

SPORTS VIEW

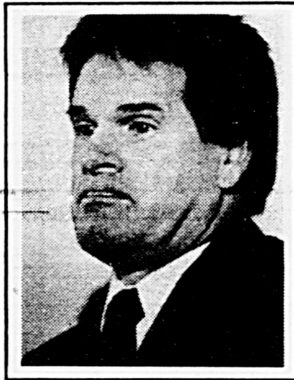
By MARTY LINEHAN

Most baseball stories are unsportsmanlike

With the major-league championship series starting Tuesday, Oct. 3, at last we'll see that there is more to the baseball season than the Pete Rose gambling scandal. The four division champions finally get their chance to grab headlines.

According to a computer research committee commissioned by Mead Data Central, a company servicing newspapers and wire services, pure baseball hasn't gotten much coverage in the 1980s. The research included files from more than 400 publications, including some trade papers. Of the top 10 baseball topics covered by the nation's press, only two were genuine baseball subjects.

The top stories of the past decade are listed as: (1) Drug abuse; (2) Salary arbitration; (3) Labor strikes; (4) Corked bats; (5) George Steinbrenner; (6) Racism; (7)



Pete Rose

Rose's gambling; (8) Bo Jackson; (9) Lighting of Wrigley Field; and (10) Rose's pursuit of Ty Cobb's hit record.

Going further, No. 11 concerned Steve Garvey's romantic life, and No. 12 is Wade Boggs' bedroom batting average.

Where have you gone, Joe DiMaggio?

On Sunday, Oct. 1, ABC airs its last regular-season baseball game, and it should be a good one. Possible games: Baltimore Orioles at Toronto Blue Jays, Kansas City Royals at Oakland Athletics, or the Chicago Cubs playing the Montreal Expos.

Of Sunday's National Football League games, NBC's presentation of the Denver Broncos playing the Cleveland Browns should be the top attraction.

On Oct. 2, the strong Philadelphia Eagles take on the Chicago

Bears in Soldier Field on "ABC Monday Night Football." Although it is early in the season, this one could be a preview of the NFC title game.

NBC carries the baseball championship series, starting Tuesday, Oct. 3, with the American League playoff from the Western Division winner's park. Wednesday, Oct. 4, features the second American League game out West in the afternoon and the National League opener at night in the Eastern Division winner's ballpark.

On Thursday, Oct. 5, NBC airs the National League's second playoff game from the East Coast. On Friday, Oct. 6, the American League series moves to the Eastern Division's arena. Saturday, Oct. 7, sees both leagues in action, with Game 4 of the American League in the afternoon, and Game 3 of the National League at night.

CANADIAN SPORTS VIEW

By TED SHAW

Announcer Dick Irvin calls it like he see it

Dick Irvin, the 57-year-old veteran color man on Montreal Canadiens hockey telecasts, says the greatest player he ever saw was Guy Lafleur.

"For a period of six seasons, when he was at the peak of his career," Irvin relates, "Guy Lafleur of the Montreal Canadiens was the best player in the world."

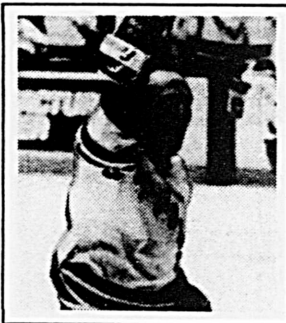
Irvin gets plenty of argument on that count. But he sticks by his assessment, even after having seen the likes of Wayne Gretzky, Bobby Orr and even the great Maurice Richard.

Irvin, the son of a Hockey Hall of Fame player and coach Dick Irvin Sr., is going into his 23rd season behind the microphone at the Montreal Forum.

His memoirs, "Now Back to You Dick," recently published in paperback by McClelland & Stewart, are a great way to tune up for another hockey season, whether you cheer for the Canadiens or not.

Not surprisingly, Irvin says the greatest hockey team he ever saw was the Montreal Canadiens of the mid-1970s, coached by Scotty Bowman, which won four consecutive Stanley Cups.

Irvin will be on hand this Saturday, Oct. 7, when CBC signs on for another season of "Hockey Night in Canada." It will be a break with tradition, too. "HNIC" will have a doubleheader that night, beginning with a Buffalo-Montreal or Detroit-Vancouver game, followed by an Ed-



Guy Lafleur

monton-Los Angeles game.

The last regular-season telecast of major league baseball on CTV is the season-ending contest between the Baltimore Orioles and the Toronto Blue Jays from Toronto's SkyDome on Sunday, Oct. 1, at 1:30 p.m. Eastern time.

Next, it's on to the American League and National League championship series, starting Oct. 3 and 4 respectively. CTV will carry all post-season play in Canada, including the World Series.

The Canadian Football League schedule this week: Sunday, Toronto-Winnipeg (CFN), and Calgary-Ottawa (TSN); Friday, Hamilton-B.C. (TSN); Saturday, Ottawa-Toronto (CFN).

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