

## DePuy's Views

### "Men Are Such... Fans!"

by Dr. Hadley S. DePuy

The other night the Mrs. came into the room as I was watching a professional football game. Actually, she came in as I was watching some cheerleaders... perform, that's it, perform.

She smiled her knowing smile and asked, "Are you enjoying the... game?" Then she put on her innocent look. "Why is it you men care so much about... sports?"

It was hard to take my eyes off the cheerleaders but I felt I owed her an answer. Like sometime today. This question is a tough one, because men caring about sports is, let's face it, ridiculous!

I began my explanation as fast as I could think it up. "Clearly, sports connect with something deeply rooted in men's minds. I'll bet it dates back to prehistoric times, when men survived by hunting, fishing, and fighting. They needed many of the skills exhibited by today's athletes - skills like running, throwing, spitting, mooning, fighting, scratching their private parts on television and so forth."

Men, as any good anthropologist would attest, are nomadic by nature; they were hunters who hunted in groups that became teams. They had to be ever-vigilant, ever-responsive to change.

That would explain why men like to participate in sports. But why do we care so much about games played by other men? In my opinion this also dates back to prehistoric times.

When groups of hunters were out hurling spears into dinosaurs, there were also prehistoric men watching from the hills shouting, "Die you pond scum." But when the dinosaurs started to eat the hunters, the men on the hills shouted "DEE-fense, DEE-fense!" as if the hunters knew what they meant.


This must have been, because there is no other explanation for some of the bizarre phenomena you see connected with men's love of sports. For example, much of the male world stopped to watch last month's 2005 Super Bowl to keep abreast about what might be happening during this year's halftime show.

"But you would agree men treat sports records with loving care and those who pursue them in reverential

tones," the Mrs. remarked. "It's too bad you never made a sports record yourself, Teen Angel," she cooed.

"Well, Lamb Chop," I began, "before you accuse me of being some kind of tree-hugging, sherry-sipping, girly-boy, please note that I was a sports guy myself. I had a legendary career as captain of the *Ellenville High School* track team."

I competed in the mile run. And I believe still today that I am the only runner in school history who fell down and threw-up after every race. But one very windy day at West Point, I set a mile run, Class B, Section 9 record of four minutes thirty-four seconds, which lasted some time.

"So, Teen Angel, sports records are important to men. This one would have meant more to me if I didn't hear one of my classmates saying after the race... 'Hadley would have become an Olympic-caliber runner except that, through one of those 'bad breaks' so common in sports, he turned out to have the raw running speed of a turtle.'" 

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