

Life's ugly side creeps into sport

EVERY SO OFTEN, sports and reality cross paths. The result of any such encounter can be ugly.

Ask any amateur-level coach the meaning of sports and you'll get an answer something like this: "It teaches kids values and sportsmanship, and it shows them that hard work means something."

Sports are one of the best tools for teaching kids how to play fair and win. And when kids take lessons learned through athletic competition with them into life, reality benefits.

Unfortunately, the door that allows such benefits to pass swings both ways. And that means the ugliness of the real world, where innocent airline passengers are murdered and left on runways in Cyprus, sometimes intrudes.

Don't misunderstand. No one's been murdered in sports. Not yet. But some of the most hideous aspects of human nature have seeped in.

Examples are beyond count. Drug abuse, sexual abuse, recruiting abuse. . . and, on Jan. 8 in Harper Woods, racial abuse.

THE NEWS was welcomed by Robert Rogers. Assault and battery charges against him had been dropped. In turn, he agreed to drop his assault and battery charges against East Taylor athletic director Charles Silver.

"There was nothing to be gained by either party," said Rogers Tuesday. "He hit me, I hit him, he got touched, I got touched, he had his witnesses, I had my witnesses."

"It was a slight relief (for me). I didn't want to be tied up with that sort of thing. It's just time-consuming. It takes me away from my teaching."

Rogers knows his job, both in the classroom and on the court. But the events of Jan. 8 left no heroes.

Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook's basketball team



C.J. Risak

lost the game at Harper Woods that night. But, by Rogers' account, Harper Woods lost much more.

The Cranbrook players, both junior varsity and varsity, were abused that night. Verbally. Racially.

NO ONE REALLY denies that racial slurs were slung at the Cranes, some of whom are black. Harper Woods supporters at the time said the whole thing was overblown; some insist that Rogers — who is black — incited a riot with his reaction. Rogers was charged with just such a crime, but it was later dropped.

In sports, there's a winner and a loser. When situations like this occur, people look for whom to blame, who's right and who's wrong.

Problem is, in situations like this, there are no winners. Did Rogers overreact? Probably. Violence, off-court or on, never solves anything — justified or not.

Rogers believes his actions were more than justified. "As far as I'm concerned, when you use racial slurs it's worse than sticking a knife in someone," he said. "Cheap shots aren't part of the game, verbal abuse isn't part of the game."

"You can't do these kinds of things in athletics. You can't do these kinds of things, period."

Rogers knows his job, and its responsibilities, well. He also knows what's right. That's why further court action is still pending, this time a civil suit which Rogers may bring against the city of

Harper Woods. "You can't arrest people without probable cause," explained Rogers, who believes his rights were violated when he — and only he — was arrested at the scene Jan. 8. "I don't want to go to court, but the fact of the matter is, this isn't for me but for the people."

AGAIN, ROGERS knows this is a sports lawsuit. "They parallel each other, life and athletics," he acknowledged. "Kids learn from the game. They learn that you can be down, but not out, that you'll have some success and have some failure."

"When things like this happen, the people you hurt most are the kids."

And yet, despite all the talk, the atrocities continue. High school hockey coaches complain about media coverage concentrating on fights instead of goals, but the same coaches toss insults at each other between periods. What lesson is learned?

Rogers knows the solution. "People can't get hung up on wins and losses," he said. "The number of fights (in sports), not just in high school but colleges and pros, we've just got to cut them out."

But sports, by nature, are highly emotional. And when that emotion spills outside the parameters of the game's rules, danger lurks.

It comes down to this: Goals need to be established by coaches, and then reiterated throughout the season. These goals need not be associated with wins and losses. They should emphasize respect, control, class.

The lessons sports can — and should — teach are much too valuable to be buried by outbursts of temper and distasteful actions. Unfortunately, just a few of the latter tend to blot out all the good accomplished by the former.

He'll run but not compete in race

By Mike Rosenbaum staff writer

Doug Kurtis will likely be the top runner competing in this year's West Bloomfield half marathon race, but he is not likely to win.

The Northville resident, who won his fourth straight Triathlon Marathon last Sunday, is preparing for the April 24 Olympic marathon trials in Jersey City, N. J. So he cannot go all out in this Sunday's West Bloomfield event, which begins at 12:30 p.m.

"I'm not really planning to race," he explained, "I'm going to do it more as a workout. I'm running the Olympic trials in two weeks, so I can't go and run hard and be ready to run the trials the following week."

"I was planning to do a good workout that day anyway. So I can get out there and do a good run. But I'm not going to push too hard."

Kurtis, 36, says he will still enjoy the race for similar reasons that brought 852 runners to the starting line last year. Ronald Lassard of Bloomfield Hills (1:09.31) and Cindy Barber of Lincoln Park (1:23.38) were the respective winners in the men's and women's divisions.

"IT'S ONE OF the first events of the year," said Kurtis, who has won the event twice, once when it was still a full marathon. "And it's kind of a social occasion. It's a nice opportunity to meet some of the runners you haven't seen all winter."

Kurtis praised the city parks and recreation commission, which organizes the race.

"The organization just does a nice job. (The runners) keep coming back, so they must be doing something right," Kurtis said.

Don Balkwell, 41, has missed only "one or two" of the 11 previous races in his home town, due to conflicts with the Boston Marathon. He placed 45th overall last year (1:22.32). He was sixth four years ago, his best West Bloomfield finish.

"The people who run the race just do such a tremendous job," said Balkwell. "I think they make everybody feel like they're an important part of the race, whereas so many races, the race officials seem to have the feeling that the runners are there to serve them. It's just the other way around here."

The 13.1-mile course is 99 percent paved and one percent gravel. It starts at West Bloomfield High School and snakes through the city with numerous twists and turns on its way to the finish line in the Holy Spirit Church parking lot. Both

running

'I'm going to do it more as a workout. I'm running the Olympic trials in two weeks, so I can't go and run hard and be ready to run the trials.'

— Doug Kurtis
marathon runner

Kurtis and Balkwell appreciate the layout.

"It's a very nice course," said Balkwell. "It has a lot of variety as far as some hills and some flat sections. It's reasonably scenic, passing through all the subdivisions and it's nice because it gets so many spectators along the course, all through the course. Unlike a lot of races where there are spectators at the starting line and there are spectators at the finish. And you're out there more or less all by yourself for 12 miles out of the 13.1. It makes a difference, there's no doubt about it."

"I do like the course," Kurtis agreed. "Some people might complain there's a lot of turns, but I like running through subdivisions. I do a lot of my workouts through subdivisions."

The race records for men and women are held by Craig Fuller of Canton (1:08.54) and Ella Willis of Detroit (1:19.37).

The top overall male and female finisher this year will each receive one round-trip Eastern Airlines ticket for anywhere in the continental United States. There will be awards in six male and five female age groups, plus a husband-wife team award. All finishers are eligible for the grand prize drawing, a seven-day cruise for two to Bermuda.

"Fast runners will be registering as late as race day — as the victorious Barber did last year — it's impossible to identify favorites. But the bottom line to Kurtis is not winning or losing."

"I know it's going to be a really nice event," he said. "The organizers have done a lot to make it a real special occasion. So I know I can go out there and at least run a good race."

Zebras stay perfect on diamond

Continued from Page 1

MIAMI: The visiting Cougars scored four runs in the eighth inning and held on in the bottom of the ninth to beat East Taylor Truman in the Tri-River League game.

It was the season-opener for both teams.

Bob Stubbs' two-run double in the eighth was the big blow for Garden City. Rick Walters' single also drove in a run, and the Cougars' extra-inning run came home on a wild pitch.

Truman managed a run in the bottom of the eighth on two hits, a walk and a hit batsman, before Jeremy Kroll struck out two batters to end the game. Kroll relieved Jerry Noel — who pitched just one-third of an inning to earn the win.

Gene Boyce started the game for Garden City, pitching the first seven innings and allowing five hits and recording four strikeouts. He left with the game tied at two.

Stubbs, Scott Silverberg and Don Emerson all went 2-for-4 for Garden City. Emerson had an RBI.

BISHOP BORGESS 7, AQUINAS

Christian wins opener

Plymouth Christian Academy broke a 2-2 tie in the fourth inning and enjoyed a successful baseball debut Tuesday with a 6-3 victory over Ypsilanti Calvary Christian.

Scott Seeley reached base on a fielder's choice in the PCA ball of the fourth, and Scott Cox's double sent him to the plate with the tying run. Cox scored the winning run on an error.

Ben Odum was the winning pitcher, going four innings and throwing

60 pitches. Calvary had only two hits off him, and Odum recorded three strikeouts and four walks.

Jeff Leach pitched the last inning of the five-inning game and earned a save. He entered with a runner on base and a two-ball count on the batter. He struck out the first two men he faced and got the final out on a fly ball.

The Eagles, who added two insurance runs in the fifth on several Temple errors, had five hits.

PCA plays host to Warren Bethesda in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference opener Thursday.

BOATS INC. SALE

17' 130 H.P.I.O.	\$7695
19' 130 H.P.I.O.	\$8395
22' CUDDY 130 H.P.I.O.	\$9195
22' CUDDY 130 H.P.I.O.	\$10,995
25' AFT CABIN 250 H.P.I.O.	\$24,995

(Refrigerator, Electric Stove, Sink, Power Windows, Dual Battery, Full Sun Protection, Bare Paint)

BOATS INC.
6445 Fenwick, Dearborn Heights
1 1/2 mi. North of Ford Rd.
(313) 274-1600

BURGLAR ALARMS

& FIRE DETECTION SYSTEMS

- 24 Hour Monitoring
- Notify Police, Fire & Medical Dept.
- Fast Efficient Inst.
- Emergency Buttons
- Digitel Pad

Leasing \$195 one time charge or

\$425 Purchased

EASY FINANCING AVAILABLE **532-8788**

P.T.P. SECURITY SERVICE
12700 BERWYN, REDFORD

UGLY KITCHEN CABINETS?

DON'T REPLACE... **'REFACE'**

MODERN & EUROPEAN STYLES

FORMICA Solid Colors and Woodgrain	SOLID WOODS Oak, Cherry and Birch
------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

SEVERING WAYNE, OAKLAND & MACOMB

- FACTORY SHOWROOM
- FREE ESTIMATES

1542 E. 11 Mile Rd., Madison Hgts. Since 1922
1 Block W. of Dequindre Daily 9-5, Sun, 10-4

Cabinet Clad... 541-5252

Lakeland bests Raiders

Millford Lakeland jumped to an early lead and spoiled North Farmington's baseball season opener Tuesday, 7-3.

The Eagles wasted no time putting three first-inning runs on the scoreboard and led 4-0 before the Raiders pushed across two in the bottom of the sixth for a one-run difference.

Lakeland, however, got three more in the seventh to settle the issue. In tossing a two-bitter, winning pitcher Bob Charles struck out nine and walked one during five innings of work.

North's Bob Bullach, who also pitched well, went 6 1/2 and was tagged with the loss. He fanned 12 batters and allowed only four hits while walking seven. Lakeland had five earned runs, however.

Scott Simon and Mike Mackie had North's only hits, Simon driving in a run. Jeff Frazzini had two RBI for the Eagles, and George Hutchins scored two runs.

The Raiders play host to Farmington Harrison at 4 p.m. Friday.

4: Visiting Redford Bishop Borgess split a doubleheader Monday with Southgate Aquinas, winning the first game 7-4 and falling in the nightcap, 6-4.

The Spartans, 7-3 overall, led 6-2 after three innings of the first game as Paul

Dreslowski pitched the final five innings for his first win. He struck out five and walked four.

Tim Pili, Loyd D'Angelo, Bill Latosse and Steve Coffell had two hits each for Borgess. Coffell drove in three runs.

2: Farmington Hills Mercy defeated Livonia Ladywood in a girls golf opener Tuesday at Meadowbrook Country Club, 247-269.

Three players were disqualified, one from Ladywood and two from Mercy, for playing the wrong hole.

Kim Scabbia's nine-hole round of 48 won it for the Marlies. She was followed by teammates Nancy Margherio (54), Linda Cummings (72) and Jo Firek (75).

Prentiss Latch shot a 59 to lead the Blazers.

2: In Game No. 2, Aquinas broke a 4-4 tie in the bottom of the sixth inning, scoring two unearned runs off losing pitcher Marco Araquil. Araquil, who has yet to win, lost his first game in relief of starter D'Angelo, who went the first four innings. Dreslowski was 2-for-4 with one RBI in the second game for Borgess.

REDFORD CC 4-6, HOLT, 1-5: Redford Catholic Central Improved its overall record to 4-0 last Saturday, taking a double-header from Holt at Capital Park, 4-1 and 6-5.

CC lefty Leo Hutchinson went the distance on the mound to win the nightcap. He also had the game-winning RBI, hitting solo home run in the fifth inning to give the Shamrocks a 6-3 lead.

Hutchinson recorded 14 strikeouts and walked three.

In the first game, CC scored three runs in the sixth inning, breaking up a 1-1 deadlock. The Shamrocks were hitless the first five innings.

Reliever Mark Stanforth pitched the last two innings for CC to get the win. A two-run single by John Gotts gave the Shamrocks a 3-1 lead.

Mercy golfers beat Ladywood

Farmington Hills Mercy defeated Livonia Ladywood in a girls golf opener Tuesday at Meadowbrook Country Club, 247-269.

Three players were disqualified, one from Ladywood and two from Mercy, for playing the wrong hole.

Kim Scabbia's nine-hole round of 48 won it for the Marlies. She was followed by teammates Nancy Margherio (54), Linda Cummings (72) and Jo Firek (75).

Prentiss Latch shot a 59 to lead the Blazers.

2: In Game No. 2, Aquinas broke a 4-4 tie in the bottom of the sixth inning, scoring two unearned runs off losing pitcher Marco Araquil. Araquil, who has yet to win, lost his first game in relief of starter D'Angelo, who went the first four innings. Dreslowski was 2-for-4 with one RBI in the second game for Borgess.

REDFORD CC 4-6, HOLT, 1-5: Redford Catholic Central Improved its overall record to 4-0 last Saturday, taking a double-header from Holt at Capital Park, 4-1 and 6-5.

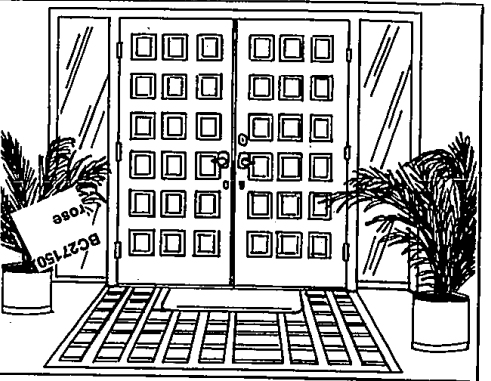
CC lefty Leo Hutchinson went the distance on the mound to win the nightcap. He also had the game-winning RBI, hitting solo home run in the fifth inning to give the Shamrocks a 6-3 lead.

Hutchinson recorded 14 strikeouts and walked three.

In the first game, CC scored three runs in the sixth inning, breaking up a 1-1 deadlock. The Shamrocks were hitless the first five innings.

Reliever Mark Stanforth pitched the last two innings for CC to get the win. A two-run single by John Gotts gave the Shamrocks a 3-1 lead.

A Weather Shield Door Is...



Your Door to Energy Efficiency.

Complement your Weather Shield Wood Windows and Patio Doors with our Lee Haven® steel insulated entrance systems — the energy performers!

Select from a wide variety of styles (including the distinctive new "Oxford Manor" series). All Lee Haven® doors may be ordered in single or double door combinations, with optional coordinated sidelites for that custom design look.



WEATHER SHIELD MFG. INC.

THE WINDOW & DOOR STORE
830 Plymouth Rd. • Plymouth, MI 48170 • 313-459-8911
THE WINDOW & DOOR STORE is a Division of WeatherShield Mfg., Inc.

Mon., Wed., Fri. 8-5:30
Tues., Thurs. 9-6:00
Saturday 10-2:00