

The other day I went to a boxing match and a hockey fight broke out. Just kidding, but in all seriousness something must be done with the violence in hockey. I've been to many hockey games before, and I will admit that once in a while I will hope for a fight. I don't know why, but something about it adds excitement to the game. This theory I developed was about two years ago. Today, when I go to a hockey game I like to see a well played game with less violence. I'm willing to bet that if hockey fighting was banned the seats would stand bare. Why? It is our society. We like to see teeth flying, eyes gouged, and heads cut open. Don't we see enough of this in the boxing ring? Something has to be done soon about hockey fighting. I suggest much more stringent penalties rather than these lenient two or three missed game penalties.

I can't remember attending a hockey game and not witnessing a melee. The other night I caught part of the Islanders-Flyers game. I saw the most enraging fight with Flyers Rick Tocchet and Islanders rookie Dean Chynoweth. I would like to say that hockey is somewhat like professional wrestling but at least I know that in pro-wrestling the fights are staged and blood packets are available. In hockey there are no blood packets and staged fights. Come to think of it I would rather see staged fights rather than humans being battered, bruised, and beaten. Well, getting back to the game, Rick Tocchet gave Dean Chynoweth a nice fujii thumb to the eye. That was just touching! I thought for

sure he lost sight in one eye. Even he did. Then came the penalty to Rick Tocchet, the verdict was guilty for 10 games. 10, 20, 30 games. Tocchet could miss the whole season, but if rookie Chynoweth was blind in one eye, all the games missed by Tocchet wouldn't make up for it. Think about it. A man kills one of your loved ones. You lose your loved one and

we have to bring it to professional sports. The Islanders want to get even and seek and-eye for and eye. Then an arm for an arm, a leg for a leg and so on. Tocchet could have ended Dean Chynoweth's career and damaged his health.

How do I feel about this incident? Angered would describe my feelings. Why? Besides the fact that it was a

else punishment takes place. This applies to everything but hockey. In hockey you get commended for harming a player.

That 20 year old defenseman named Dean Chynoweth, cannot partake in any physical activity for two weeks and cannot engage in body contact for four weeks. My calculations have it that he will roughly miss

teams try to avoid. If injuries do happen, it is because players try to perform too hard or their intensity carries them afar. Other injuries are caused by fluke incidents. But never, never do you see injuries in other sports linked to violence and fighting. Boxing excluded. In hockey, most injuries occur from fighting. So whether you are physically injured or injured

Just another night at the fights



ROB ADAMO

this murderer goes to jail. Either way you have lost someone dear to you and that person can't be brought back. I think the NHL will wait until an almost fatal incident occurs before they start cracking down of fighting regulations.

What evolves from this Islander-Flyer feud. I'll tell you what. Tune your television sets to the next Islander-Flyer meeting on December 22. The Islanders openly stated they will seek vengeance. Good, just what this society needs, more violence. Like, there isn't enough of it in the streets so

cheap shot, it just substantiates my feelings toward the NHL's feebleness they demonstrate. Their so-called disciplinary procedures do very little to deter violence, in fact they promote it. Hey, call over Don King, he can promote hockey fights as well as boxing. Really, he'll do anything for a little money.

If this incident wasn't enough, I can name a hundred. Last Friday night Edmonton's Mark Messier knocked out four teeth of Vancouver's Rich Sutter. In today's society one must be responsible for his actions or

15-20 games.

Where do all these hockey fights end? A broken jaw one day, a gauged eye another and a slash to the chest a third day. Be serious! I don't know what is worse the drug rules or fighting rules? I'm no expert but something has to be done.

Usually, professional athletes are portrayed as heroic figureheads. We like to cherish these athletes and above all protect them. Will somebody please relay this to Brian O'Neill, the NHL's executive vice president. In most other sports, injuries are something players and

by means of penalty, you are still losing key players.

You know, I saw a cartoon in a newspaper the other day that perfectly summed up my regretful feelings toward the NHL. O.K. I'll share the cartoon with you. Two players are standing on a hillside with tears in their eyes gazing at a tombstone reading "R.I.P."

Charles ALLSTAR-24 year old hockey star - killed in Madison Square Garden while engaging in a hockey fight." A beautiful cartoon it was indeed. What I mean is will it take something like this before the NHL takes action against hockey fights. Forget about making money and crowds, protect individuals, after all what comes first, health or wealth?



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