

GEORGE BEAHON

"In This Corner"



If certain strong personalities run to form, the day of the tie in pro football is history. D-(for Decision) Day is April 2, when the National Football League holds its annual meeting.

That's when the NFL brass will vote on a suggestion by the Competition Committee. This is a no-chicken group that operates under the theory that the fans are important. And that fans don't like tie games.

The Committee has some clout, because it includes heavyweight operators like Jim Finks of the Minnesota Vikings; Tex Schramm of the Dallas Cowboys; Paul Brown of the Cincinnati Bengals; and the redoubtable Al Davis of Oakland.

Schramm openly predicts the NFL will vote for an end to the unsatisfactory tie game in pro football. Sudden death will be approved for all games all season. The vote to go into overtime barely missed a year ago.

No more watching underdog teams sitting on a probable tie, rather than risking the predicted defeat.

The mechanics must be developed. One step to help preclude the possibility of ties would be to adopt the old American Football League two-point conversion option. (One point for the place kick, as usual; or two points for the run or pass following the TD.) This would wipe out most tie situations. And the sudden death would finish it off, eventually.

Opponents argue that in most sudden death overtime situations, the team starting with the ball would be a preponderous favorite. It would need only to move into field goal range and swing the ax. So what? It's still better than a no-decision ballgame. Options include giving both teams at least one chance on offense.

Some opposition can be expected from the network television people, who may envision loss of later prime scheduling in event of a long, drawn-out overtime. This really would be a rarity. Think of the added interest and suspense in the sudden death action. (One network, incidentally, cutely insists on calling it sudden victory, because this is a more "positive" attitude.)

Baseball goes overtime and basketball goes overtime. Hockey ducks the overtime in regular season games, claiming it upsets travel schedules. This is a ridiculous excuse dated back to the days of World War II when train schedules had to be met. What's a train? Now it's simply a matter of arriving for a chartered flight at the convenience of the traveling squad. How many times would it cause any serious problem?

If the NFL goes for overtime — and it says here it will happen on Apr. 2 — that leaves only hockey and soccer short-changing the customers. Unless you want to count chess. Which comes up with a headliner every 75 years or so.

Hopscotching The Sports Beat: By the time you read this, Secretariat will have galloped to victory in his first start as a 3-year-old, and will be about 1 to 5 to win the Kentucky Derby. He may be the shortest priced favorite in the history of Churchill Downs. But eastern addicts of the equine track athletes have come up with longshot hopes for a speedball filly named La Prevoyante, a Canadian which campaigned mainly on the Ontario Jockey Club circuit to win 2-year-old filly of the year honors in 1972. If she goes against the boys, she'll be the first girl to run in the Derby in 14 years. Ticket scale in the Buffalo Bills' new Rich Stadium will provide the club with a gross (sellout) take of \$650,000 per game. This doesn't include revenue from TV, parking, programs, food and drink concessions. Cincinnati Swords are all by themselves in the American Hockey League, no-contest, runaway winners. Dick Gamble, a former coach in the AHL, a former National Leaguer, and a retired scoring superstar in the AHL, was asked how Cincinnati would fare in the expansion-watered-down NHL of today. Without hesitation, answered Gamble, "Cincinnati would finish last." With Off Track Betting, as predicted by so many, wrecking business at Metropolitan New York tracks, they now are referring to Aqueduct as the Not So Big-A. Brian Spencer was asked which NHL club he'd most like to skate against. "The New York Islanders, said Spencer, "because they never hit anybody." Spencer plays for the Islanders.

JOHN DOSER

Scholastic Notebook



Two observations, one by Cardinal Mooney basketball coach Ed Nietopski, the other by a Monroe County coach who prefers to remain unnamed, are interesting.

"Why should a boy like Danny Panaggio be deprived of a little show, a little stardom, that comes with a Section 5 basketball tournament?" Eddie asks.

"Why, just because he chooses to go to a Catholic school?" Eddie asks again.

"He has as much right to play in the sectionals as any other boy, and yet he can't," Eddie concluded.

"THE ONLY reason Catholic schools aren't in the sectionals," explained the county coach, "is that the section maintains its only weapon against a boy who must choose between a public and Catholic high school.

"If a boy wants to play in our sectional, he must enroll in a public school. It's that simple. It's the only control the public schools, as a group, have over the Catholic schools," the coach said.

Brighton High superintendent Dr. John Bennion said he will not support Catholic entry into the public school sectionals until the possibility of "recruiting" is removed.

Dr. Bennion told Mooney school sportswriter Bob Pauly that he was not aware of any "recruiting," but until the possibility is removed he would continue to vote "no" on any future bids.

Brockport superintendent Henry O'Mara told Pauly that he did not think Catholic schools recruited either, but said the lack of boundaries permits them to

enroll students from a larger area than the county schools.

Other sections in the state permit Catholic schools to join — proving that boundaryless Catholic schools and public schools can and do compete harmoniously.

Section 5 could do it too, and quickly, if it were honest with itself.

AQUINAS' Ray Whitmore pushing Pittsford's Jeff Knisely for the county hockey scoring lead. Whitmore had four goals, two assists in AQ's 13-1 win over R-H, and he added four more goals, two assists in AQ's 8-7 win over BK. The Irish senior at that point totaled 38 points, only six behind Knisely who unfortunately suffered torn leg muscles and will miss the rest of the season.

McQuaid capped a 9-3-2 hockey season by handing county southern champ Brighton its first loss, 3-1. Chip Quinn's two goals led the Knights.

McQuaid's 69-25 swim rout of Harley-Allendale-Columbia produced a 19-1 record, including the Knights third straight City-Catholic swim title. Big win was a revenge 49-46 win over Jefferson for coach John Tobin's swimmers while arch-rival Aquinas topped Jeff later for a second, time to deprive the Statesmen of a title tie. Knights freestyler John Turbayne, driver Tim Fitzgerald and freestyle relayers Turbayne, John Bder, Gordy Keenan and Terry Holley all won C-C individual titles. McQuaid JV-finemen also posted 19-1 record.

Unbeaten Bishop Kearney wrestler posted second straight C-C mat championship. Jeff Fischer and George Medding finished unbeaten for the Kings.

AQ Grad Signs Grid Contract

Rich Parrinello, a 1968 graduate of Aquinas Institute, was recently signed to a professional football contract with the Buffalo Bills of the National Football League.

Parrinello graduated from the University of Rochester in 1972. There he holds four school records as a halfback. At Aquinas, he was a quarterback.

He will try out with Buffalo as a wide receiver.

MOONEY GUILD

The Women's Guild of Cardinal Mooney High School will hold a dinner meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 26, at the school. The Joy, singing group from St. Helen's Parish, will entertain.



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