

MOVIES ON TV

by ROBERT DIMATTEO

A baseball film almost like it oughta be



Robert Redford

It's often said that sports movies seldom work — one explanation being that there is no way to approximate the suspense generated by a real-life sports event in a movie. Some people think that the 1984 release *The Natural* (NBC, Oct. 26) is that rare sports movie that does work, though it's a gussied-up melodrama designed to glorify its blond-haired prince-star, Robert Redford. A diminution of Bernard Malamud's novel, this Barry Levinson-directed picture gives us Redford as a mythic ballplayer, in a tale glazed with nostalgia.

The movie seems to have been conceived in relay by Norman Rockwell, Edward Hopper and Sylvester Stallone. Redford appears to be trying to give a serious performance, which means that he comes across very subdued — too subdued. The picture is corny beyond belief: There's even the Good Woman (Glenn Close, acting virtuous), who has borne Redford a secret son; and the Bad Women (murderous, vampy Barbara Hershey and slinky blonde Kim Basinger). ("The Natural" will not air if there is a Game 7 of the World Series.)

CBS's competition is the made-for-TV movie *Who is Julia?* Mare Winningham shows her talent in the dual role of two women who are struck down in an accident, their fates joined in a brain-transplant operation. The drama explores some of the moral implications of medical science's advances.

A brain disorder also figures in the NBC "made-for" *Stranger in My Bed* (Oct. 27). Lindsay Wagner stars in this based-on-fact drama, playing a woman suffering

from amnesia as the result of an auto accident. The dilemma here is that the woman's sense of identity and her family relationships have been adversely affected: She feels like a stranger in her own house, and her husband (Armand Assante) senses the difference, too. Amnesia has been the subject for dozens of movies through the years. Usually, it has been exploited for its novelty potential in thrillers and melodramas. "Stranger in My Bed" is probably the first "serious" TV treatment.

For those who need their weekly fix of terror, there's *Easy Prey* (ABC, Oct. 26). Shawnee Smith stars as a 16-year-old girl who is abducted by a serial rapist-murderer and then taken on a harrowing cross-country journey. Gerald McRaney ("Simon & Simon") tries a change-of-pace role, playing the psychopathic kidnapper. Those who worry that "Easy Prey" will degenerate into an exploitative view of rape should know that this story ends up as a tale of survival against great odds.

WE SPECIALIZE → YOU SAVE!

**PRINCE GEORGE
SPRING LTD.**

**OPEN
SAT.**

"The Largest Spring Inventories in B.C."

**SPRING REBUILDING — U-BOLTS
SALES & SERVICE**

No Charge Phone
No. For Our Out
of Town Friends

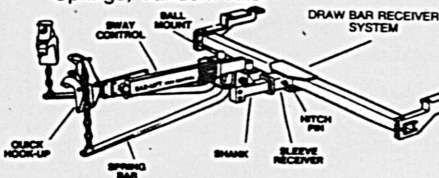
1-800-292-8348

FOR TRAILERS INCLUDING: Gooseneck, Industrial, Horse, Boat, Utility and Travel.

WE STOCK: Bearings, Seals, Brake Shoes, Brake Drums, Brake Parts, 5th Wheel, Pintle Hooks, Trailer Jacks, Parts, Shackles, Wiring, Lights, Fenders, Wheels & Tires.

PLUS:

- Electric brake systems
- Vacuum or air over hydraulic brake systems up to 10,000 lbs. capacity per axle
- We supply axels from 1,500 to 10,000 lbs. capacity
- **HITCHES INCLUDING:** Utility frame, Equalizer, Anti-sway controls, Spindles, Couplers, Springs, Tandem Kits.



• WELDING • REPAIRS • OVERLOADS
FAST FAST FAST SERVICE

21 years of continuous service. "We service what we sell ..."
Service is our most important product.

563-0364

2001-1st Ave.

Prince George V2L 2Z1

Trailer Wiring — Trailer Hitches — Shock Absorbers

ROSS PHILLIPPE



New or used cars or trucks.

See me first for a great deal
on your next vehicle.

Schultz Pontiac Buick Ltd.

1111 Central St. 563-0271

DLN 5656