

Some of my old friends in the sports writing business still are beating up on television and how it is ruining sports. Come to think of it, I took an occasional shot myself. But times have changed, and it seems to me it's about time the writers — the older ones do most of the beeping — quit beating on this subject.

They complain about picayune things like starting times being changed for the benefit of network TV, and time-outs for commercials. All I know for certain is that those automobile ads are blocked out on the sports pages BEFORE the sports writers' prose is laid out.

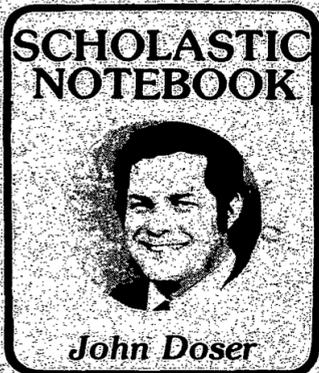
What TV has done is make the event a little harder to cover, and also more interesting. No longer can the reporter assigned to the Saturday college game sit and rewrite the stats handed to him after the action. He must invade the dressing room, develop a story, or perhaps even use enough imagination to work up a special lead out of his head without leaning on the patent post-game pabulum.

The game was on TV, so the home viewer saw the action, heard some expert (in most cases) analysis, and also benefited from replays — backward, forward and slo-mo. This means the print journalist must hustle for his story or angle. No more dull, routine, "wooden" leads are accepted by today's modern editors.

So TV made life a little tougher for the lazy or unimaginative writers. But TV has not and is not ruining sports — football in particular. Football is the TV biggie — high pressure college games into the mad, mad bowl season, and the pros on Sundays, Mondays, into playoffs and finally the Super Bowl game, which becomes a dreadfully over-cautiously coached letdown.

But consider. Without the TV dollars, there would not have been an American Football League to create the current NFL (and Super Bowl) structure. Without the TV dollars, a whole bunch of big name colleges would not be playing big time football. Notre Dame and Alabama will get \$600,000 each for their Orange Bowl visit. Every big school and every major league in NCAA football gets a piece of the action. Without TV revenue, it just wouldn't be happening.

The colleges don't think a couple of controlled time-outs during a game constitutes too big a price to pay for television sponsors. Why all the flak from the newspaper guys? Whether they know it or not, they are not in competition with the space people in 90 per cent of the sports coverage field.



Goodbye Shifty — Rochester area youngsters born in the 40s probably never saw Harold (Shifty) Gears pitch a softball, but most of them knew he was without question the fastest softball pitcher in the world. At a time when Little League was unheard of and hardball was reserved for high school athletes, every kid we knew in our Irondequoit neighborhood played KPAA softball, an organized league for kids which in itself will forever remain a tribute to Shifty who died last week of a heart attack. Whether you were from St. Margaret Mary (Irondequoit) and played for the Crowns, or from Spencerport and played for the Flyers, you spent your summers trying to win enough games to play a championship game under the lamps at Kodak's Lake Avenue field, the huge evergreen in rightfield notwithstanding. Shifty directed the Kodak sponsored program and each of the thousands of youngsters who competed hoped that day would be Shifty himself and maybe he'd see you pop a home run or strike out the side. Shifty was a hero to many who never knew him except through the sports pages in an era when it didn't take a week for the ball to get from the mound to home plate. Our community is poorer because of the loss of this good man.

Hall of Fame Quotes — The second annual Rochester Monroe County High School Hall of Fame Dinner-Dance was held last week at the War Memorial. We noted these fine words from 1974 Hall inductee Terry Diehl (Aquinas golfer) — "Father Ed Doser (of Aquinas) is one of the brightest math people I know. At Aquinas he kept track of

everybody's scores," from inductee Sam Urzetta (East Rochester golf basketball) — "I thank my mother and father, wife, high school and college coaches, fellow golf pros, my children and God — you just can't do it alone and I'm just very thankful," from guest of honor Whitey Ford — "I played against (Rochester's) Johnny Antonelli — and tomorrow I'm gonna hustle him for a few tires. Hank Aaron and I both hit our first big league home runs off Vic Raschi — only Aaron went on to hit 700 more."

Turkey Trot — Cardinal Mooney coaches, teachers and students ran in the second annual Turkey Trot Monday, a unique event where runners are sponsored by friends and all proceeds go to foreign missions. The course, designed by athletic director Ed Nietopski and coaches Chris Wagner and Tom Siembor, provides runners the opportunity to give thanks for the good things they may have.

Top Swimmer — Debbie Emerson, a Nazareth Academy graduate, is the spark-plug behind the St. Bonaventure women's swimming team. Debbie, who didn't swim competitively in high school, won several first places last season in a variety of events to help the Bona women to an unbeaten 10-0 record. Besides being an honors student and president of the Psychology National Honor Society at Bona, she also runs two miles a day. Debbie was the 1970 Northwest District Harvest Queen.

NDU ALUMNI

Alumni of Notre Dame University and their families will gather for Mass and breakfast Sunday, Dec. 1, at Mercy High School, 1437 Blossom Rd. New alumni and families of students are invited to join them.

Father Eugene Zimpfer, SJ, will celebrate Mass at 10 a.m. in the convent chapel. Breakfast reservations may be made with Mr. and Mrs. John Crowe, 482-7813, or Mr. and Mrs. John Casey, 482-0419.



Thanksgiving at St. Mary's

Photo by Susan McKinney

Leo Spahn, head chef at St. Mary's Hospital, pops one of the twelve 20-lb. turkeys he is baking into the oven as Catherine Krenzer, food service manager, takes a last look at the unfinished product. The turkey is just part of the Thanksgiving feast of 40-lbs of stuffing, 60-lbs of mashed potatoes and gravy, creamed onions, 40-lbs of squash, two gallons of cranberry sauce and 12 pumpkin pies that will be served to 250 patients.

On Clothing Drives

Jesuit Admits He Was Wrong

New York [RNS] — An American Jesuit priest, who once ridiculed clothing collections in churches for the needy overseas, has told the Catholic Relief Services director in Saigon that CRS shipments of clothing to the

Vietnamese people in his Freedom Village, Binh Tuy, "are the greatest."

In a letter forwarded to CRS' New York headquarters, Father James (Joe) Devlin, S.J., said that few people, even those who have worked with the poor, "understand the great good your clothing does."

"The absolute last thing the poor ever provide for themselves is bedding and clothing," he said. "When they have a shirt (which is worn or torn) they just keep putting patch upon patch until there is more patch than shirt."

Father Devlin, a native Californian, said that when he was in the United States he was critical of Catholic Relief Services' clothing "pickups" at local parishes. "Trying to rationalize my thinking at the time I figured you could never ship all that

clothing to the foreign missions. I was wrong."

In the letter, sent originally to Father John McVeigh, CRS program director in Saigon, Father Devlin said that "in the spirit of Dives (in Christ's parable of the rich man), who begged God to send a message to his brothers to not repeat his mistake, may I ask you to send this note to your American superiors thanking them for the clothing and to tell them to 'double or triple their efforts.'"

Father Devlin's letter, according to CRS sources in New York, arrived just prior to the 1974 Thanksgiving clothing collection, which will be taken up during November in most areas of the country at Catholic parishes. They described the letter as providing a clear and cogent example of the need for such an effort among American Catholics.

300,000 in U.S. Willing to Cut Down on Eating

Rome [RNS] — Some 300,000 Americans recently signed petitions saying they are willing to eat less food to feed the hungry and impoverished of the world, according to Herbert J. Walters, chairman of the World Hunger Action Coalition (WHAC).

WHAC, one of a number of non-governmental organizations attending the United Nations-sponsored World Food Conference here, is the "umbrella grouping" for 75 church, education, farm, women's, and consumer groups in the United States.

It includes Church World Service, the relief agency of the National Council of Churches, Catholic Relief Services, Church Women United, and Lutheran World Relief.

"We're the lobbying force for the grassroots," said Mr. Walters. One of the proposals being promoted by WHAC calls for "non-profit" farming, financed by charitable groups. The farms would produce food to be sold at cost for various aid programs.

Project Nets \$422

The Holy Name of Jesus Church Emergency Fund is richer by \$422 because of Wallpaper Sunday, the culmination of a project sponsored by the parish school of religion.

According to Frances Pichette, chairman of the parish communications committee, "a sense of community service and a real place in the parish family motivated the students and staff in the endeavor."

On Wallpaper Sunday (Nov. 2) the students covered large placards spelling out the word

Community with money, signs and scrolls, symbolic of what they did to raise funds.

The individual fundraisers included holding a baked goods and used toy sale; raking leaves and washing windows; car washing and the staging of a film festival.

Mrs. Pichette cited Walter Scheible, a vice-principal of the school of religion; Michael Moore, chairman of the liturgy committee of the school of religion; and Sister Mary Jo Lange, pastoral assistant, for their efforts in the project.

Deaths

Florence Basler

Elmira — Florence L. Basler, wife of Winfield R. Basler, died Nov. 12, 1974, after a long illness.

The Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated Nov. 15 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church by Msgr. Leo G. Schwab and Fathers L. John Hedges, Robert Kennedy, Thomas Streb, William Leone and James P. Malone, SJ. In the sanctuary were Fathers Francis Davis, Gerald O'Connor, Joseph F. Hogan and Thomas Brennan.

Mrs. Basler was a communicant of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Survivors besides her husband are two daughters, Sister Mary Mercy, RSM, of St. Charles Borromeo, Greece, and Mrs. Donald (Ellen) Gardner of Ridgewood, N.J., a daughter-in-law, Mrs. Elizabeth Basler of Penn Yan; six grandchildren and a brother, Raymond Lynch.

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