

Rose deserves shot at Hall after paying price

The young boys look up at their new teacher with a kind of awe. He's got a swagger to his walk and a smile that makes them want to smile back.

They're probably too young to remember this baseball demigod, but he would probably be recognized by their fathers and older brothers.

Pete Rose, the man, is a sports legend, but Pete Rose, the convict, is now a gym teacher's aide at a Cincinnati elementary school.

But to the ruling class of Major League Baseball, that punishment is not enough for Pete Rose.

As manager of the Cincinnati Reds, Rose committed the cardinal sin of betting on his own club. Following an extensive investigation by the league office, Rose paid the price for his faults with a 1989 lifetime ban from the game he cradled like a baby for his 24 years as a player.

Rose, baseball's all-time career hits leader, completed a five-month prison sentence at an Illinois prison camp last week for his conviction of income tax evasion. He will serve the remaining three months of his sentence living in a Cincinnati halfway house and performing 1,000 hours of community service by instructing youngsters in an elementary gym class.

Last Thursday, a special Baseball Hall of Fame committee proposed a resolution to bar the Hall induction of players who are on the ineligible list of Major League Baseball. This proposal will come under consideration by the Hall of Fame board of directors on Feb. 4.

Because of his crimes as a baseball manager, and not



From the Sidelines
by
JAKE BERG

as a player, Rose is the latest name etched on baseball's blacklist. Current rules of Hall eligibility say that he would be considered for enshrinement next year, but if the new resolution were adopted, Rose's name would be deleted from the ballot.

It's not often that you will find me throwing my support behind criminals, but, then again, Charles Keating and Michael Milken are hardly living legends up for induction to a hall of fame.

Pete Rose changed the face of the game; he enjoyed what he was doing and wasn't earning \$5 million a season doing it. The man was intense, insane if you will, about baseball. Who else dove into home plate headfirst with such fire in his eyes?

Fact: nobody had as many hits as Pete Rose did. Period. No one. Not the Babe, not DiMaggio, not Mantle, not Williams, and not even Cobb. That fact alone would be enough to let Dr. Ruth into the Hall of Fame.

Rose's foot touched first base safely 4,256 times, and now the Hall is attempting to forget every one of those hits. They are trying to erase the memory of one of the game's greatest players simply to advertise what they

claim are their standards of Hall acceptance.

Two players voted into the Hall of Fame last week were hardly saints. Gaylord Perry, perhaps the most prolific spitballer in baseball history, and Ferguson Jenkins, once discovered to have possessed cocaine on a Canadian road trip, were both accepted at Cooperstown despite their faults.

To me, cheating and using drugs is much more damaging to the integrity of a human being than gambling. We lay down pennies as bets the first time we ever play five-card draw; since third grade, I've bet with friends on football games.

I am not condoning gambling and am certainly not approving Rose's violation of a major rule by betting on his own team. What Rose did was wrong, but was it so bad that he should be denied baseball nirvana in addition to his lifetime exile? No.

The day Pete Rose left the game as a player should be the final day we remember the man Pete Rose as far as the Hall goes. The convict Pete Rose committed his crimes after his retirement as a player and thus should have no bearing on his accomplishments as a player.

When I learned of his less redeeming qualities, namely gambling, I was not shocked because to err is human. Although Pete Rose was once baseball's Zeus, he was also human and all of us have our glitches no matter what we dream. I forgave Pete Rose, as many baseball fans have, for what he did had nothing to do with his greatness as a player, and that is what the Hall of the Fame is all about.

Super Bowl plans intact despite Gulf situation

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL said Monday it plans to hold its remaining postseason games as scheduled, although it will continue to review the status of them in light of the tense situation in the Persian Gulf.

A report in this week's *Advertising*

Age magazine said the NFL would consider postponing the Super Bowl, set for Tampa, Fla., on Jan. 27, if war breaks out in the gulf.

"The NFL will continue to complete the remaining postseason games as scheduled," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello

said. "If events during the next three weeks lead us to re-evaluate our plans, we will make an announcement to that effect at that time."

ABC spokesman Mark Mandel said the network was going ahead with its Super Bowl plans and hadn't consid-

ered contingency plans.

"Obviously, no one on earth knows what's going to happen in the Persian Gulf," Mandel said. "Right now, we're going ahead as we've planned it for a long time."

Free Tennis Balls

Now You Receive A FREE Can Of Balls With Purchase of A Racquet!

Check out our popular brand name racquets: you'll find a good selection at great prices!

THE OFFICIAL UO DUCK TENNIS SHOE

Quality Leather with Duck Logo

ONLY 32.95



20% OFF LOCKS

- Kryptonite Bike Lock
- Masterlock #5D
- Combination Lock #116



Offer Good Through 1/19/91



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON BOOK STORE

13th & Kincaid 346-4331 M-F 7-30-6 Sat 10-00-6