier Journal 7/13/72) the national press finally has come to the rescue of the Turf Racing Protective Bureau, generally explain-

ing that it was racing's own policing that brought the creep into the Congressional committee's focus. But never anticipating so distorted a presentation. Typical recent reaction came from the Los Angeles Herald Examiner: "The trouble with the Eastern horse racing scandal currently darkening the front pages is that the chap singing on the stand is running a dead heat with the committee investigating him, and the reporters covering him — for sheer ignorance."

**ODDS WITHOUT ENDS** — Don't look now, wait until later this year. That's when the Massachusetts Legislature's Government Regulations Committee will try to package a state-operated legalized gambling system covering ALL professional sports . . . After years of struggle and failure in Buffalo and elsewhere, the annual Coaches All America Game, sponsored by Kodak, has found a happy home. In Lubbock, Texas, a football hotbed, where the game went SRO in 115 degrees last month, and produced a profit of \$150,000 for the Coaches Assn . . . Out of Lubbock came the story about the recruiter for a college football factory who told a super prospect he could offer tuition, board and room, books, \$15 a month, and laundry. "What's so big about that deal?" asked the prospective collegiate star, "everybody else offers just as much." The recruiter got the kid's signature when he explained that the "laundry" concession netted \$700 a month . . . Add to collection of one-liners: "If at first you don't succeed, so much for sky diving."

JOHN DOSER

## Scholastic Notebook



Catholic high schools in Rochester have supplied their share of ballplayers over the years to the Monroe County American Legion Baseball League.

Twenty years ago or so the big club year after year was Cooper Marine Post which consisted mostly of Aquinas athletes.

Cooper Marines subsequently gave way to 209th Veterans Post, but today neither post is represented in the league.

Aquinas players now perform for other Legion teams and aren't readily identified with any one team.

Most of Ed Nietopski's Cardinal Mooney City-Catholic champs are playing strangely enough for Harsch-Crisp-Seaman of Brockport.

There was a squabble among Mooney players and Greece Post last year and the result was that practically all the Cards went with coach Arnold Monno's HCS team.

A few Mooney players are on the Doty-Magill roster. Greece Post dropped out this year. Doty Magill picked up other players from Greece Athena and Greece Arcadia.

A good number of the players on the Warner-Claudius team come from Bishop Kearney High. The rest come from Eastridge.

Bill Cox, league chairman for 21 years, said the strength of the league is in its volunteers — coaches and umpires.

"One member from the Legion post has to be on the bench to make sure the players live up to the rules of the league," Bill said.

The rules he referred to are the gentlemen rules which follow the league's slogan — "Good sportsmanship is greater than victory." (We know a few local coaches who'd raise the dickens with that theory.)

The teams are pretty evenly matched, according to Cox. The leading team is City Employees

who are coached by City Councilman Frank Lamb, the former mayor of Rochester.

There were 16 teams in the league five years ago and this year the league began with 12, dropped to 10 and have regained another entry, Ferris-Goodridge from Spencerport-Brockport.

Cox said three years ago his league nearly fell apart with the opening of a senior division Babe Ruth League which took away many of the boys who otherwise would have played Legion ball.

"But that league collapsed and many of the boys came back to us," Cox explained.

Last year he found himself in the middle of a real squabble which prevented Irondequoit Post 134 from winning the championship, at least on the day they played for the title.

Irondequoit led its opponent by 6-0 but after four innings the game was called because of rain. Irondequoit wanted Cox to award the title to it because of the score but Cox stuck to his guns — the baseball rule book — which simply said a game must go 4½ innings before it is official.

Umpires are volunteers too. Cox said he used to get his umps from the local association which also handled slow pitch baseball in town. "They'd come to our games after umpiring with the beer leagues and they couldn't see the ball. We got rid of them and got our own umps," Cox said.

There are no problems to get excited about these days Cox said.

With one small exception. Cox, a Republican, gets a kick out of watching City Employees and its coach, ex-Demo-Mayor Lamb, keep on winning.

"They're likely to be our district representatives," Cox said. "The only thing wrong is that Lamb's a Democrat."

But that's a problem Cox says he can live with. They're really good friends.

### Director Named For Alcohol Center

William Dugan is the new director of the Alcoholism Information and Referral Center, located in the Northside Professional Center, Suite 22, at 1295 Portland Ave.

Dugan was formerly counselor-coordinator for Action for a Better Community, Inc. for two

years.

Former director at the information center was Einar P. Madsen. He served as director from 1969 through May 1972.

The purpose of the Alcoholism Information and Referral Center is to counsel problem drinkers and their families, and refer them

to appropriate agencies.

The Rochester Mental Health Center has been the sponsoring agency for the information center since January 1971. Unlike other services of the Mental Health Center, where fees are charged on a sliding scale according to income, services at the information center are free to the client.

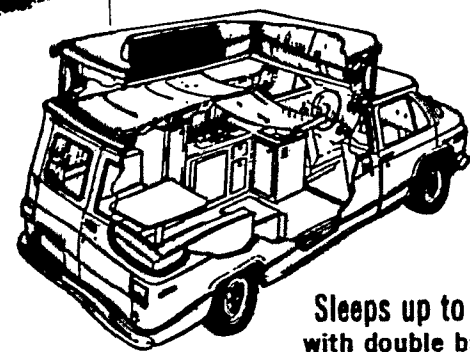
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