

IN THIS CORNER

Flopscotching The Sports Beat. I groped around trying to do a sports-writer-type review of "The Exorcist" but had to concede total defeat. I couldn't get beyond thinking in terms of roller derby.

If the NCAA is trying to botch up American chances in Olympic competition, it has a dandystart. Last month the NCAA ruled that our collegians could turn pro in one sport and compete as an amateur in another. This was AFTER the International Olympic Committee made it clear that U.S. athletes would be disqualified if they took advantage of the NCAA ruling.

"Superstars" competition is grotesque but it has fantastic crowd appeal. Now why haven't the operators invited 61 year-old Sam Snead to compete in the crazyquilt competition? Snead hasn't been near any higher institutions of learning, but he was the best athlete in his class in Valley High School, Hot Springs,

Va. Samuel Jackson starred in track, baseball, basketball and football. He's big in tennis and swimming, too. Roone Arledge, the ABC exec who helps select the competitors, concedes that Snead might be too much for the O.J. Simpsons and Pete Roses to handle. "But he'll get in some day," promises the TV impresario. "We don't want to lose him until he passes his peak." Some attitude.

Man-about-town Alex Loj, former pro soccer publicist, points out that Kyle Rote Jr.'s \$1400 salary for playing for the Dallas Tornado is a wrong number. "That's what they put down for bookkeeping or tax purposes," explains Alex. "But many a pro athlete would drool over Rote's salary as an executive on the staff of owner Lamar Hunt." Loj is one of the few people who really knew what was going on in a pro soccer clubhouse. He speaks seven languages.

Mindy Rudolph, who has worked more than 2,000 National Basketball Association games as a referee (including dozens in Rochester) gets less flak than most, because he's earned great respect. He's heard it all from the fans, and usually ignores the bad mouths. Last week in Buffalo, Mindy couldn't resist making one retort. A heckler hollered, "Why don't you read your rule book?" During a time-out, Mindy gave the noisemaker an answer. "I wrote the book," said Rudolph.

Horse players who are pumping their loved ones and deuces and fins and sawbucks into Off Track Betting are not experienced punters. They are ill-informed, uninformed or careless. Little Finger Lakes Race Track had \$48,000 in unclaimed winners last season. The biggies, Aqueduct, Belmont and Saratoga reported \$458,000 in unclaimed tickets. New York OTB customers last year failed to cash \$4,412,000 in winners! The unclaimed bread reverts to the state.

When he signs to play pro basketball, UCLA's Bill Walton probably will command the biggest contract in the history of pro sports, more than ten times his weight in gold. (Try a multiple-year pact for about \$5 million). The Golden State Warriors want him as much or more than any other club. An interviewer asked the Warriors' black coach, Al Attles, whether anything surprised him about Walton? "Yes," answered Attles, "the fact that he's white."



Photos by Susan McKinney

The Action Is Swift



St. Joseph, St. Cecilia Victorious

The semifinal and final games of the Rochester CYO basketball tournament were held Saturday and Sunday, March 2 and 3, at McQuaid and Cardinal Mooney High Schools, with St. Cecilia's and St. Joseph's, Penfield taking top honors.

In the elementary division semifinals at McQuaid, Christ the King beat Our Lady of Mercy 39-18, and St. Cecilia topped Mother of Sorrows 48-43.

St. Cecilia then beat Mother of Sorrows 43-32 to win the elementary championship at Mooney. In the consolation game, it was Mother of Sorrows 45, Our Lady of Mercy 41.

In high school competition, Sacred Heart defeated Holy Trinity "A," 47-41, and St. Joseph, Penfield, beat Holy Cross, 83-67 in double overtime.

In the Sunday finals at Mooney, St. Joseph beat Sacred Heart 59-49 for the championship. Holy Cross took the consolation game from Holy Trinity "A," 41-40.

St. Joseph finished the regular season and tournament as the only team in all Rochester CYO leagues to record an undefeated season. They won 13 games, lost none.

Mercy basketball coach, Sister Cathy Pfleger, talks game strategy with Sandy Shosted in the top left photo. Linda D'Onofrio, center, above photo, brings her Bishop Kearney team in for a few words of advice. Mercy's Judy Peace, photo at left, has her eye on the basket as she moves in to shoot. Sharon Kowalski, Kearney 20, outjumps Mercy's Patti Van Hove, as both teams battle for control of the ball, photo below. Mercy High School took the game, handing Bishop Kearney a 48 to 44 defeat.



SCHOLASTIC NOTEBOOK

Newsmakers

Kitty Van Allen, ex-Cardinal Mooney tennis player and cheerleader, is new captain of the U. of Miami's women's varsity tennis team.

Kitty "Kit" to her friends, played last year, when Miami girls won all 14 matches. They won first four this season too.

Jack Palvino, WBBF's morning man via Aquinas and St. John Fisher College, is the new Rochester Press-Radio Club president for 1974.

Smiling Jack announced the PR Club will turn over \$8,500 to local charities, the big \$\$\$ coming from Gannett Rochester Newspapers (\$5,000) and the Italian-American Civil rights League (\$2,500). The annual dinner at the Holiday Inn netted only \$1,000, but is the vehicle through which the other \$\$\$ are raised.

Palvino also reported Kodak is back this fall with another \$10,000 underwriting to help the PR Club's Celebrity golf Classic become one of the nation's top

charity tournaments. The date is Sept. 28, the site, one of the city's finest (Oak Hill, Locust or Monroe) yet to be announced.

Lincoln First's Bill Meyers reports next year's Lincoln First college basketball tournament will probably go seven teams, eight if the U. of R. cares to compete.

Hello, again, to Dave Ocorr, former Times-Union sportswriter and U. of R. baseball coach, who returns to Rochester this fall as U. of R. athletic director. Ocorr is best possible choice to put UR back together again.

A PR Club colleague asked WHEC-TV's Chuck Stevens where he rented his shiny powder blue tux for the annual charity dinner. "Why, Empire Electric Supply of course," was Stevens' reply.

Red Wing manager Joe Altobelli has a cure for fair skinned Northerners who suffer burns in the Florida sun. "Take a hot-as-you-can-stand-it shower with needle-like drops to hit you," he prescribed. Joe admits his skin is not average for most Northerners.

Channel 13's Don Friedman said his recent "Strike for Kidney" bowling telethon raised \$50,000 in pledges.

Elmira College is looking for a head basketball coach. Ithaca High and Auburn High seek 9th games for third and fourth football weekend, respectively.

Madison and McQuaid hold state record for most basketball points scored, two teams, one game: remember Madison 133, McQuaid 106, on Nov. 28, 1972?

Utica Free Academy nipped Utica Proctor, 70-68, recently, in five overtimes, believed to be a state record.

CSONKA SLATED

Auburn — Larry Csonka, Miami Dolphins fullback, and hero of this year's Super Bowl VIII game, will be the main speaker at the annual Sacred Heart Men's Club sports dinner on Wednesday, March 27. Tickets are on sale at Cervo's, Nolan's Sporting Goods Store, Sacred Heart Rectory and members of the Men's Club.

