Watch out LPGA, here come the Holy Cross Women

BY ALAN RAMSAY
CRUSADER SPORTS STAFF

In the Fall of 2000, Holy Cross welcomed a new addition to its athletic department: the Women's Golf team. The team experienced some growing pains during its inaugural season, finishing with a record of 1-4-1. However, Coach Bob Molt is very optimistic about his team's promises for achieving success this Spring season.

"I believe that our players will benefit from the experience that they gained during the fall. If they continue to work hard, I think that they will be very competitive this spring."

The team's players echoed its coach's sentiments. Freshman Sheila Tully stated, "We have been practicing very diligently as we prepare for the season. I feel that we will continue to get better as the season progresses." Sophomore Casey White added, "Everyone is feeling very up beat right now. We are going to have a lot of fun this season."

Despite the fact that the season has not begun yet, the team has already suffered a setback. Sophomore Jennifer Driscoll, who Molt feels is one of the team's "top players," was forced to sit out for the Spring season due to a broken foot. Although she is disappointed that she will not be able to play this season, Driscoll is rooting for her teammates to do well.

"I'm excited for the girls. Hopefully, all of their dedicated practicing will pay off." The players who will be participating as members of the Women's Golf team are freshmen Lindsey Lavoie and Elizabeth Nord; sophomores Emily Collins, Stephanie Picard, and Karen Sheehan; junior Melissa Murray; and junior Beth Sullivan.

The team will play in one match and one tournament this Spring. The first challenge for the Crusaders will be a match against Mt. Holyoke College on April 18. The Women's Golf team is confident that it will represent Holy Cross well this season.

Crusader Sports Staff

Hold on, the Sox and Yanks are not the only teams in Baseball?

BY MICHAEL BALLWAY
CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

Nomar Garciaparra is the best shortstop in the American League, and despite injuries to players such as Mike Lowell, who lead the Red Sox to an A.L. pennant. Now, wait, the Yankees have the best hitters in baseball and are a bunch to repeat. No, try this instead, Hideki Nomo is going to carry the Sox to 100 wins. No, strike, that will be Scotty Brosius batting for power and average, locking up another ring for George Steinbrenner.

Believe it or not, gentle reader, but there are people here who would actually agree with the statements above. As the 100th season of American League baseball begins this week, the age-old question remains a Crusader staple: "Are you a Yankee fan or a Red Sox fan?"

The question is so deeply ingrained in our school's social life that even page 73 of the College Handbook plainly states: "Each student shall be required to state a preference for either the New York Yankees or the Boston Red Sox."

Or not. But it seems that way.

"Why do we focus on this question so much?" Hardyaday goes by when we don't see at least one Wahoos or S-O-X cap, yet there is no mention of the heated A.L. Central rivalry. Other teams such as the Blue Jays, Tigers, Cubs, Braves, and Pirates have sizeable fan bases on campus as well.

As the curtain rises on another April, the other 28 teams have just as good a shot at winning it all. Why should an "other 28 fan" care about the (so-called) greatest rivalry ever?

The greatest rivalry ever can be a hazardous minefield. A Padres fan can have a calm conversation with a fan who adores the Dodger blue, but that is not so when pinstripes clash with crimson hose.

Contrarians who jump on the Bomber bandwagon cause fits of rage in New Englanders who insist that even a Yankee fan or a Red Sox fan must respect the Sox-Yankees rivalry.

For the outsider, picking sides is a difficult decision, fraught with the possibility of alienating one's friends and the difficulty of justifying one's choice. To support one is to embrace the most fundamentally evil franchise in the history of sports. To support the other is never to win.

Crying for help (and for Vlad Guerrero's due respect) in a world gone horribly, madly mad is the student who - gap - roots for neither New York nor Boston. They may not be visible, but they do exist.

The most interesting story I've ever heard came from a New Englander: "Well," he said, "I don't think there's really much more to say. I love everything about baseball in Montreal: the smell of freshly-vacuumed astroturf, the roar of a 3,000-fan crowd, the Kevlar roof above me and the bilingual announcements on the anemic Jumbotron. If that's not baseball, I don't know what's "

I closed my eyes and imagined myself at Olympic Stadium to watch the Expo do battle against their hated archivials, whoever they may be. The people cheering - dozens and dozens of them - as Milton Bradley steps up to the plate: "frappez la boule dure!" they exclaim. "Mais pas plus dur que vous pourrez signer pour plus d'argent avec une équipe américaine!" This, I thought, was baseball's pinnacle as it had been envisioned back on that hot summer day in 1939 when Amer Doubleday didn't invent the game. This was the epitome of sport that had not even been attainable until 1960s expansion into the Great White Secessioneer North. How could The Greatest Rivalry Ever possibly hope to match this thrill?

Soon the season will start for the other 28 teams, and as always local attention will focus on the greatest rivalry ever. C'est la vie.

Please, though, as you go off to denigrate each other's left-fielders, remember that one of your neighbors may not be as interested as you. He or she may be one of the select few who holds out hope for a savior from the west, appreciates the National League game, or may just be a fan who grew up rooting for one of the other 28. Or he or she may not enjoy taking sides in the Faustian Yanks-or-Sox question.

Not me, though. Gagner votre division, Chasssettes Rouges! C'est l'année que vous gagnez la Série du Monde!

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