

PBS in the spotlight



Pain and injury 'All Part of the Game'

Bobby Orr's knee may be the most famous in the country. Hockey fans have followed the progress of Orr's disabling injury, agonizing with him through his many operations and comebacks. But at age 30, Orr's hockey career is over despite all the efforts of surgeons. Many other athletes have shared this fate, but a new branch of medicine promises to help prevent and cure injuries for professional and amateur athletes alike. NOVA explores the world of sports medicine in 'All Part of the Game,' Nov. 6, on PBS as part two of a two-part special on science and sports.*

One of the most impressive success stories of sports medicine is that of former Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Tommy John. When John tore a ligament in his elbow, even his surgeon, Dr. Frank Jobe, doubted he would ever pitch again. But an innovative surgical technique plus intensive rehabilitation returned him to the game. Now, as a Yankee pitcher, he is a star.

Surgery is not always the answer. When tennis player Janet Newberry found her career threatened by a knee injury, traditional treatment—surgery and rest—didn't help. Sports medicine specialist Dr. John Marshall prescribed exercise, carefully planned to strengthen the muscle above her knee and to hold her kneecap in place. Working with her trainer, Newberry learned a new style of play that avoids unnecessary strain on her knee; sports medicine has allowed her to continue her career.

Athletic injuries are not unique to professional athletes. The physical fitness craze has brought on an increase in injuries among amateurs, especially runners. NOVA visits Dr. Stan James of Eugene, Oregon, who films runners in slow motion to learn what movements may cause problems. Dr. James has found that one common problem, excessive pronation—an inward turn of the foot as the runner lands on it—can be solved by placing a support pad inside the shoe. This simple device is known as an 'orthotic,' one of the most important runners' aids of the past decade.

'All Part of the Game' also examines sports medicine's role in the prevention of injuries to children. It's a myth that children don't get hurt easily because they are flexible. In fact, young bones are relatively weak and injury-prone. At New York's Lenox Hill Institute of Sports Medicine, a long-term research project aimed at relating specific injuries to body-type is allowing doctors to guide children away from sports incompatible with their body-type.

Sports medicine is still in its infancy as a medical specialty, but it holds a great deal of promise for the future. And as sports medicine becomes more widely practiced, athletes may no longer have to accept the risk of serious, disabling injuries as all part of the game.

Check listings for exact time.

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Sports Probe

by Steve K. Walz

Raw NHL rookies looking to make their mark

ATLANTA FLAMES

Paul Reinhart—This underage junior defenseman is expected to add depth to the Southerners blueline corps.

BOSTON BRUINS

Ray Bourque—Yup, another hard-nosed blueliner. The Bruins need some young blood back on defense.

BUFFALO SABRES

Lindy Ruff—Another great defenseman with the perfect name for the NHL style of play. He's already making a big splash.

DETROIT RED WINGS

Mike Foligno—This right winger is expected to add some more punch to the Wings' mediocre offense.

HARTFORD WHALERS

Ray Allison—A big scorer in the junior ranks has expected to add some depth on the right wing.

MONTREAL CANADIENS

Danny Geoffrion—Boom Boom's son is expected to score a bunch as one of the Canadiens' forwards.

MINNESOTA STARS

Mike Eaves—The best centerman in the CHL last year, he'll have a tough time cracking the Stars' lineup, but Eaves is a good prospect.

New York, N.Y.—Although most hockey observers felt that the NHL junior draft last summer was a bummer, the current crop of rookies gracing NHL rosters explode their theory. Fans from around the league will be treated to lots of new faces—as former WHA rookies get their initial look at the NHL rinks as will some of those controversial underage (19) youngsters, who are drafted by many NHL teams. Somehow many of them were able to crack the big league lineup.

Below is a list of those rookies who have made the jump to the NHL from the junior ranks and the various minor pro leagues.

NEW YORK ISLANDERS

Mike Hordy—One of the team's best minor league defensive prospects.

Yvon Vuatour—As a forward, he's tough and can score.

Steve Tambellini—The 1978 first-rounder will provide depth at center.

NEW YORK RANGERS

Doug Sulliman—The perfect compliment for Hedberg and Nilson on the wing. Could be a big scorer.

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS

Brian Propp—The Flyers are weak on left wing, so Propp's presence helps immensely.

ST. LOUIS BLUES

Perry Turnbull—The high scoring left winger will try and help the Blues' anemic offense.

TORONTO LEAFS

Laurie Boschmann—A good looking young forward.

Mark Kirton—Ditto for Kirton. Toronto needs lots of help from these kids.

WASHINGTON CAPS

Bengt-Ake Gustafsson—The slick Swede is going to make a big name for himself as one of the Caps' high scoring forwards.

Next week—A look at those great-looking youngsters from the WHA.

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Ex-Canadiens coach Scotty Bowman will be keeping a close tab on prized rookie defender Lindy Ruff.



JAWS

Three men fight for their lives and try to save a town from the awesome power of a terrifying 25-foot, three-ton killer shark, in 'Jaws,' one of the greatest box-office hits in movie history, which premieres on television as an 'ABC Sunday Night Movie Special,' SUNDAY, NOV. 4.

Based on Peter Benchley's runaway best-seller, 'Jaws' stars Roy Scheider as the police chief of a small island where the money spent by summer tourists supports the local residents all year long; Robert Shaw as the sea captain who has seen the face of death and lived; and Richard Dreyfuss (pictured) as the young expert whose science is crushed and swept away by the raw might of the shark.

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When Tiffany (Shelley Hack, left) and Kelly (Jaclyn Smith) go undercover in the guise of call girls to trap a brutal leader of a prostitution ring, they encounter their first experience with the seamy side of the profession when they meet Big Larry (Richard Karron) in 'Angels on the Street,' on ABC-TV's CHARLIE'S ANGELS, Wednesday, Nov. 7.