

THOUGHTS FOR OUR TIME

BY HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL McGUIGAN

THIS CULT OF 'STARS' IS NOT REAL SPORT

There was a time when one could tell the season of the year by the major sport that was then in vogue. Now that indicator seems to be as unreliable as the weather. For we have football in August and hockey in April, with baseball overlapping in both directions. But just as we adapt ourselves of weather and blame it on sun spots or atom tests, so we have come to accept sports in a season not traditionally assigned to them and explain it as a necessity of some kind.

As a result, the possibility of confused ideas regarding the role and purpose of sports, especially for the non-professional suggests that a review of some Christian principles of sport might be beneficial and enlightening.

The care of the body and physical culture cannot be neglected by the Church as a work outside her proper sphere as though only things "purely religious" and exclusively spiritual were within her competence. For there are natural and Christian virtues without which sport could not properly develop but would inevitably degenerate into a form of closed materialism, an end in itself.

Moreover, there are Christian principles and norms which when applied to sport open up to it loftier horizons. For sport is a field of activity where it is easy to neglect the most important values of the spiritual, over-exalt the values of the body and forget essential duties to God and family.

PRUDENCE NEEDED
There should be a conviction engendered in the amateur by those who train and coach them that the care of the body is not an end in itself but should be directed to the intellectual and moral perfecting of the whole man. This has some practical applications: prudence is necessary in assigning or permitting one to enter certain sports.

The aid of a doctor is essential. Exercise in the sport should never interfere with the duties of one's state, especially the duty of the student to study. Rather the exercise should be an aid to fulfilling these duties, at least indirectly by rebuilding energy or relieving tensions.

The desire to win must not be allowed to lead to violations of the common moral law. For example, there is a limit that must be set to the right use of one's body, a limit that prevents subjecting it to ruinous exertions or using dangerous stimulants to achieve a super-strength for the "big" game.

A word here in regard to spectators of professional and amateur contest. For they have a responsibility, as to sports-writers and promoters not to applaud daring risks or to demand inhuman strain from their team or contestant.

A positive view of sport will be an education and will tend to develop the intellect and train the will especially in competitive matches. There will be a need to reflect, to judge, to use one's energy wisely, to foresee the manoeuvres of the adversary, to use one's reserve energy at the opportune time and

by these will the intellect be sharpened.

DUTY TO TEAM

The will in its turn can be strengthened by a consciousness of duty to the team, legitimate desire for victory, small or even great sacrifices gladly accepted to develop one's potential. Proof of this latter development will be evidenced by careful and methodical training, perseverance despite failure and endurance of discomforts.

With the help of prayer other virtues can also be developed by participants in sporting events. Among others, loyalty to the team, truthfulness that does not resort to excuses, docility and obedience to the wise commands of the coach, modesty in victory, and calmness in defeat, patience towards spectators who are not always moderate.

These virtues and these principles can best free sport from deviations that are denoted by all-commercialism and an exaggerated cult of the "stars" to which are sacrificed high ideals, justice, an unreasonable desire to win that may ruin the health of the athletes and the good reputation of the team or the ones sponsoring the team.

O'LEARY
Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Kerslake and three children returned to their home in Toronto, after spending a couple of weeks visiting, their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Don Buchanan, Unionville and brothers Malcolm and George Buchanan, O'Leary, also other relatives in the Community.

Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Murray Gardner and their three children, have been guests of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bryan for the past week. Rev. Mr. Gardner a former pastor of the Alberton United Church pastoral charge conducted services on Sunday, Aug. 16th., at Cascumpee and Alberton and received a very warm welcome from his many friends. He is now the pastor of the United Church at Mahone Bay, N.S.

Friends of Mr. Eric Phillips son of Mr. and Mrs. Waldo Phillips, O'Leary are sorry to hear he had the misfortune to get his leg broken while loading animals to go on show at Alberton Exhibition. He is resting comfortably in the Community Hos-

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Warden Sees No More Trouble

HALIFAX (CP)—Deputy Warden Roy Crowell said Friday he doesn't expect any more trouble at the city prison where 10 inmates Wednesday staged a minor uprising.

He said the incident apparently had no particular cause. "You might call it a kind of vandalism."

One prisoner was remanded to hospital, O'Leary.

The many friends of Mr. Leslie MacLean, Dunblane, are glad to hear he is doing fine after undergoing surgery in the Community Hospital, O'Leary.

without plea on a charge of being in possession of a weapon and damaging a truck windshield.

Mr. Crowell said the prison was overcrowded—75-80 inmates this year "which leads to trouble." It should contain about 40.

"Of these 80 prisoners, 45 are doing life on the instalment plan," he said. "They're in and out, in and out all the time."

ON NARCOTICS COMMISSION
OTTAWA (CP)—L. H. Nicholson, former RCMP commissioner, left Tuesday for a six-week stay in the Middle East as a member of the United Nations narcotics commission that area. He resigned as commissioner early this year because the federal government refused to send RCMP reinforcements to Newfoundland during the woodworkers' strike there.



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