

## From The Sportsheft

Baseball Between The Lines (By Donald Honig, 252 pages, Hardbound-Coward, McCann and Geoghegan, Inc. \$9.95).

By Bob Licht

Who was baseball's first big bonus baby? Did you know that George Washington Case was not a politician? What homerun hitter holds the record for leading, or tying for the lead, in homeruns in his first 7 years in the major leagues?

These are among the questions answered, however inadvertently, in Donald Honig's latest book: Baseball Between The Lines. While interviewing 19 ballplayers of the 1940's and 1950's, Honig presents a great deal of baseball trivia. However, following the renowned Red Smith's introductory remarks are interviews with ballplayers who truly depict baseball during and after World War II.

The unusual interviews are initiated with Tommy Henrich, one of baseball's original free agents, and terminated with Robin Roberts, who proved coach Cy Perkins correct by hurling a shutout at age 40. But the book as a whole may be seen as a collection of revelations involving both amazing athletes (Gene Conley played for both the champion Boston Celtics and the Boston Braves and Red Sox) and would-be

super stars (Herb Score and Dick Wakefield). Honig allows each former ballplayer to recount memorable moments of his career. For the veteran baseball fan, these recollections provide many memories—both good and bad. For the young fan, the anecdotes (despite their questionable factual content) stir interest and wonder over how ballplayers really were "back then." This is really the author's intent, as indicated by the title.

Because Honig interviews such a variety of ballplayers with nuances still prevalent among modern athletes, the reader better understands the author's purpose. The accompanying pictures also enable the reader to better understand the book's chronological significance. For instance, only one black ballplayer, Monte Irvin, is interviewed. This is a consequence of the tragic color line that eschewed blacks from the major leagues prior to 1947.

Although the messages are many, the meanings are palpable. Donald Honig has a truly unique book in that it relates both the ebullient flavor of baseball in the 40's and 50's and the social milieu of that era.

This book is an absolute necessity for the reader who is interested in baseball as it was throughout the turbulent times of World War II.

## Olympic Bobsled Run Cooling Down In Preparation For 1980 Games

LAKE PLACID—It is the only one in the Western Hemisphere. It is a mile long, and it will follow a course built for the 1932 Olympic Winter Games. It will be completely refrigerated, and it will cost \$3.9 million. A section of it is called Shady Curve, and it is the most famous curve in the world.

Mc. Van Hoesenberg, as a mountain, it is nondescript; but as the site of the Olympic bobsled run, it is the focus of attention for the planet's best bobsledders. Located six miles east of Lake Placid, the Mt. Van Hoesenberg recreation area will be a hive of activity in the months from now through February 1980, when the XIII Olympic Winter Games are held. Pre-Olympic and Olympic events in cross country skiing, luge, and biathlon will take place at Mt. Van Hoesenberg, events which will receive their share of attention. But at Van Hoesenberg, bobsledding is the glamour sport, and it is bobsledding that will command the most attention.

On July 6, 1978, workmen began the reconstruction of the run, demolishing the original run, which snaked for a mile down the face of the mountain. Except for minor safety alterations, the new run will trace that course exactly. The refrigeration will ensure the use of the run on days as warm as 50 degrees Fahrenheit; a 300-ton compressor will chill ammonia, which will circulate through 172,000 lineal feet of piping. In the past, the non-refrigerated run could be a problem.

"With the old run," Joe McKillip, the Lake Placid Olympic Organizing Committee's technical director for bobsled, said, "if the temperature got up to 30 degrees we couldn't use it, it would get too sloppy. But the refrigeration will enable us to keep the run at 10 degrees, which is the ideal temperature."

Joe McKillip ended his bobsledding career in 1966, after he had won, among other titles, the North American four-man championship. More than 30 years before that, LPOOC President Ron MacKenzie was also experiencing frustrating moments at Van Hoesen-

berg. "I'd get a call early in the morning," MacKenzie said, "telling me the run was open. Then I'd have to get a team together. One of the reasons my wife, Anna, was on my team was because it was one less person I had to round up. After I got everybody together we'd ride out there, and sometimes by the time we arrived, a sled would have gone down and made a hole in the ice. That would force them to close the run for the rest of the day. With the refrigeration now, it will make repairs that much easier."

When the run is complete, it will be comprised of 2,000 cubic yards of concrete, 105 tons of structural steel, and 161,000 square feet of wire mesh. The Mt. Van Hoesenberg bobsled run is already considered the safest in the world, and the modifications planned will make it safer.

"One of the advantages of the new run is the standardization of the

### Physicals Scheduled

Physicals for boys and girls interested in participating in sports programs at Potsdam High School for the upcoming academic year have been scheduled. The complete schedule is:

Varsity football team—Tuesday, Aug. 22; A through D, 8:15 a.m.; E through J, 8:30 a.m.; K through M, 8:45 a.m.; N through Z, 9 a.m.

Girls' cross country—Tuesday, Aug. 22; all girls, 9:15 a.m.

Girls' junior varsity soccer—Tuesday, August 22; all girls, 9:30 a.m.

Junior varsity football team—Wednesday, Aug. 23; A through H, 8:15 a.m.; I through S, 8:30 a.m.; T through Z, 8:45 a.m.

Boys' soccer—Wednesday, Aug. 23; A through B, 8:45 a.m.; C through F, 9 a.m.; G through L, 9:15 a.m.; Thursday, Aug. 24; M through P, 8:15 a.m.; Q through Z, 8:30 a.m.

Boys' cross country—Thursday, Aug. 24; A through M, 8:45 a.m.; N through Z, 9 a.m.

Girls' soccer—Thursday, Aug. 24; A through D, 9:15 a.m.; Friday, Aug. 25; E through J, 8:30 a.m.; K through M, 8:45 a.m.; N through Z, 9 a.m.

straightaways," McKillip said. "They'll all be 1.4 meters wide—55 1/4 inches—to prevent the sled from moving from side to side as it shoots down."

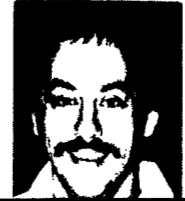
In 1966, Sergio Zardini, an Italian, and one of the world's top bobsledders, was killed at Mt. Van Hoesenberg. He was the third person to lose his life on the run.

McKillip explained: "They put an overhanging lip on the run, to stop sleds from sailing over the edge. Back then they had a series of four-by-fours, at right angles to the run, so when Zardini hit, it was just like hitting a buzz saw. The way it is now, they have a solid, plastic lip, on a slant, so if a sled hits, it won't go off the run, it will slide into the run. No bobsled run is completely safe, but we're always making modifications."

In February, 1978, two-man and four-man world championships were held at Mt. Van Hoesenberg; in March, 1979, a two-man invitational championship will be held but as the bobsledders flash around Shady Curve and into Zig-Zag, they'll all be pointed in one direction: the 1980 Olympic Winter Games.

## On The Sidelines

STEVE KMAÇK



### Voting Down Athletes

Budget time is something that many times causes controversy and much headache for all involved. Generally speaking, though, most school officials succeed, after toiling countless hours in finalizing the dollars and cents and pushing their budget through.

I was, however, surprised to see that the residents of the communities of Madrid and Waddington rejected their budget not once but three times; the last being the most startling in that each item related to school operating costs were voted on separately by the citizens. The particular item which causes me to write this column and which I am most concerned about is the negative response by the people towards athletics which was soundly defeated by approximately 100 votes.

The sports program at Madrid-Waddington has through the years been a very successful one. Under the guidance of Jim Rische, Athletic Director, the various athletic teams have performed at a level which has brought much acclaim to this relatively small school system.

I have always had the impression that the people of this community were responsive to sports and understood the vital role that they play in the total education of their children. Was it that I was totally wrong, that these people really don't care? I interviewed Jim Rische and found a man who is fighting desperately to salvage a program which now seems almost hopelessly destined to go.

Jim has coached in the school system for fifteen years and has brought the school much honor in the sports of soccer and baseball. Respected by all who know him in Section 10, Jim is regarded as one of the most astute soccer minds in the north country. I know this man personally and have always admired his concern not for just winning and losing but for the total development of all his players, which he believes sports play an integral part in.

Why, I asked, are the people so quick to reject their athletics and all the pluses that go along with it. There apparently has, among other things, been a core of dissatisfaction against the salaries of

some of the school administrators and a feeling that they are overpaid. A general negative atmosphere towards bureaucracy seems to prevail amongst these particular citizens. As a result they vent their frustrations on the entire budget with the attitude that "we'll show them who is boss." Don't these people realize that the children of Madrid-Waddington are the ones who take the heaviest, the ones who end up as the sacrificial lambs?

Yes, many administrators make a pretty penny and it is not for me to judge whether they are overpaid or not. I can say this though, an administrator's job is not an easy one, constantly filled with major decisions, rarely does he come out looking like a good guy. It's not an envious job and I do believe a good administrator, one who hustles to do a good job, earns his dollars.

Jim Rische is making an attempt to gather enough votes throughout the school district via a petition so that the athletic program can be voted on one more time. "Athletics may be gone at

Madrid-Waddington but not without my strongest efforts to prevent it" was a statement Jim made during the course of my talk with him. Jim also said matter of factly, "there are many who see the value of a good sports program but they can't be content to sit back and quietly watch what happens, they have to step forward and help me see this thing through."

Let me say this to the citizens of this community, if you have ever had problems with your youth and it may only be minute compared to what may come if sports are terminated within your school. Athletics are meant not just for the athlete but for the spectator, the fan as well. Sports provide a spirit of comradeship within a school which is so essential and necessary. If you take athletics away from the study body a lot of idleness is going to result and its counterpart, trouble is soon to follow.

Yes, Jim Rische is a person who genuinely cares but the last question I pose is, "are there enough Jim Rishes around to see this thing through?"

### Practice Slated For Jr. Gridders

The first practice for the Potsdam Junior Football program, open to boys 10-14-years-old and weighing between 75 and 150 pounds, will be held Monday, Aug. 21, starting at 5:30 p.m. Players should first meet on the High School football field bleachers to receive team assignments.

Boys are not required to be residents of Potsdam to participate in the program. The league furnishes all equipment except sneakers. Insurance is also provided. There are no registration fees.

Practice sessions will be held five nights a week until the beginning of school and three nights a week thereafter. Games are scheduled to be played Saturday mornings on the High School football field.

### Meeting Scheduled

The Market Lanes Scratch League will hold an organizational meeting at Market Lanes Friday, Aug. 18, starting at 7:30 p.m. All members are asked to attend. The league also currently has openings for four additional teams.

### Jr. Gridders

This year's league will be made up of four teams; the Jets coached by Harold Ling, John James and Fred LaBrake; the Giants coached by Steve Mites, Tom Delosh and David Brouse; the Colts coached by Walt McLennen and Lynn Warden; and the Cardinals coached by Lonnie Varney and Dick Dennicot.

Each team will play six games in the season. Under the program's guidelines, each player will have an opportunity to play in every game.

Boys who may have missed registration would like to join the program should attend the first practice.

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1:30 P.M. Horse Pull  
8:00 P.M. Demolition Derby

**MONDAY, AUGUST 21**  
Childrens Day  
1 and 6 P.M. Tractor Pull

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 22**  
Senior Citizens Day

**WEDNESDAY AUGUST 23**  
2 P.M. Harness Racing  
6 P.M. and 8:30 P.M.  
Johnny Paycheck Show

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 24**  
Childrens Day  
2 P.M. Harness Racing  
Lewis Family Gospel Singers  
Charlie Tango & Joni Lee-  
Conway Twitty's Children Shows at 6 P.M. & 8:30 P.M.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 25**  
2 P.M. Harness Racing  
6 P.M. & 8:30  
Tammy Wynette Show

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 26**  
9 A.M. Woodsmans Day  
Chain Saw Competition  
Loader and Skidder Competition  
Grease Pole Climb  
4 P.M. & 8 P.M. Jack Kochman Helldrivers

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 27**  
12 Noon Fiddlers & Yoelders Contest  
2 P.M. Antique Car Show  
3 P.M. Jack Kochman Helldrivers  
4:30 P.M. Demolition Derby Final

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