

The Fifth Quarter

Sports by Mike Oths

I am writing this week's column in response to my overwhelming volume of fan mail. Actually, it wasn't that overwhelming (only one) and it wasn't really mail (just a brief conversation) and the person who mentioned it really isn't a fan, but it's the first time anybody gave a hoot about what I write, so here goes...

The sports fan in question suggested that I give a rundown of my opinion of current television sportscasters. Since one thing I'm never short of is opinions, I'll give it a shot.

There are certain sportscasters who fall into the proverbial "class by themselves," be it good or bad. They are:

Dick Vitale—as any devoted reader of these pages knows, I have a special place in my heart for this guy. Dick is the perfect combination of grating voice, overstatement of the obvious, overstatement of everything else, and lack of interesting subject matter. Dick seems stuck with Mississippi vs. Vanderbilt forever. I loved Dick as a basketball coach. "Nuff said.

John Madden—John Madden is as good a broadcaster as there is, possibly because he doesn't take himself that seriously. It takes a certain kind of charm to be able to launch into and to carry off semi-serious discourses about categorizing players' personalities by number ("That guy's definitely a 67. He's too slow to be a 72, and too mean to be a 63. Yup, definitely a 67.") John Madden has a rare personality ("What, me afraid of the dark? Nah.") and is a welcome relief from the run-of-the-mill broadcaster.

Bud Collins—The clearcut winner of the obnoxious question award. One of my get-rich-quick schemes is to tie Bud to the netpost and sell chances to Cris Evert-Lloyd, John McEnroe and the others, who would get three serves for a dollar to try to beat him. Although he is a knowledgeable tennis fan, he is an insult to the intelligence of the viewer and the player alike. Bud wins the creative sounds award, as anyone who has heard him gurgle into the microphone will testify. Has a particularly good knack of asking players about embarrassing defeats directly after stirring victories.

The next category would be the "Why do they pay this guy to do that and how can I get a job like that" group.

This category could go on forever, but four people get the nod here: Pete Axthelm, Phyllis George, John Andariese, and Jimmy the Greek. Axthelm and the Greek are particularly worthless. They sputter in half-sentences, and tell a whole nation of rabid football fans (who else would watch) that the Dolphins have a stronger team than the Chiefs. Jimmy the Greek used to be particularly adept at meaningless trivia by giving each team a check mark in a given area, then adding them up for a point spread. Phyllis George smiles a lot, while at least admitting that she knows nothing about football. We'll give her a break. John Andariese is another question. John is the guy who sits in the studio with Greg Gumbel analyzing NBA games at half-time. John's analysis usually boils down to: "Boston is behind by six at halftime, Greg, and what they really need to do is outscore Philly by seven in the second half." His is a job I really want.

Various other categories deserve mention:

ESPN: Love Chris Berman, can't stand Tom (Mr. USFL) Mees.

Golf: Love the guys with British accents, seems appropriate for golf. Otherwise, who cares.

Bowling: Bo Burton and Chris Schenkel are the best tandem in broadcasting.

Dick Button: ABC's figure-skating analyst is easily the most unobjective reporter in the history of television. Yankee go home.

Howard Cosell: A category unto himself. So much has been written about Howard that I won't pile it on. He doesn't deserve that much attention (especially in baseball season).

Now, for the Fifth Quarter All-Star Team (in pairs):

Basketball: Billy Packer and Dick Enberg (sorry, Al). Football: John Madden and Don Meredith (who needs play-by-play, I can figure it out myself.)

Baseball: Al Michaels and Don Drysdale (Are you getting sick of Vin Scully, too, or do you really want to know what Ralph Kiner batted in 1953?)

Miscellaneous—Charlie Jones, Chris Berman, Bo Burton. Special Mention: Randi Hall, ESPN Sportswoman.

More fish planted at Willow Creek Lake

Last Friday, July 6, 1,200 legal size fish were planted at the lake above Willow Creek Dam reported Bob Krein of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. An additional 400 were planted in the creek area below the dam.

These were all 11-13 fish. Conditions seem to be good for the fish, Krein says, because the fingerlings which were planted earlier have been growing about one inch per month and are expected to reach legal size by the end of the summer.

Mortensens receive Yard of the Month honor



The yard of Otto and Louise Mortensen has been chosen July Yard of the Month by the Lone Garden Club. The yard is located at the corner of Second and Cherry streets and is bordered by a white picket fence.

The Mortensens say that they have planted their 30 inch flower beds with some

early flowers - crocus and showdrops. As these blooms fade other kinds of flowers which they planted bloom during most of the summer. The varieties of flowers include: Easter Lilies, Tulips, Iris, Petunias, and Nasturtiums.

Red volcanic rock with small bushes surround the lawn in the backyard.

Friendship Baptist sets VBS July 16-20

Friendship Baptist Church of Heppner located at the corner of Willow and Gale

1st Christian slates men's breakfast

This Sunday, July 15, at 8 a.m. the First Christian Church will be holding its monthly men's breakfast said a spokesperson for the church.

This breakfast is open to all men in the community who are interested in getting together for a time of good Christian fellowship and challenge. There is a suggested donation of \$2 to help defray the cost of the meal.

This breakfast will be followed by regularly scheduled services. Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m. with classes for all ages, two-year-olds to adults. Worship service is at 11 a.m.

The public is invited to all services. For more information call the Rev. Don Shelton at 676-9209.

Over the Tee Cup

Ladies Day at Willow Creek Country Club on Tuesday, July 3 was played as a scramble with teams consisting of three ladies said a spokesperson for the lady golfers. Each contestant was limited to only three clubs of her choice.

Winners of the contest were Pat Edmundson, Dovie Graves and Eileen Padberg. Lucille Peck won the wind ball.

During the hot weather, coffee will be served at 8 a.m. and golf will begin at 8:30 concluded the spokesperson.

WCCC lists medal play winners

The 1984 Willow Creek Country Club medal play tournament chaired by Rick Johnston was held Sunday, July 8. The weather was perfect and 33 golfers opened play of nine holes to determine the three different flights: Championship, first, and second flights, said a spokesperson for W.C.C.C.

Following the flight placement, 18 more holes were played, with a lunch served under the direction of Susan Johnston and Trish Toll, between the second and third nine.

The tournament results were as follows:

Club co-champions with a 27 hole score of 95 were John Edmundson and John Boyer.

Second place was won by Ron Bowman with a fine score of 97. Third place went to Eddie Gunderson with a score of 105.

First flight winner was Elmer Palmer - 105, second place, George Waterland - 107, and third place, Charles Starks - 109.

Second flight winners were Archie Munkers and Ted Toll tied at - 114, second place, David Green - 116, and third place, Earl Norris.

Special awards were: Long Drive Championship - John Edmundson, Long drive first flight - Frank Bailey, Long drive second flight - Mark Jarvis, K.P. championship - Ray Massey, K.P. first flight - Jon Mitchell, and K.P. second flight - Doug Smith.

Willow Creek Country Club golfers are reminded that Sunday, July 15, will be more golf for men and women with Condon and Kinzua golfers coming to W.C.C.C. for a visitation. Tee off time will be 9 a.m. with coffee and snacks 8 - 9 a.m. Lunch will be served following play.

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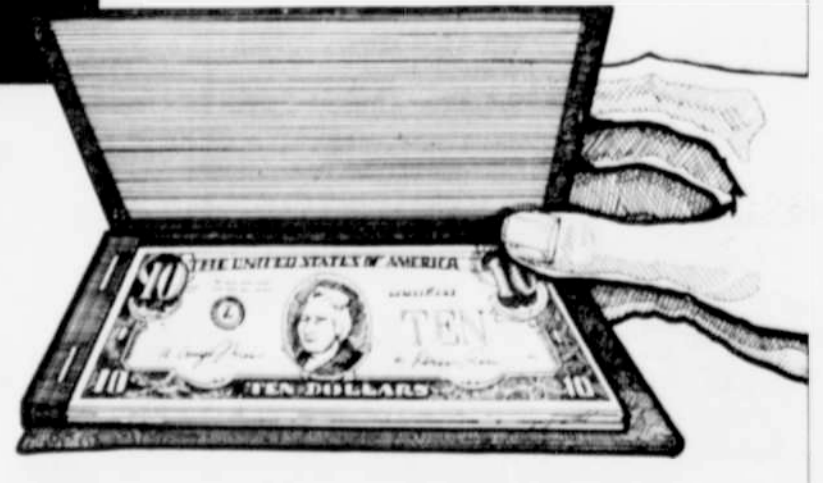
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Page 5

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Page 7

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