

# On the Sidelines...

*Using the sports section of the newspaper in language arts, social studies, science and mathematics*

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**Newspaper  
in Education**



## **On the Sidelines ...**

### **About the authors:**

John Guenther is a professor of education in the department of curriculum and instruction at the University of Kansas. Dr. Guenther is a committee member of the national Newspaper in Education Advisory Board for the American Newspaper Publishers' Association. He has been involved with NIE since 1973, has taught over 60 NIE graduate classes and has made over 100 NIE inservice presentations. Author of numerous NIE articles, books and curriculum guides, Dr. Guenther is state director of Kansas Newspapers in Education.

Ann West is president of News Relief, Inc., a consulting/publishing business which serves NIE programs and small businesses. Ms. West has spent 18 years in education as a teacher and administrator. A former newspaper in education director for The Kansas City Star Company, she has presented over 150 newspaper seminars for educators during the past five years.

The authors have collaborated on numerous curriculum guides for newspaper in education programs and serve as NIE consultants and presenters nationally.

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## **Introduction**

The newspaper has long been a motivational classroom resource for teachers of reading, language arts, social studies, mathematics, science and many other subjects. Because it contains current and important information, students enthusiastically welcome the use of the newspaper as a text in the classroom. The colorful words and action contained in the sports pages have the potential of motivating even the most reluctant learners to apply and improve skills in academic areas.

The authors intend for this guide to provide an opportunity for elementary and secondary educators to use the newspaper in their classrooms. In the general areas of language arts, social studies, mathematics and science, educators can discover the value of the newspaper as an instructional tool. These activities may be easily adapted to serve the needs of the individual learner.

The book is divided into four parts. The major sections of language arts, social studies and mathematics/science contain their own table of contents. The final section of supplementary activity cards is a collection of briefly worded activities in the curriculum areas listed above. These supplementary activities are intended for use as enrichment or additional practice and may be used in individualized learning programs, learning centers or group instruction. The major sections are entitled as follows.

**Playbook 1: Language Arts**  
**Playbook 2: Social Studies**  
**Playbook 3: Mathematics/Science**  
**Supplementary Activities**

# On the Sidelines...

## Playbook 1: Language Arts

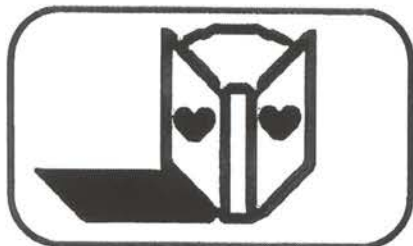
Activity Title	Focus	Activity Number
My Favorite Subject	Five W's in Sports	LA-1
Off the Bench-Synonym Subs	Synonyms/Adjectives	LA-2
What Action? What Drama?	Visual Communication	LA-3
Sports Scavenger	Contents of Sports	LA-4
The Stuff of Sports	Key Words in Sports	LA-5
Home Team	Bias/Opinion	LA-6
Letter to the Sports Editor	Writing About Issues	LA-7
Go JayHawks! Go Sun Devils!	Symbols	LA-8
Win One for the Gipper	Jargon	LA-9
Why So Much Love in Tennis?	Vocabulary	LA-10
The Big Sports Picture	Newsworthy Photos	LA-11
Poetry in Motion	Creative Writing	LA-12
Sports Shorts	Theme/Human Emotion	LA-13
Comic Strip Characters-A Sporting Lot	Mirroring Real Life	LA-14
Armchair Quarterback	Reading Schedules	LA-15
Fan Reviewer	Critique of a Sports Event	LA-16
An Acrostic Is Not A Spectator Sport	Making an Acrostic	LA-17
Deadline	Sports Writing	LA-18
Behind the Sports Scene	Sports Features	LA-19
Sporting Viewpoints	Writing Opinion	LA-20
Even the Best Can Get Better	Evaluation	LA-21
Take Me Out to the Ballgame	Designing an Ad	LA-22





## On the Sidelines...

### *My Favorite Subject*



### Game Plan:

The main purpose of the sports section is to keep us informed about the most important sports events.

A sports story will answer the who, what, when, where and often the why and how of an event. Unlike regular news stories, which are written in a more formal style, sports stories are often written in a more informal and lively style. They will, however, still provide answers to the basic news questions.

### On Your Mark

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

- Read the sports news in one issue of your newspaper. Identify two stories of particular interest to you.
- Complete the chart below by answering the who, what, when and where of each story. If possible, determine why or how the story is important.

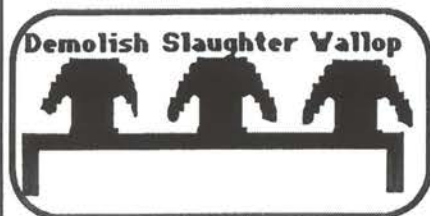
Story 1	
Headline:	
Who:	
What:	
When:	
Where:	
Why/How:	

Story 2	
Headline:	
Who:	
What:	
When:	
Where:	
Why/How:	



# On the Sidelines...

## Off the Bench: Synonym Subs



### Game Plan:

Sports stories are written in colorful, expressive language. Sports writers try to use lively words to capture the special feelings and enthusiasm associated with sporting events. "Trounced," "slaughtered" and "demolished," for example, may be used instead of the less colorful words, "lost" or "defeated."

### On Your Mark

Name

- Read several sports stories in one issue of your newspaper. Underline or circle the adjectives that are used to make the stories as lively and interesting as possible.
- In the space below, list ten of the adjectives used in the stories. For each adjective, identify two synonyms that the sports writer could have used. Try and think of synonyms that you believe are as appropriate as the actual adjectives used in the sports stories.

Adjectives from Sports Stories

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Your Synonym Substitutes

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<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
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- Select one adjective and your two synonyms from the list above. Describe how synonyms can change the meaning or effect of a sports story.

## On the Sidelines...

*What Action?  
What Drama?*



### Game Plan:

Sports involves competition and competition means action. Action communicated through a photo greatly enhances our enjoyment of our newspaper's sports pages. In addition to sports action, photos also capture the drama of sports competition.

### On Your Mark

Name

•For a period of one week, clip the major sports photos from your newspaper. Attach your photos to this sheet and answer the following questions.

1. What photo is your favorite? Why?

2. What photo is your least favorite? Why?

••Read the sports news in one issue of your newspaper. Identify and describe two photos that you would like to have seen included in the newspaper. The photos should relate to one or more of the sports stories you read. Use the space below to describe your photos.

**Photo 1:**

**Photo 2:**



## On the Sidelines...

### *Sports Scavenger*



#### Game Plan:

The sports section includes a great deal of information of interest and value to the sports fan.

The purpose of this activity is to acquaint you with the sports section of your newspaper. Finding examples of the different sports items is what this sports search is all about.

LA-4

#### On Your Mark

Name

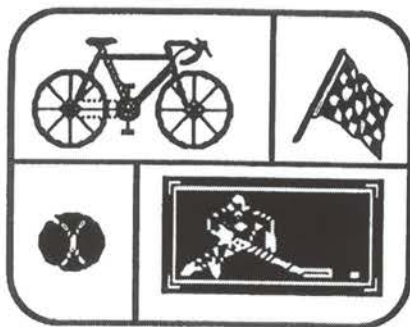
- Listed below are several different items that can be found in the sports section. Locate each item by using one or more issues of your newspaper.
- Clip each example from the newspaper and print the number of the item on each newspaper clipping. Turn in your clippings when you have found an example for each item.

### **Sports Scavenger Hunt**

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Name of a local sports writer        | 10. A fraction                      |
| 2. A sports column or editorial         | 11. A sport of little interest      |
| 3. An interesting sports photo          | 12. Sport logo or symbol            |
| 4. League or team standings             | 13. A percentage                    |
| 5. An interesting verb or adjective     | 14. A personal sports hero          |
| 6. A synonym for won or lost            | 15. An important sports achievement |
| 7. A sports result from another country | 16. An example of conflict          |
| 8. A close score                        | 17. A reference to a rule in sports |
| 9. Name of a winner and a loser         | 18. An example of courage in sports |

## On the Sidelines...

### *The Stuff Of Sports*



#### Game Plan:

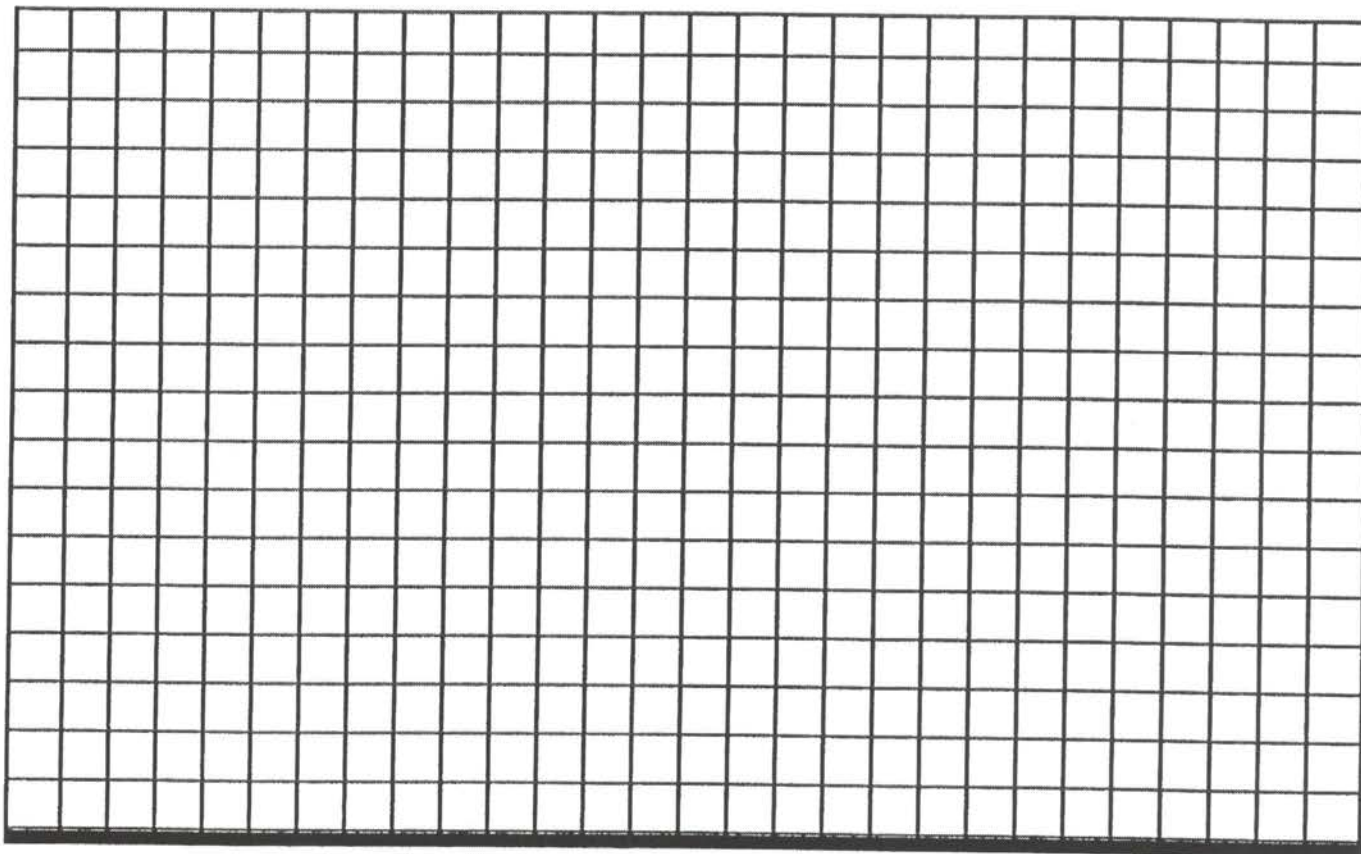
Every day your newspaper reports important sports stories. The news reports include the names, places and events in the world of sports.

A hidden words puzzle focusing on sports is not only fun to work and make, it is a good way to become knowledgeable about sports.

#### On Your Mark

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

- Using the sports section of your newspaper, identify 20 words and/or names that will become the answers to your sports puzzle. List your selections on the back of this sheet.
- To construct your hidden words puzzle, use the squares at the bottom of this page. Write some answers across and others up and down. If possible, write some answers diagonally. In addition, write some answers backwards and have some overlap each other.
- When all answers are in place, fill in the empty spaces with any letters you want. On another sheet of paper, write a question to match each of the answers you've hidden in the puzzle. Exchange your puzzle with other students to complete this sports challenge.





## On the Sidelines...

### Home Team



#### Game Plan:

Actual sports reporting should be fair, accurate and unbiased. Given the feelings that people have about their sports teams and the emotions that are often displayed, it is difficult, of course, to remain totally unbiased about the home team.

Opinions and viewpoints are always expected in sports columns and editorials.

#### On Your Mark

Name

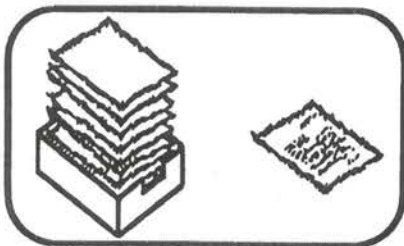
- Read the sports section of at least two issues of your newspaper.
- Locate as many examples as you can of opinions that are expressed either in sports news stories and/or sports columns and editorials. Note, in addition, any examples of bias or comments that appear to be very favorable or unfavorable about a person or team. List your examples in the space below.

#### Opinions Found in Sports News, Editorials and Sports Columns

#### Examples of Bias Found in Sports News, Editorials and Sports Columns

## On the Sidelines...

### *Letter To The Sports Editor*



#### Game Plan:

Newspapers publish letters from readers which cover a variety of issues or concerns. Frequently, sports issues may surface in the letters to the editor section. Some newspapers provide special sections for letters to the sports editor or letters focusing on sports issues or controversies.

Many fans become quite emotional and need to air their opinions when their favorite sport becomes an issue in the newspaper pages. The letter to the editor is a good place for a reader to express a viewpoint.

#### On Your Mark

Name

- Read the sports section for several days. Note below some issues or topics which might be possible subjects for a letter to the sports editor.

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- Select one of the sports issues and prepare two letters to the sports editor. Each letter should present a different point of view on the same issue. Write your letters in the areas provided below.

#### **Two Differing Viewpoints**

Dear Editor:

Dear Editor:



**LA-8**

Understanding and enjoying sports is enhanced when we know team nicknames, mascots, etc.

Name

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## On the Sidelines...

### Win One For The Gipper



#### Game Plan:

Sports of all kinds are noted for the use of colorful expressions and language. Different phrases, euphemisms, idioms and cliches are an important part of the everyday language of sports competition.

Knowing the language of sports adds to the enjoyment of sports fans as they read the sports section of their newspaper.

#### On Your Mark

Name

•Read one or more sports sections from your daily newspaper. Circle any expressions or phrases that could be considered the language or jargon of sports. They could be idioms, euphemisms or cliches. In any event, your examples should be considered relevant to understanding the language of sports.

••List your examples in the space below.

#### Examples of Sports Jargon Found in the Newspaper

•••Think of some sports expressions or phrases with which you are familiar, but were not included in the sports stories you read for the activity above. List your examples in the space below.

#### Typical Sports Jargon



## On the Sidelines...

### *Why So Much Love In Tennis?*



#### Game Plan:

Understanding and appreciating sports requires that we are sports literate; that is, we know the meaning of words that are part of the unique vocabulary of sports.

The sports section includes words that may seem very strange to someone who lacks interest and enthusiasm for sports. Reading the sports section helps us maintain a high level of sports literacy.

#### On Your Mark

Name \_\_\_\_\_

•This activity may take several days to complete. Read your newspaper's sports section for a few days and identify any words that you believe are unique to a sport. They may be words that have several uses and different meanings, including a special meaning as part of the vocabulary of sports (love, iron, hit, pass, etc.).

••List and briefly define ten sports words in the spaces below.

**Word**

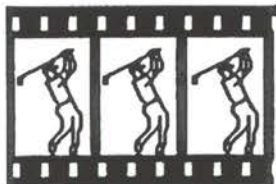
**Definition**

- |           |       |
|-----------|-------|
| 1. _____  | _____ |
| 2. _____  | _____ |
| 3. _____  | _____ |
| 4. _____  | _____ |
| 5. _____  | _____ |
| 6. _____  | _____ |
| 7. _____  | _____ |
| 8. _____  | _____ |
| 9. _____  | _____ |
| 10. _____ | _____ |

••Think of some words or terms that are part of the vocabulary of different sports-words that are spelled the same, but have entirely different meanings in different sports, e.g., ball, strike, driver, fullback. List the words on the back of this page, including the sports in which they are used.

# On the Sidelines...

## The Big Sports Picture



### Game Plan:

Sports photos are often among the most lively in terms of content. Colorful situations (even in a black and white photo) often draw our attention to a current event or issue in the sports world.

We can learn much about a current event, another culture or our own society through close observation of action photos in the sports pages.

### On Your Mark

Name \_\_\_\_\_

•For this activity, you will need to clip four sports photos (with captions, if available).

••For each photo, complete the following information. Some of the information may not be available for each photo. If this is the case, leave the information blank. You may use the following *Photo Info Cards* to complete your task.

#### Photo #1

1. Who is pictured in this photo?
2. What sports event is the background for the photo?
3. When was this photo taken? (Be specific.)
4. What do you think is the major topic/subject of the sports photo?
5. Why is the photo newsworthy?
6. What is the name of the photographer or wire service that made this photo possible?
7. On the back of this card, describe what happened in the few moments prior to the photo being snapped.

#### Photo #3

1. Who is pictured in this photo?
2. What sports event is the background for the photo?
3. When was this photo taken? (Be specific.)
4. What do you think is the major topic/subject of the sports photo?
5. Why is the photo newsworthy?
6. What is the name of the photographer or wire service that made this photo possible?
7. On the back of this card, describe what happened in the few moments prior to the photo being snapped.

#### Photo #2

1. Who is pictured in this photo?
2. What sports event is the background for the photo?
3. When was this photo taken? (Be specific.)
4. What do you think is the major topic/subject of the sports photo?
5. Why is the photo newsworthy?
6. What is the name of the photographer or wire service that made this photo possible?
7. On the back of this card, describe what happened in the few moments prior to the photo being snapped.

#### Photo #4

1. Who is pictured in this photo?
2. What sports event is the background for the photo?
3. When was this photo taken? (Be specific.)
4. What do you think is the major topic/subject of the sports photo?
5. Why is the photo newsworthy?
6. What is the name of the photographer or wire service that made this photo possible?
7. On the back of this card, describe what happened in the few moments prior to the photo being snapped.



## On the Sidelines...

### Poetry in Motion



#### Game Plan:

Other than "Casey at the Bat," we do not normally associate sports and poetry. As an expression of feelings, however, few events in our lives evoke as much emotion and excitement as sports competition.

As sports fans and readers of the sports section, we can very easily capture or describe our personal feelings through simple poetry.

#### On Your Mark

Name \_\_\_\_\_

- Even if you've never written poetry before, or feel that poetry holds no interest for you, you will find that a simple poem can easily express your emotions and knowledge about sports.
- For this activity, you will write a cinquain, which is a five-line stanza (division) of poetry. A cinquain is organized as follows:

George Brett  
Batter, Fielder  
Royal Boy of Summer  
Ageless, enduring baseball man  
All-Star

**Line 1 - A name, term, word or event (two syllables)**

**Line 2 - Two action words related to Line 1 (four syllables)**

**Line 3 - Three words that are descriptive of Line 1 (six syllables)**

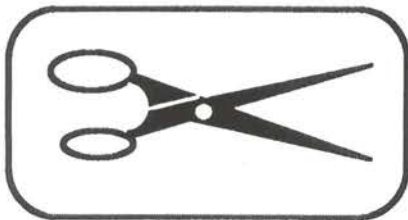
**Line 4 - Three words that express feelings about Line 1 (eight syllables)**

**Line 5 - A synonym of Line 1 (two syllables)**

In the space below, write your cinquain. Select a story or photo from the sports pages for illustration of your cinquain. Be prepared to share your writing with other students in your class.

## On the Sidelines...

### *Sport Shorts*



#### Game Plan:

The sports section includes news and feature stories that reflect the full range of human emotions. Human emotion becomes an essential component of short stories or novels.

Examples of short story ideas from the sports section reflect the theme that sports is "real-life drama." Emotions evidenced in sports includes fear, anxiety, nervousness, shock, surprise, relief, pride, joy, despair, love, anger, etc.

#### On Your Mark

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

•Examine carefully one issue of the sports section of your newspaper. Note the range of human emotions that appears to be part of the world of sports. Use the space below to list the different emotions that you have identified.

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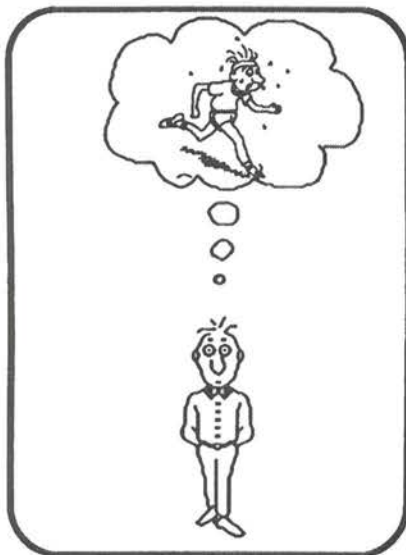
•Emotions become an important part of the "story line" or theme of short stories. From reading the sports section, identify at least three events involving human emotions and drama that you believe would make a good short story. List and describe your short story ideas in the space below.





## On the Sidelines...

### Comic Strip Characters- A Sporting Lot



#### Game Plan:

Newspaper comic strips reflect or "mirror" our lives. In addition to the variety of issues and problems that we face, the comics also visualize how we use our leisure time, including the sports that we enjoy either as participants or spectators.

#### On Your Mark

Name \_\_\_\_\_

- Read your newspaper's comic strips for a week or so. Identify as many examples as you can of comic strip characters participating in sports or recreational activities. In the space below, list the comic strip and provide a brief description of the sports or recreational activities identified.

Comic Strip	Sports/Recreational Activity
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- Select at least three comic strips which did not involve or refer to sports. Choose at least one comic strip character from each comic strip and, based on what you know about the character, identify a sport that the character might likely enjoy. List your selections below.

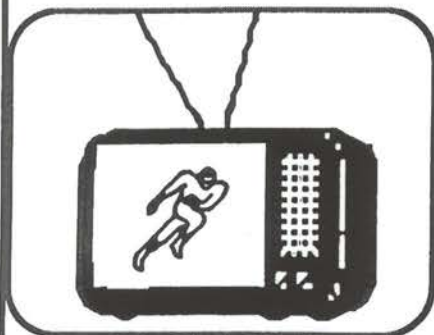
**Character**

**An Appropriate Sport**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## On the Sidelines...

### Armchair Quarterback



### Game Plan:

Interest in sports and its importance to our lives can be easily measured by the number and variety of sports events that are on television each week. The viewing of sports on television has changed the lifestyles of many citizens. *Monday Night Football* is a good example.

In addition to sports on the major television networks, the growth of cable channels has greatly increased what is available to us from throughout the world.

### On Your Mark

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

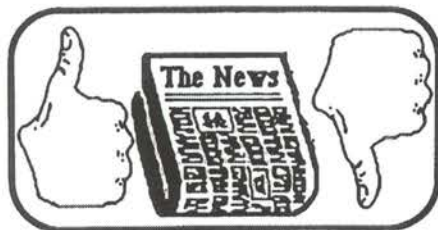
- For this activity you will need the weekly television guide or listings published by your newspaper. You are to determine the variety and amount of television coverage given to sports for a one-week period by your local television stations. Do not include stations on cable which are available for you to watch but do not originate from your community (ESPN, WTBS, etc.).
- In the space below, list the different sports on television and the approximate amount of time each event will be on television. Include all sports events being televised even if they are on at the same time.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

- Add all of your responses together for the one-week period. How many different sports were on television and how many total hours of sports viewing were available?
- Since sports are seasonal, at what time during the year will the number of different sports and the amount of sports coverage be greatest? Use the back of this page to explain.



## Fan Reviewer



### Game Plan:

Your newspaper will include a number of expert reviews of new books, plays, records and entertainment events. The reviews may help us decide on how to spend our entertainment dollars.

A critic (reviewer) is someone who makes judgements and offers opinions regarding the value of an event, program or product.

### On Your Mark

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

- Read several reviews from your newspaper to acquaint yourself with the way they are written. Note the style of writing that critics or reviewers use.
- Assume that you've been asked to become a sports reviewer for your local newspaper. Your job is to review books, special events and other items that may be of interest to sports fans.
- In the space below and on the reverse side of this sheet, write a sports review. Remember, you are the expert critic.

**And in this corner... the Sports Critic**

## On the Sidelines...

### *An Acrostic Is Not A Spectator Sport...*



#### Game Plan:

An acrostic is a poem or series of lines in which certain letters, usually the first in each line, form a name, motto or message when read in sequence. Simply, an acrostic looks like the following:

T ough  
A gile  
C onfident  
K ickoff  
L ine  
E xecute

The idea is to find words beginning with each letter that are related to a person's view of the total word.

#### On Your Mark

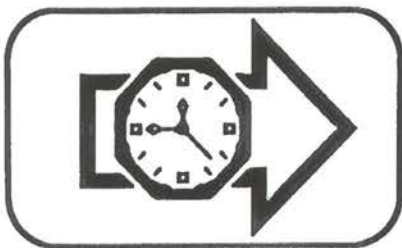
Name

•Select a sports word of at least five letters. Write the word vertically in the space below (see example in **Game Plan**). Think about what the word means to you - the mental image that the word brings to mind. Go through the sports section of your newspaper and clip words that you want to use for your acrostic. Paste the words after each beginning letter of the acrostic.

••What words, if any, would you have liked to have used for your acrostic, but were not able to find in your newspaper?

## On the Sidelines...

### Deadline



### Game Plan:

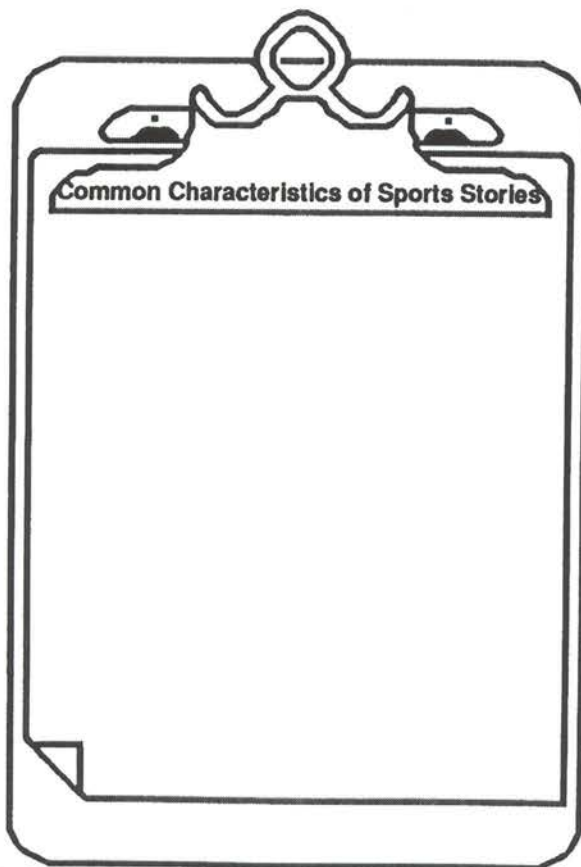
To a sports fan, being a sports reporter for a newspaper may seem like the perfect job. You have the chance to meet coaches and players and watch a great number of sporting events.

Being a sports reporter can be, however, a difficult job. You have to be able to write well while under pressure to meet a deadline.

### On Your Mark

Name \_\_\_\_\_

- Read several different news stories from the sports section of your newspaper. Try and read stories written by different sports reporters. Write some of the common characteristics of most sports stories on the clipboard below.
- Assume that you are a sports reporter assigned to cover a sports event for your local newspaper. The choice of event is entirely up to you. If you can't actually attend the event, watch an event on television and pretend that you are there. Use the news columns below for your story. (Use the back of this page if you need additional space.) Make sure you include a headline and some of the common characteristics of sports stories.



### The Sports News

A large rectangular area for writing, divided into two columns by a vertical line.



## Behind the Sports Scene



### Game Plan:

In addition to news stories, the sports section will also include feature stories. Unlike sports news stories, feature stories do not generally report late-breaking news. Features do cover subjects that are timely and of interest to the reader.

Feature stories tend to use informal and colorful language and often include opinions.

### On Your Mark

Name \_\_\_\_\_

- Read a few copies of your newspaper's sports section. Identify at least three sports feature stories. Describe each story in the space below:

Feature #1	Feature #2	Feature #3

- After reading the sports news for a couple of days, think of some feature stories that you think would be of interest to the readers. List your feature story ideas below:

1. _____	3. _____
2. _____	4. _____

- Select one of the feature story ideas and describe what you might include in your sports feature. Use the following space to describe your ideas.

## On the Sidelines...

### *Sporting Viewpoints*



#### Game Plan:

In addition to news and feature stories, the sports section will often include columns or editorials which will provide us with personal opinions and interpretations on different sports topics.

Unlike objective news stories, columns or editorials are expected to communicate opinions, attitudes and beliefs. They aid our understanding of sports by giving us the viewpoints of knowledgeable sports writers.

#### On Your Mark

Name \_\_\_\_\_

- Read as many sports columns or editorials as possible. Note the writing style that is used.
- Assume that you have been asked to write a brief sports column or editorial for your local newspaper. Select a sports issue or topic that is of interest to you. Collect as much information as you can about your subject.
- Write the major elements of your column in the spaces below.

#### Column Title (headline)

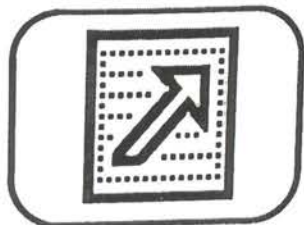
#### Introduction

#### Body (facts about the topic)

#### Conclusion (your opinions based on the facts)

## On the Sidelines...

*Even The Best Can  
Get Better*



### Game Plan:

Constant improvement is important to all teams and athletes. Constant improvement is also important to your newspaper.

The sports sections of all newspapers serve essentially the same purpose. As with most anything, however, sports sections may differ significantly both in the quality and quantity of sports coverage.

### On Your Mark

Name

•Assume that you have been asked to evaluate the sports section of your local newspaper. Your task is to examine at least two sports sections of your newspaper, list what you believe are the strengths and weaknesses and make recommendations for improvement. Use the space below for your responses.

### SPORTS SECTION

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

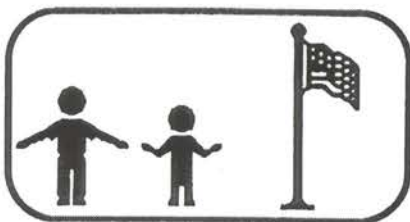


••Compare your responses to those of other students. How did their recommendations compare with yours?



## On the Sidelines...

### *Take Me Out to the Ballgame*



#### Game Plan:

Quite simply, the purpose of advertising is to get people to buy something. The ad may be for a car, clothing or a sports event. Ads are designed to attract our attention, to develop our interest in a product, to make us want a product and to actually take action to buy the product.

More and more teams are advertising for fans to attend their games; advertising sells tickets.

#### On Your Mark

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

•Designing an effective newspaper advertisement is not an easy task. It requires creativity and a knowledge of the product to be sold. Assume that you have been hired to design a newspaper ad for a sports team of your choice. The purpose of the ad is to increase interest in the team and increase ticket sales. Examine different ads and determine which ones you believe are most effective.

••Design your ad in the space below.

A large, empty rectangular box with a double-line border, intended for the student to draw their advertisement.

# On the Sidelines...



## Playbook 2: Social Studies

Activity Title	Focus	Activity Number
Sports As Major News Events	Headlines	SS-1
Major and Minor Issues	Issues/Solutions	SS-2
A Good Sport Wherever You Go	Datelines	SS-3
It's A Small World	International Datelines	SS-4
More Than Just Playing the Game	Conflict Resolution	SS-5
Sports Commissioner Speaks	Addressing an Issue	SS-6
On the Road Again	Reorganizing by Geography	SS-7
T-Ball to World Series	Target Audience	SS-8
Sports Cartooning	Editorial Cartoons	SS-9
Sporting Priorities	Local, State, National Stories	SS-10
Improving the Game	Products/Services	SS-11
A Word From Our Sponsors	Sponsorship/Patrons	SS-12
Your Sports Dollar	Sports Impact on the Economy	SS-13
Is It A Record?	Significance of Records	SS-14
A Key to Understanding	World Sports	SS-15
Life Without the Sports Section	Cause and Effect	SS-16
Let's Talk Sports	Drawing Conclusions	SS-17
Sports And Leisure	Lifestyles	SS-18
A Capsule Analysis	Historic Artifacts	SS-19
Sports On Target	Comparison and Contrast	SS-20

## On the Sidelines...

### *Sports As Major News Events*



### Game Plan:

News of sports is not always confined to the sports section. Many newspapers carry game scores or brief sports summaries on the front page or within the front page section. Similarly, references to sports may overflow into the editorial pages, business pages and comics. However, some major sports stories become front page news events.

### On Your Mark

Name \_\_\_\_\_

- Analyze the front page headlines in your newspaper. List below the characteristics most headlines have in common.

#### Common Characteristics of Most Headlines

- If any of the front page headlines in your newspaper are about sports, write the headlines below.

- In the following spaces, write sports headlines that would likely be front page news in your city. Write at least two sports headlines that would be front page news in almost every newspaper in the country.

Now, this is front page news!




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## On the Sidelines...

### Major And Minor Issues



### Game Plan:

As in any news, sports issues often reappear as major news. Whether the issue is a national, state or local one, the avid sports fan is likely to have recommendations for solving the problem or addressing the sports issue. Often those who rarely voice opinion can become quite vocal when an issue involves a favorite sports team.

### On Your Mark

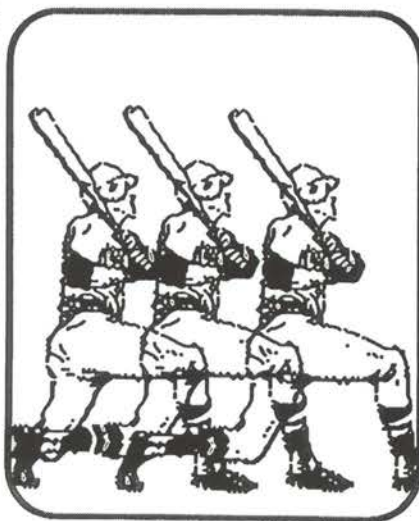
Name \_\_\_\_\_

- For several days examine the sports news in your newspaper. Read the front page news on sports topics, as well as the sports pages.
- Clip a story which discusses or suggests a major sports issue and refer to this article in analyzing the issue. Respond to the questions below.

1. What is the sports issue or problem?
2. What do you know about the issue or problem?
3. What additional information could you use to better understand the issue/problem?
4. What are two possible solutions to the problem?
5. What are the advantages and disadvantages of the two solutions above?
6. Select the best solution and explain the reasons for your choice.
7. Can your solution be put into action? Explain what might prevent your solution from being acted upon.
8. How would you measure the success of your solution? (How would you judge or evaluate your suggestion?)

## On the Sidelines...

### *A Good Sport Wherever You Go*






#### Game Plan:

Common throughout the world, sporting events often give us a glimpse of other cities and countries. The location or geographic setting of a sports event may have great impact on the sports participants and their performances. It is interesting to find the many parts of our world represented in the sports pages.

#### On Your Mark

Name \_\_\_\_\_

- Examine the sports pages to locate datelines for sports stories. The dateline precedes the first sentence of a news story and identifies the place where the story originated. Circle each dateline you find. Local stories usually do not contain datelines.
- Find at least 10 different datelines in the newspaper sports section. You may need to look through more than one edition. Complete the chart below to reflect your findings.

City 	Country 	Why in the News 
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		



## On the Sidelines...

### *It's A Small World*



### Game Plan:

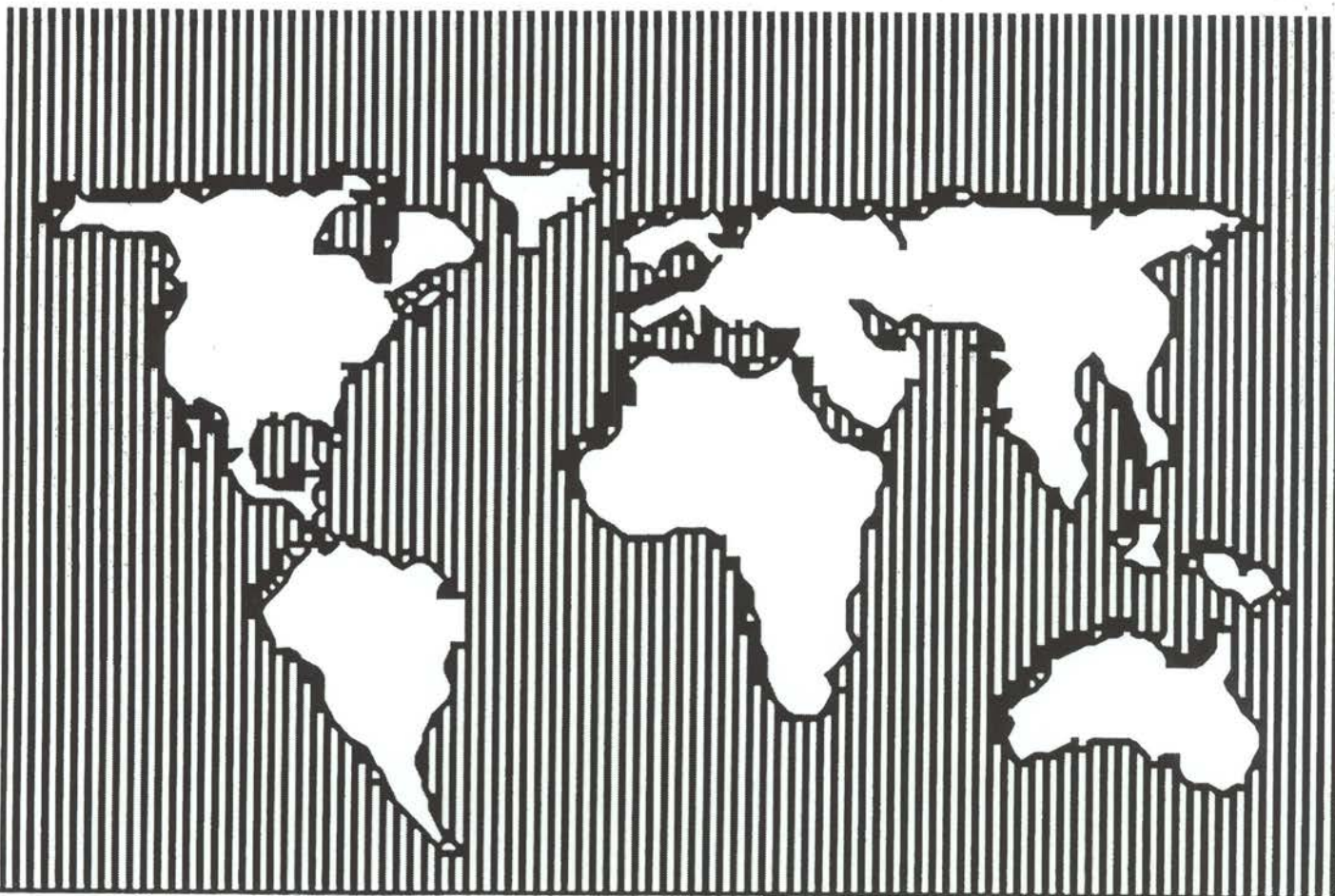
Reports of sporting events come from all over the country and the world. A newspaper reader can find evidence of this just by observing the datelines in the newspaper sports section and on front page sports stories.

By locating on a map the sporting events which are taking place, it's easy to get the idea that sports is one vehicle that draws the world together in healthy competition.

### On Your Mark

Name

- For this activity, you may use the information you gathered for the activity sheet, "A Good Sport Wherever You Go," or you may locate 10 different datelines in the sports section.
- Clip from the newspaper 10 sports stories which contain 10 different datelines. Number the articles 1 through 10. On the map below write the number from each story which corresponds to the dateline on the story.
- If there seems to be a greater number of datelines from any particular area, explain on back why this concentration of coverage in one area of the world.





## On the Sidelines...

### *More Than Just Playing The Game*



#### Game Plan:

Playing a game or participating in a sport often involves more than skill and determination. Athletes frequently face a variety of conflicts during a competition. The sports pages of the newspaper contain many stories involving the classic conflicts-individual vs. individual, individual vs. group, group vs. group, individual or group vs. society or society vs. society.

#### On Your Mark

Name \_\_\_\_\_

- Read the sports pages in your newspaper and find one example of two different types of conflicts. (These conflicts may be reported in sports photos as well as in sports stories.)
- Clip your two examples from the newspaper and use these examples as resources in completing the information below. When you finish, attach your examples to this activity sheet.

Conflict #1	Conflict #2
<b>Headline:</b>  <b>Describe the Conflict:</b>  <b>Classify the conflict (See Game Plan for categories):</b>  <b>Describe the differing views in the conflict:</b>  <b>Identify the possible causes of the conflict:</b>  <b>How can the conflict be best resolved?</b>	<b>Headline:</b>  <b>Describe the Conflict:</b>  <b>Classify the conflict (See Game Plan for categories):</b>  <b>Describe the differing views in the conflict:</b>  <b>Identify the possible causes of the conflict:</b>  <b>How can the conflict be best resolved?</b>

## On the Sidelines...

### *Sports Commissioner Speaks*



#### **Game Plan:**

As any governing body expands in numbers to meet growing demands, leadership becomes important in organizing the group. The skills important to strong leaders (organization, motivation, intelligence, communication, etc.) are evident in many leaders in political and social organizations and in business.

No matter what organization is seeking your leadership, it is important that you are able to identify problems, suggest alternative solutions and manage a compromise.

#### **On Your Mark**

Name

- Assume that you are the commissioner of a major sport. In this role, you are to deliver a "State of the Sport" address on an annual basis.
- Read your newspaper for a few days and identify five major issues or problems within your area of authority that you will include in your speech.

#### **Five Major Issues Identified Through The Newspaper**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

- For one of the problems you have identified, describe what you will ask owners, coaches and players to consider to help solve the problem. The solution you identify may require a league vote, so your speech should be persuasive. Use the space below to outline your ideas prior to writing the script for your speech.

## On the Road Again



### Game Plan:

Teams in all professional sports are divided into an interesting arrangement of leagues, conferences and divisions. Major league baseball, for example, has two leagues and four divisions. The leagues are not, as one might expect, organized totally around distances between cities.

Reorganizing the different professional sports by considering only the location and distance between cities provides a useful lesson in geography.

### On Your Mark

Name \_\_\_\_\_

•Select your favorite professional sport. In the space below, list the different leagues, conferences or divisions of the sport you have selected.

••Assume that you have been given the task of reorganizing the leagues, conferences or divisions of your favorite professional sport. Geography, or the distance between cities, is the only thing you are expected to consider. Use a map of North America to help make your decisions. You will need to use a map with a mileage scale to determine actual distance between cities. List your leagues or divisions in the space below.

•••Compare your reorganization with other students. To what degree does their reorganization agree or disagree with what you have proposed?



## On the Sidelines...

### *T-Ball to World Series*



#### Game Plan:

Since sports commands such interest with a broad audience, it is not surprising that the newspaper's sports section reports on a number of different sports. From different levels of competition (local, national and international) to differing abilities and age group competition (T-ball to World Series or Under 6 Soccer to World Cup), the sports section often covers the gamut of the sports world.

#### On Your Mark

Name

- Use your newspaper's sports section to identify and classify the types of sports coverage found there.
- Develop a poster on a popular sport. Clip and paste articles, photos, team standings, statistics and advertising that refers to or involves that sport.
- Label each item on your poster to identify the item's contents. (For example, a poster on baseball might contain Little League standings in your city, state amateur baseball tournament results, recruitment of local college baseball talent, professional baseball standings, an ad about the televised baseball games during your team's current road trip, etc.)
- Use the card below to write a brief essay on the nature of the sport you chose, characterizing the sport by popularity and its general appeal. Include what this sport reveals about our society. Attach the card to your poster.

## On the Sidelines...

### *Sports Cartooning*



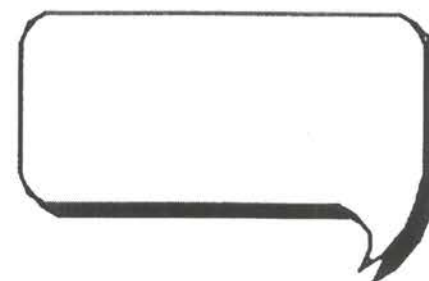
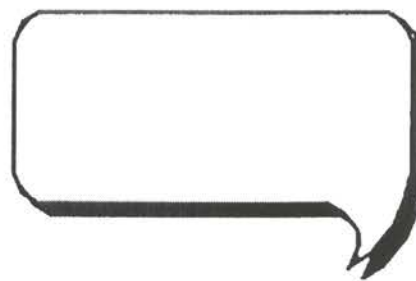
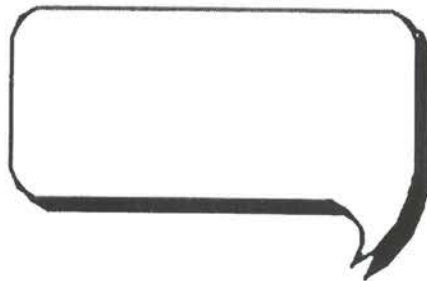
### **Game Plan:**

An editorial cartoon often focuses on a local, national or international current event or issue as its topic. To design a sports editorial cartoon, the cartoonist needs to be aware of the latest events in sports, including sports issues or controversies and the attitudes and emotions being expressed about these same events and issues.

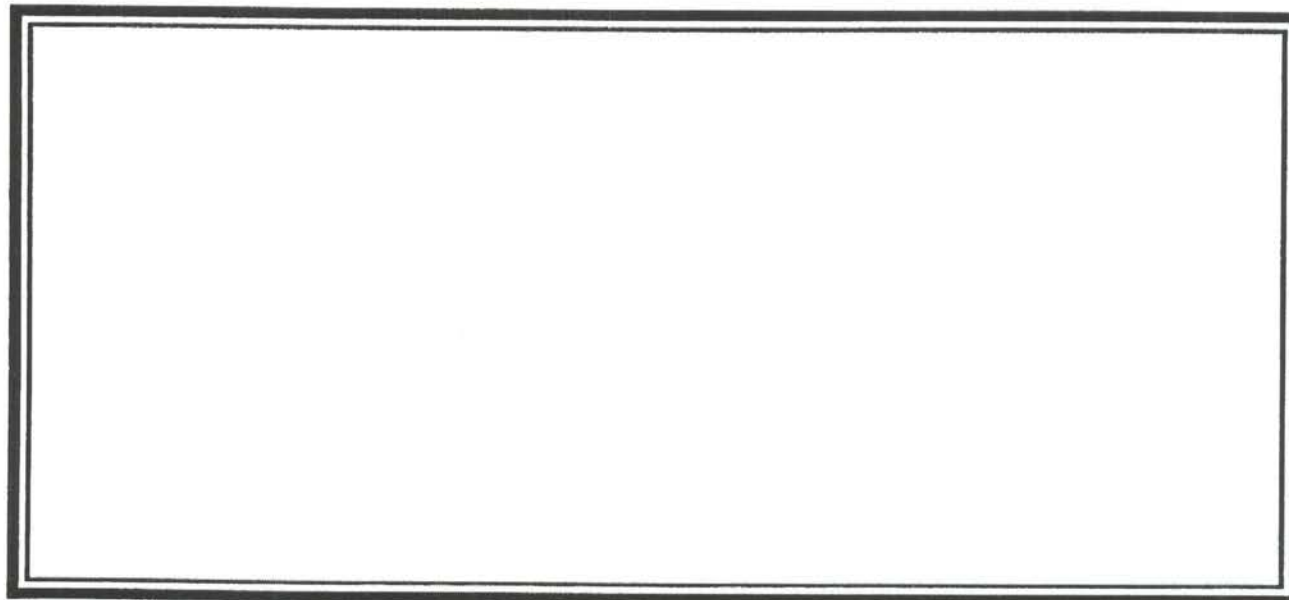
### On Your Mark

Name

- For several consecutive days, read the sports stories in your newspaper. In the cartoon balloons below, identify three events or issues in sports that might be a good topic for a sports editorial cartoon.

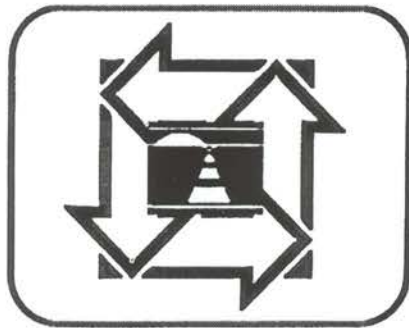


- Think about your own feelings about each of the events/issues listed above and select one of the possible topics as the focus of your editorial cartoon.
- Design your sports editorial cartoon below to comment or communicate your feelings about the sports issue or event you selected. If you wish to design a series of cartoons to illustrate your feelings, use the back of this page.



## On the Sidelines...

### *Sporting Priorities*



### Game Plan:

The content of the sports pages must undergo much planning and evaluation before the sports section is printed. Sports editors may have many stories and photos from which to select only a few that are published in one edition. These choices are often made based upon what might be of greatest interest to the greatest number of readers.

### On Your Mark

Name

- Important sports news in one city may not be so important in another. Scan your newspaper's sports section, clipping those stories which may be classified in one of the categories below. You may need to continue this task in several editions, so that one of the categories contains at least fifteen items. Write the headlines of the stories in the appropriate categories below.

Stories of interest mainly within our city

Stories of interest primarily within our state

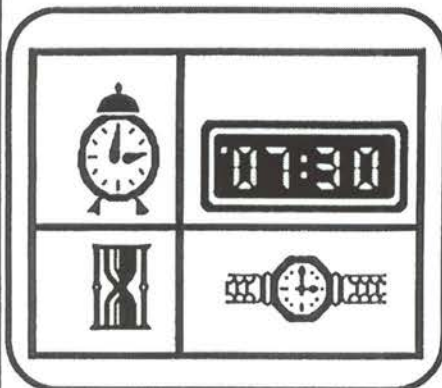
Stories of interest nationally

- Select one category. Arrange the contents of that category in a collage (on posterboard or on the bulletin board). Develop a title for your collage related to the category you selected.



## On the Sidelines...

### Improving the Game: Sports Changes



#### Game Plan:

Change is to be expected in all aspects of our life. As time passes, new products and new services are made available which should improve our present standards.

These changes are evident in the world of sports. Equipment and training procedures are just a couple of the areas in sports that reflect change.

#### On Your Mark

Name

•Scan the sports pages to identify changes in products and services in the sporting world in the last 20 years. Look at story content, photo composition, advertising and illustration in the sports pages.

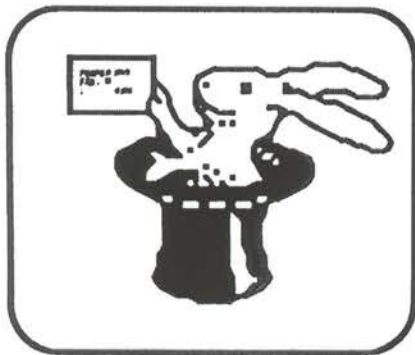
•In the spaces provided below, list ten products and five services that are new (available in the last 20 years) to the world of sports.

<u>Products</u>		<u>Services</u>
1.	6.	1.
2.	7.	2.
3.	8.	3.
4.	9.	4.
5.	10.	5.

••Select one of the products and one of the services you listed above and for each write a brief statement explaining why this product/service was developed and if the availability of this product/service is an asset or liability to sports.

## On the Sidelines...

### *A Word From Our Sponsors*



### Game Plan:

Sponsorship has long been a method of fund-raising for sports teams and individuals. Sponsorship has come to be a popular form of volunteerism in the sports world for large and small businesses alike, in donating goods, services and money to help support an athletic endeavor.

Local sports teams may rely on sponsors to help pay for uniforms, league fees, tournament fees, travel and/or coaching.

### On Your Mark

Name

- Analyze the sports standing of your local amateur teams in soccer, football, ice hockey, softball, etc. List a few examples of patronage or sponsorship of the local teams by name association.

### **Some Examples of Sponsorship Found in the Newspaper**

- Analyze advertising for a collegiate or professional sporting event. Identify the event and the names of the sponsors below. What do the sponsors provide for the team? What do you think the team gives the sponsors? Do all the sponsorships seem appropriate? Why/Why not?

Sports is more than just recreation or athletic competition. Sports has become a very big business in our country and in most of the world. The money you pay to be admitted to a sporting event helps to offset the many costs involved in that sport. The money you spend at a retail store for a shirt or a mug with a local team logo may help pay for salaries involved in the production and/or sale of that sports item.

## Name

- Payroll in the world of sports goes far beyond the money for the salaries of team members, coaches, managers and other administrators of the team. For this task, you will fill in the blanks provided with the careers/jobs connected to the world of sports. Use the sports section of your newspaper as your resource for identifying the many jobs connected to sports.
- From the soda vendor at the ball park to the season ticket printer in the print shop across town, list as many jobs dependent on sports as your creativity allows. Use the chart below to report your findings.

[illegible]

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## On the Sidelines...

### *Is It A Record?*



#### Game Plan:

Record breaking performances in sports reap much attention in the news. Whether the record includes the youngest, the oldest, the best or the worst, these studies in extremes often are cited in sports news and features.

The real story, however, may rest behind the record, in the lengthy preparation for the record-breaking attempt.

#### On Your Mark

Name

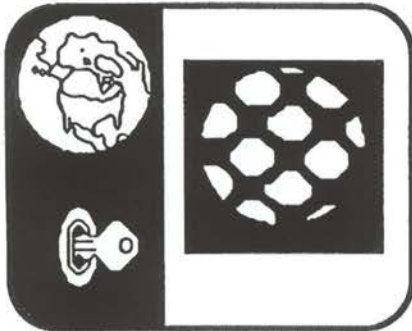
- Examine several issues of your newspaper and clip an article which reports the establishment of a new record.
- In the following box on the left, describe the commitment that must have been necessary for this record-breaking event (types of training, financial help, risks that were taken, etc.).
- In the following box on the right, describe the record and explain the significance of the record. Keep in mind that some records may be more important than others.

#### The Commitment Required for Success in Breaking a Record:

#### Significance of This New Sports Record:

## On the Sidelines...

### A Key To Understanding



### Game Plan:

The sports section of the newspaper can provide many clues about the importance of sports in our culture. You can also make discoveries about other cultures by learning about their sports and recreational interests. The newspaper frequently prints sports and recreation articles from or about other countries.

### On Your Mark

Name \_\_\_\_\_

- Read the sports section of your newspaper for at least three days. Clip articles which report on or refer to sports events or athletes in other countries.
- List in the chart below the sport mentioned in each article and the country(ies) involved.
- In the third column of the chart, place an "X" if the sport is popular in your state. Place an "O" if the sport is not popular in your state.
- In the fourth column, write in the name of a sport played in our country that is also played in the foreign country listed.

<u>Sport discussed in the article</u>	<u>Country mentioned in article</u>	<u>Popular in my state?</u>	<u>One sport common to both areas</u>

- Make a list of the competitions/events that draw together international athletes. Use the sports section to help identify some of these competitions.

# On the Sidelines...

## Life Without the Sports Section



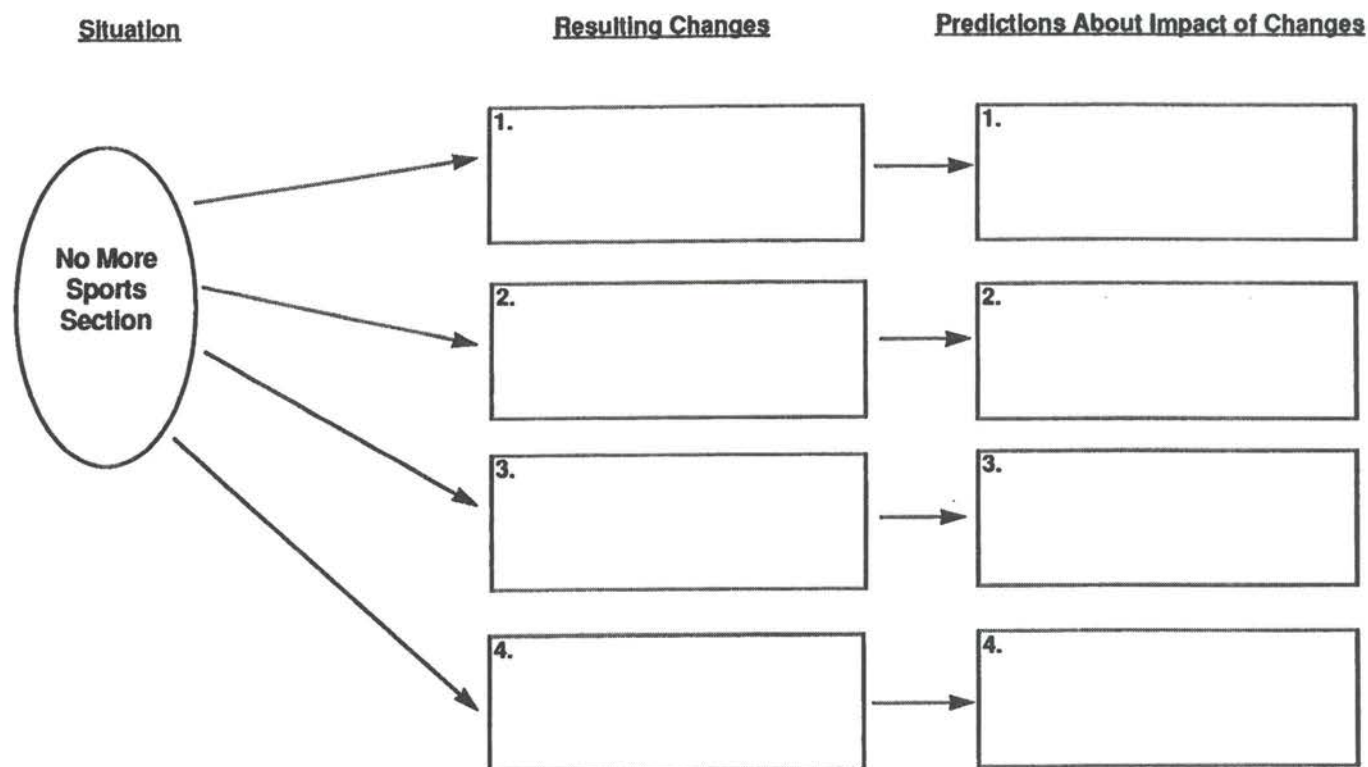
### Game Plan:

Sports fans rely on the sports pages for detailed news and sports reports, exciting features and interesting statistics. For the reader of the sports pages, it would be difficult to imagine a newspaper without a sports section.

### On Your Mark

Name \_\_\_\_\_

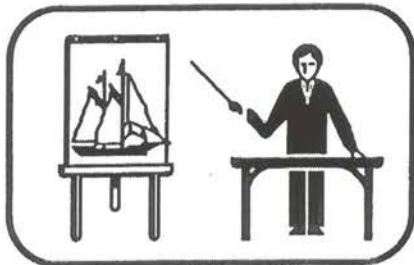
- Imagine that sports sections are no longer a part of the newspaper publication.
- List the changes that might occur as a result of this situation.
- Using the list of changes you developed, predict what might occur as a result of these changes, or the impact of the loss of the sports pages on our world/society.





## On the Sidelines...

### *Let's Talk Sports*



### Game Plan:

Most people enjoy watching and/or participating in sports activities. The fact that one entire section of your newspaper is devoted to sports, indicates the importance of sports to our lives.

Our newspaper's sports section gives us a snapshot or one-day picture of sports events from all over the world. This daily record can tell us a great deal about ourselves.

### On Your Mark

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

- Carefully read at least one sports section from your newspaper.
- Note in the space below, any conclusions or inferences from the sports section that you believe reflect what we are like as citizens. One possible example, for instance, is that the worth of individuals (players) is measured by how well each does in comparison to everyone else. Use the space below to list your examples.

### **Inferences or Conclusions About Americans Today, Based on the Sports Pages**

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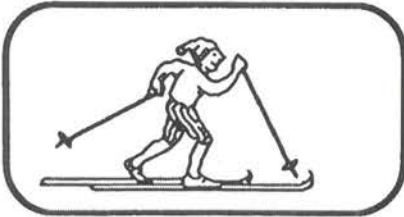
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## On the Sidelines...

### *Sports And Leisure Time Activities*



#### Game Plan:

The sports section often focuses on professional sports or professional players for whom sports is a career. However, for most of us, sports offers leisure time activity which assists us in keeping physically fit, socializing with family and friends and/or relaxing on our own to release tension. A variety of sports opportunities invites us to join in and have some fun.

#### On Your Mark

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

- Scan the sports section of your newspaper. List sports and recreational activities for the categories below.

#### Individual Sports

#### Team Sports

#### Sports Most Likely to be Lifetime Sports

#### Sports I Didn't Realize Were Mentioned in the Newspaper

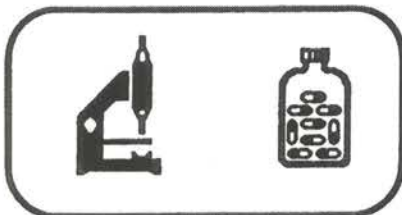
#### Very Expensive Sports/Recreation

#### Sports That Offer Very Little Exercise

- 
- Select one sport from the above lists. Write a paragraph below discussing the advantages/disadvantages of participation in this sport. Consider costs, geographic limitations, etc.

## On the Sidelines...

### *A Capsule Analysis*



#### Game Plan:

Time capsules (a protected collection of artifacts from a particular period of time) are often buried by communities or special interest groups in an attempt to see ourselves as others in the future may see us, based on our artifacts. Usually, time capsules are exhumed 100 years after burial and, most always, time capsules communicate and share a bit of one time period with the citizens of the future.

#### On Your Mark

Name \_\_\_\_\_

- Assume that the local historical society has assigned to you the task of selecting five items from the sports pages which best represent sports today.
- Read the newspaper for several days, clipping those items which you feel may be appropriate to be included in a sports time capsule.
- Narrow your selections to four and list your selections and reasons for your selections below.

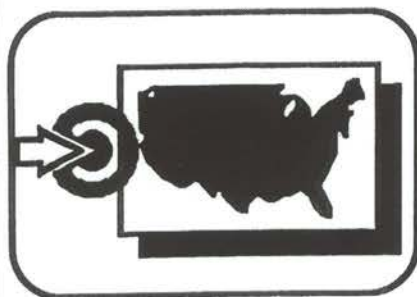
#### The Final Four

#### Reasons for Selections

1. _____	_____
	_____
	_____
2. _____	_____
	_____
	_____
3. _____	_____
	_____
	_____
4. _____	_____
	_____
	_____



## Sports On Target



### Game Plan:

The sports section opens a world of discovery about local sports and recreation. From character sketches of unique sports personalities to announcements of weekend sporting and recreational events, the sports section of a newspaper can give us many clues about the local area.

### On Your Mark

Name \_\_\_\_\_

•Select a city within the country that you would like to learn more about. Your task is to write a letter to the newspaper in that city, requesting one copy of a weekday edition of the newspaper for study in your class. You will need to compose a business letter which requests a particular day's edition of the other city's newspaper. Your requested "date" becomes a target date for comparison between the other newspaper and your local newspaper of the same day. Whatever date you choose, be sure to save a copy of your local newspaper of the same date. (Addresses of newspapers are available in *Editor and Publisher Yearbook*, a publication that you should find at your local library. If you have a relative who lives in another city, you may wish to write them and ask that they send you a copy of their newspaper.)

••When you have a copy of the other newspaper and your local paper of the same date, conduct the following study:

Analyze the similarities and differences between types of sports reported on, syndicated columns, contents of the sports page (sports editorials, lead stories, sports cartoons, statistics, # of local columns, wire service stories, game schedules, etc.) Develop a paragraph describing the "personality" of the other city, based solely on the contents of the sports section. How do you think a student in another city would characterize your city, based on your local newspaper's sports section?

Outline in red the local stories and sports photos in each newspaper. Outline in blue the national stories and photos in each paper. Measure the column inches allotted to local and national sports coverage in each newspaper. Develop a graph to report your findings.

Look carefully at the advertising in each newspaper. Does each paper carry similar advertising in its sports pages? What types of products are advertised in each newspaper sports section? Which of these products/services are from the local area? Are any of the ads in the newspaper sports section exactly the same?

Read some of the sports commentary in each newspaper. Identify the topic and the opinions being expressed about the topic. What insight if any does this provide you about the other city?

To what extent does the other newspaper cover high school, college, amateur and professional sports? How does this compare with your own city's newspaper?

Are there any surprises in the sports section of the other city's newspaper?

•••Expand your study of comparison and contrast to the other sections of the newspaper (comics, front page news, classified and retail advertising, special sections, business, weather).

# On the Sidelines...

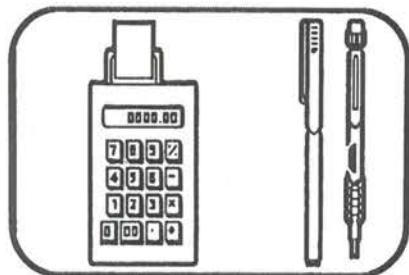


## Playbook 3: Mathematics/Science

Activity Title	Focus	Activity Number
Sports You Can Count On	Estimates/Actuals	MS-1
Measuring Up Sports	Percentages	MS-2
For Some Sports, It's Metric	Metric Measurements	MS-3
Graphic Popularity	Classifying/Revising Graphs	MS-4
An Economic Consideration	Consumer Costs	MS-5
National Pastime	Reading/Interpreting Charts	MS-6
Nothing Like Being There	Completing a Graph	MS-7
Hook And Slice	Mean and Median	MS-8
Start Your Engines	Pictograph	MS-9
Participation Is Good For You	Health And Sports	MS-10
Sports And The Environment	Regulating Sports	MS-11
Sports Power	Nutrition	MS-12
Sports Climate	Weather And Sports	MS-13
Sports and Altitude	Impact of Altitude on Athletes	MS-14
Technology in Sports	Scientific Improvements	MS-15



## Sports You Can Count On



People participate in sports for many reasons. Whether seeking competition, exercise, relaxation or friendship, the sportsman can find what he/she is looking for.

For many reasons, the number of different sports available is incredible. Though we may participate in only a few sports, there are many more available for us if we are aware of them.

## On Your Mark

Name

- Prior to beginning this activity, estimate how many different types of sports you will find in the newspaper. Place your estimate here: \

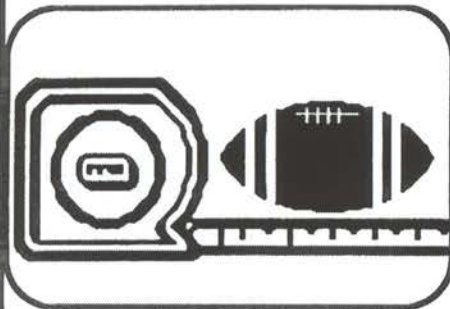
- On the lines below, write the name of as many different sports as possible. Use the newspaper first to test the accuracy of your original estimate. Once that you have used the newspaper, think of as many other sports as you can and record them on the lines below. If you need, use the back of the page for additional space.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



## On the Sidelines...

### Measuring Up Sports



#### Game Plan:

The sports section of the newspaper attracts a large readership. This audience, however, may have multiple interests within the category of sports.

A newspaper's sports staff must strive to present a variety of sports to its reading public, but certain sports will receive a greater amount of coverage due to popularity, the demands of the current sports season or a current event focusing more attention on a specific sport.

#### On Your Mark

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

- Prior to looking at your newspaper's sports section, write below the three sports that you think are most likely to receive the greatest amount of coverage today in the sports news. Rank them in order of the amount of coverage you think they will receive.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

- Scan your newspaper sports section to count the total number of sports news stories and features. Use this information to figure the percentage of coverage for the sports you ranked.

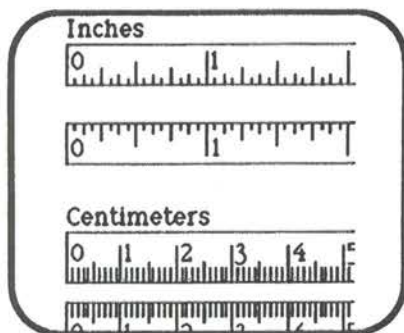
- Fill in the chart below for the top five sports (in terms of amount of coverage) to compare your rankings.

Actual Rank	Name of Sport	My Original Ranking	Percentage of Coverage
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

- Were there any surprises after your calculations? Explain.

## On the Sidelines...

### *For Some Sports, It's Metric*



#### Game Plan:

Many sports must utilize some form of measurement for regulation of events (the length of a race, the height of a jump, the distance between two points, etc.).

Some sports use U.S. Customary measurements (foot, yard, mile). Some sports use metrics (kilometers, kilograms, meters). You may even discover that some sports use both systems of measurement. If you are not already aware of these sports, you can quickly find out which sports rely on metrics by just looking at the contents of the sports pages.

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MS-3

#### On Your Mark

Name \_\_\_\_\_

- Read through the news stories and statistics in the sports section of your newspaper. Look for sports which use the metric system in reporting statistics or measuring events. List the sports which make some use of metrics in the chart below. In the other box, list sports that use metrics, but you did not find mentioned in your newspaper.

#### **Names of Sports That Use Metrics Found in the Newspaper**

#### **Other Sports That Utilize Metrics**

- Write the metric terms found in the newspaper in the space below. To the right, write the U.S. Customary Equivalent for each metric measurement.

#### **Metric Terms Found**

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#### **U.S. Customary Equivalent**

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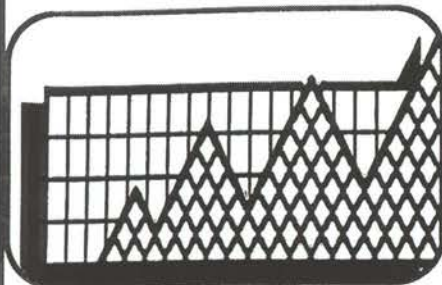
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## On the Sidelines...

### *Graphic Popularity*



### Game Plan:

Throughout the newspaper graphs are used to gain attention and help a reader visualize and quickly understand information at a glance.

Sports pages often use circle, bar and line graphs, charts and picto-graphs to convey statistics in an easy-to-read form.

### On Your Mark

Name

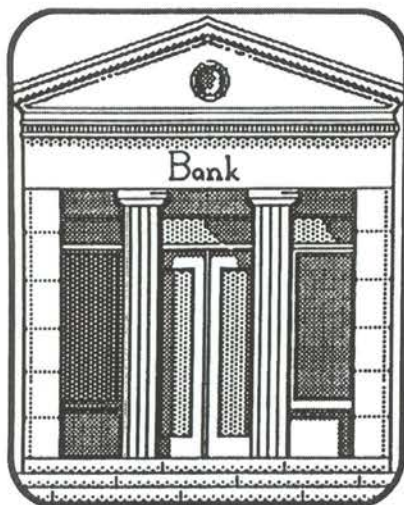
- Clip a graph or chart from your newspaper sports section and paste it below. Label your clipping with the type of graph or chart you found. In a paragraph, describe the main idea of the graph. Identify the name and date of the newspaper in which it was found.

- On back of this page, revise the graph/chart to take on a new look, but to reveal the same information.



## On the Sidelines...

### *An Economic Consideration*



### Game Plan:

In spite of the growing concern nationally and internationally for our health and fitness, some people see sports as an expensive investment and therefore avoid many of the sports which require much expenditure.

Physical exercise is relatively free, but many sports enthusiasts spend a great deal of money when involved in a particular sport or recreation.

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MS-5

### On Your Mark

Name

- Select a sport (other than a team sport) in which you have interest. Scan the sports section of the newspaper to make your selection.
- In the categories below, develop a list of what you will need to be involved on a regular basis in the sport selected.

<u>Equipment Needs</u>	<u>Training</u>	<u>Travel &amp; Memberships</u>	<u>Other</u>

TOTAL ESTIMATED START-UP COST: \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL ESTIMATED YEARLY COST: \_\_\_\_\_

- Following each item you listed in the chart above, estimate a cost for each item. Use your newspaper's advertising (classified and retail) to help in your cost estimates.
- Estimate a total **start-up** cost and **yearly** cost for your involvement in this sport. (Some costs may be one time expenses or "start-up costs"; others will be ongoing expenses, such as travel to the mountains for skiing or court fees for tennis.) Write your estimates for each category in the spaces provided below the chart.

## On the Sidelines...

### National Pastime



#### Game Plan:

Baseball box scores and standings represent some of the most popularly read statistics in the newspaper. For the baseball novice or first time reader of the sports page, interpreting these scores can be a real challenge.

#### On Your Mark

Name \_\_\_\_\_

- Locate the box scores in your newspaper's sports section.
- Clip the box scores from one game and paste below:

(Paste Box Score Here)

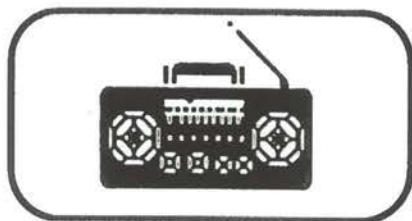
- (a) Which team had the most official 'at bats'? \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) What was the average number of 'at bats' per starting nine for each team? \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) Using the box score above, select a pitcher of your choice and determine his earned run average (ERA) for the game using the following formula. \_\_\_\_\_

$$\text{ERA} = \frac{\text{ER} \times 9}{\text{IP}}$$

Multiply the total earned runs (ER) by 9, and divide the result by the total number of Innings pitched (IP).

## On the Sidelines...

### *Nothing Like Being There*



#### Game Plan:

Thousands and thousands of fans attend professional sporting events. The attendance figures indicate how important professional sports are to our way of life.

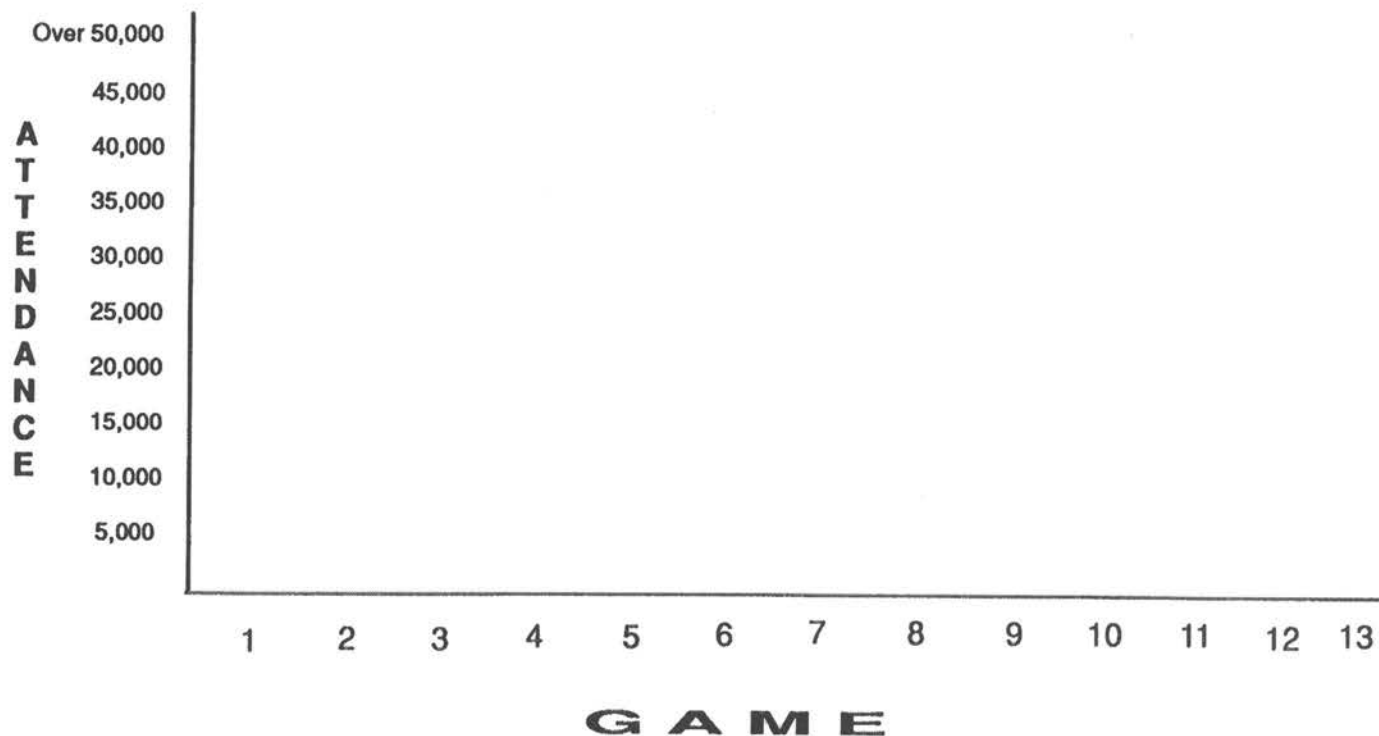
Game summaries or box scores list the attendance figures for each event. The figures will differ greatly from game to game.

Home attendance is, of course, extremely important to a team since the number of fans in attendance may make the difference between whether or not a team makes or loses money.

#### On Your Mark

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

- Examine the game summaries or box scores for all games played on a certain day. If more than one sport is "in season," choose the sport of most interest to you.
- Complete the graph below, using game attendance figures. Depending on the sport you've selected, you may not need all the space provided.



- Using the game figures, answer the following:

What was the average attendance? \_\_\_\_\_

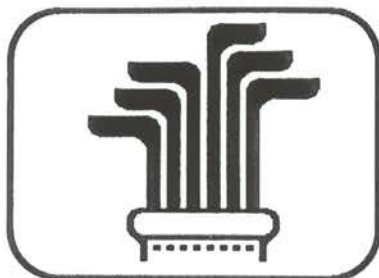
What was the difference between the lowest and highest attendance? \_\_\_\_\_

What game came closest to the average attendance figure? \_\_\_\_\_



## On the Sidelines...

### Hook And Slice



#### Game Plan:



In so many games the winner is the individual or team with the highest score. Golf is one of those unique sports in which the lowest score is the best kind to have.

Though a frustration for many of its fans, golf continues to attract more to its ranks as a challenging sport that may be played all life long.

#### On Your Mark

Name \_\_\_\_\_

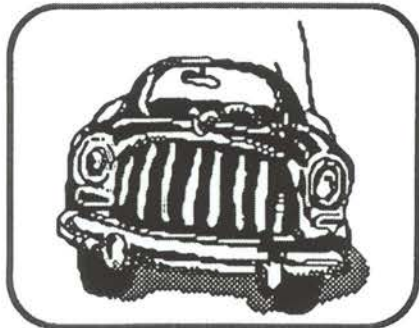
- Locate a report of golf scores in the sports pages. Often, you will find a series of scores for different games in a tournament. The lowest total score wins the tournament.
- In the space below, record the scores for multiple games for the top five golfers. Calculate the average score per game for the top five golfers.

Golfer		Scores	
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____

- Looking at the golf results listed in the newspaper, determine the median score for one tournament. Use the space below for your calculations.

## On the Sidelines...

### *Start Your Engines*



### **Game Plan:**

The spectator sport of auto racing has been popular for many years. This sport offers much variety for the thrill-seeking audience.

In most cases, cars must log a qualifying time prior to being admitted to a race. The qualifying time wins the driver the opportunity to race in the big event. Both qualifying times and actual winning race times for popular races are usually printed in the newspaper sports section.

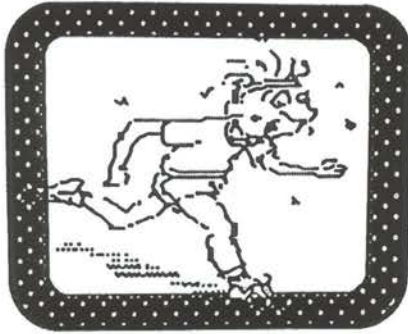
### **On Your Mark**

                     Name

- Locate a report on auto racing in your newspaper. This report may be in a news story or in a statistics column in the sports pages.
- Using the statistics reported for qualifying speeds/times for an upcoming race, or for winning speeds/times in a completed race, develop a creative pictograph to reflect these statistics. Your pictograph should show the type of car driven. Clip the statistics used from the newspaper and attach them to this activity sheet for quick reference. Use the space below to develop your graph.

## On the Sidelines...

### *Participation Is Good For You*



#### **Game Plan:**

Sports offers a wide selection of entertainment and healthful opportunities for all of us. Due to growing public concern for physical fitness, many people are seeking a "perfect sport" for fitness.

#### **On Your Mark**

                      
Name

•For physical fitness, list some of the criteria you should look for in a sport. Individual needs will be different, so your list may be unique.

••Using the above criteria, find some examples of sports in the newspaper that possess most of the above criteria. In the space below, list the examples found.

•••What characteristics (if any) of this sport might prevent it from being an ideal sport for someone else?



## A simple line drawing of a fish, facing left. The fish has a rounded body covered in a pattern of overlapping scales. It has a small eye, a simple mouth, and a tail with vertical stripes. The drawing is enclosed in a rounded rectangular frame.

Many sports and recreational activities must be respectful of the environment. Hunting, for example, may be limited to a certain time of year and to a certain number of "kill," in respect to balancing numbers and preventing disruption of life cycles of certain animals.

## On Your Mark

- Scan several editions of your newspaper to find information about hunting/fishing seasons within your state or local area.

- Select one sport mentioned and list below the regulations that apply to this sport. Why do these regulations exist? You may have to check with local/state authorities (or interview a fan of this sport) to find out why limitations exist.

- \*\*\*Over an extended period, look in the sports pages for reports about changes in hunting or fishing regulations due to imbalance in the environment.

## Sports Power



### Game Plan:

Proper nutrition is as important to an athlete as the practice of a sport. The training table has come to American homes as a way of life, not just a temporary diet.

Newspapers offer the consumer an opportunity to plan for nutritious, low-cost meals.

### On Your Mark

Name \_\_\_\_\_

•Scan the grocery advertising in your newspaper to identify **nutritious** foods in each of the four food groups. List the food groups and advertised foods below.

••Evaluate again the foods in these lists. Are there any foods that an athlete should avoid prior to competition. Why?

•••Look at the grocery advertisements again to identify any foods that are often associated with athletes, though not the best choice for good nutrition.

## On the Sidelines...

### *Sports and Climate*



#### **Game Plan:**

Many sports facilities now make it possible for sports that formerly were played during a particular season to be played anytime. However, there are still some events in sports that are dependent upon the weather.

The newspaper sports section may print information about cancellations/postponements of sporting events due to weather problems.

#### **On Your Mark**

                     Name

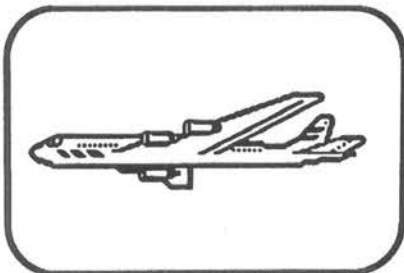
- Use several editions of the newspaper to find examples of the impact weather can have on sporting events. Cite, in the space below, the examples you find in the newspaper and those you can recall from memory.

- Sometimes the weather or climate may not prevent a sporting event from occurring, however the impact of the weather may be great on an individual athlete. Look for examples of this in the newspaper. Can you prescribe preventive measures that can be taken by an athlete to avoid such problems?



## On the Sidelines...

### *Sports and Altitude*



#### **Game Plan:**

It has been proven that change in altitude has some bearing on the performance of athletes. Teams that must compete in mountainous areas are often at a disadvantage in sporting events against teams who are accustomed to and/or train in a high altitude.

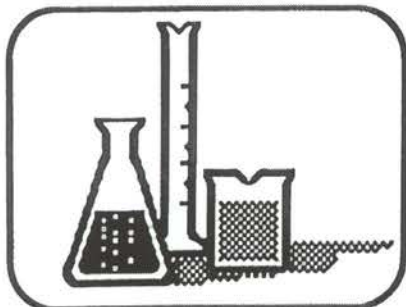
#### **On Your Mark**

Name

- Search the newspaper for interviews with athletes who will be performing away from their home base or usual location. You will probably need to review the newspaper on a continuing basis for these interviews. Cite any references to the athlete's attempts to avoid being adversely affected by the altitude or change in air pressure.

- For each reference you find, be sure to identify the person interviewed, the newspaper date and what was mentioned about the altitude.

## *Technology in Sports*



### **Game Plan:**

Research in all the sciences has proved helpful to the athlete and to various sports. Evidence of this can be found in the features and stories of the sports pages. These reports often refer to new equipment, new training methods, new sports medicines and medical treatments, etc.

### **On Your Mark**

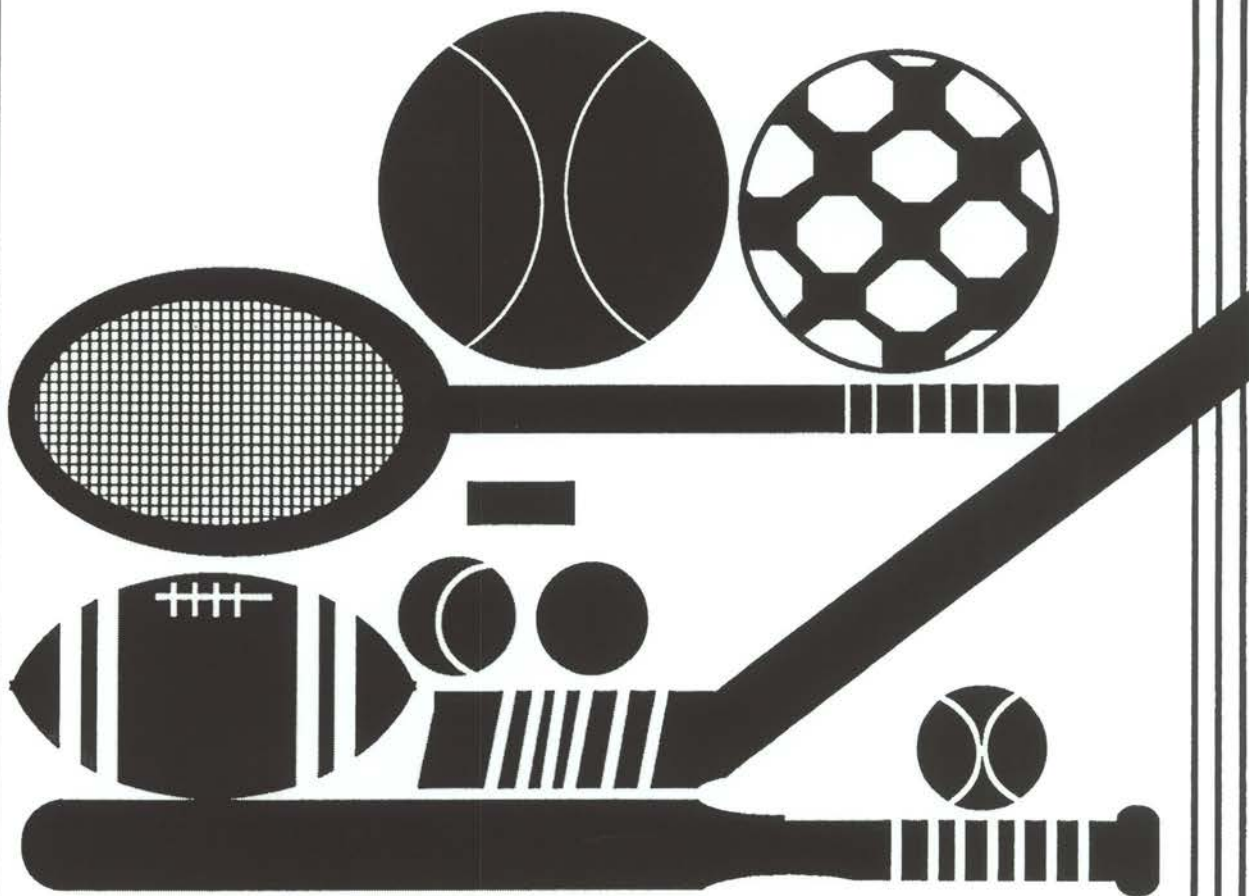
Name

•Research and experimentation occurs for many years before the results of extensive studies are known. The area of sports has been a beneficiary of this hard work and dedication of scientists. Examine the sports section of your newspaper for photos and/or stories that illustrate some of the advances enjoyed in sports as a result of science. For example, in a news or feature story you may find that laser surgery performed on an athlete will ease an injury, and the player will be able to return to the sport in a few weeks, rather than missing an entire season. Without the scientific technology of the laser and the research on its use in surgery, this quick recovery could not have been possible.

••Cite examples in the space below. Clip the news articles and photos that illustrate this concept.

# On the Sidelines...

**Supplementary  
Activity Cards  
for language arts,  
mathematics,  
science and social  
studies**



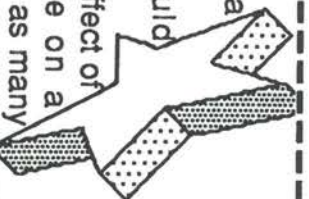


### #1 Sports Get Away



- Plan a one-week sportsman's vacation within your home state. Use the newspaper sports section as your resource in planning.
- Record on an outline map of your state, the path you will take. From one ball game to the next, from one sports arena to another, from national park to the local park, try to fill your week with as many sportsman's places of interest as possible.

### #3 Sports Star



- Analyze a feature story about a sports star.
- Think about how fame would change a person's daily life.
- Write a paragraph about the effect of being a professional athlete on a person's total lifestyle. Include as many advantages and disadvantages that sports stardom might bring to an individual. Can you think of a sports star who has made the best (or the worst) of his/her situation?

### #5 Three Levels of Sports



- Scan the sports section of your newspaper and clip one example each of an international, national, state and local sports story.
- For each story, write a brief summary about the impact of the reported events on you or on sports fans in your community.

### #7 Fact or Opinion

- Clip one sports column written by a local or syndicated columnist.
- Develop a T-Chart and record every statement of fact to the left of the T and every statement of opinion to the right.

Facts      Opinions

### #2 Sports Figures



- Locate international names in sports in your newspaper's sports stories and statistics. Use several editions of your newspaper to find at least 15 athletes of international fame.
- Write the name and the sport of each athlete near their home location on an outline map of the world. Below each name, draw a symbol for the sport this personality represents.

### #4 What A Spectacle!



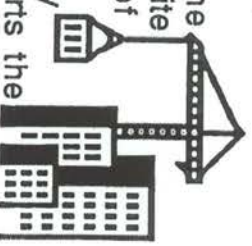
- Define "spectator sports."
- Develop a list of spectator sports you find mentioned in your newspaper. What does the popularity of spectator sports reflect about our society? Are there any dangers in being only a sports spectator?

### #6 Hall of What?



- Using a recent sports section from your newspaper, select a sports personality that would be your nominee to the "Hall of Shame."
- Explain your choice on a certificate you design for the "Dishonoree."

### #8 Give Me Some Support

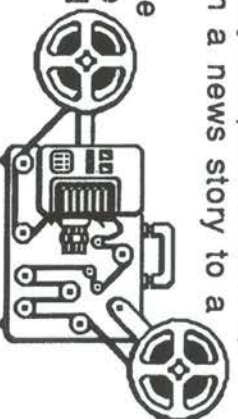


- Select one sports headline from the newspaper and write it on a separate sheet of paper.
- Write two sentences directly from the story that supports the headline. Punctuate, as direct quotes, the sentences you copy from the newspaper.



## #9 Lights, Camera, Action

- Drama in sports unfolds daily in the pages of the sports section.
- Select a sports story and plan to revise it, changing it from a news story to a short story.
- Describe in three paragraphs, the setting, plot and characters.



## #11 Graphic Sports

- Clip five different graphs from the sports pages over a period of time. Paste each graph on a sheet of paper.
- Paraphrase the meaning of each graph and propose a different graphic for the same purpose.



## #10 Truly A Team Player

- Over the period of several days, gather from any section of the newspaper, information that will serve as evidence that many famous sports personalities are actively involved in charitable projects in the community.
- Discuss why so many athletes are involved in their communities in such a way.



## #12 Sports Guide

- Use your sports pages and entertainment section of the newspaper to plan a weekend of entertainment within the local area for a sports enthusiast.
- Include in your plan sports events you will attend, television and radio broadcasts you may tune in for and special events announced in your newspaper. Use the radio/television listings in the newspaper for planning.



## #13 Mind Over Matter

- Develop a "Perfect Player Profile" for any sport you choose. Include ideal height, weight, build, physical condition, personality and skills for an individual involved in the chosen sport. Use your newspaper to analyze the qualities of successful athletes.
- Identify one sport for which the profile **would not** be acceptable for good performance. Explain your answer.



## #15 You Are What You Eat

- Develop a scrapbook on good nutrition and exercise. Your final product should be one that any person trying to become physically and mentally fit could refer to for useful information.
- Contents of the scrapbook should be any articles, columns, photos or advertising from the newspaper that refer to this subject.



## #14 Just an Average Headline

- Using the front page of the sports section, figure the average number of words per headline on today's front page sports.
- Write a new headline for one of the stories without using more words than the original headline.



## #16 Make An Issue Of It

- Select a photo from the sports pages.
- Develop a caption or comic balloon to make a humorous or light comment on a current issue or event.





### #17 Let Me Count The Ways

- Select two of your favorite sports reported in your newspaper sports pages.
- For each sport, list the many ways in which mathematics is used in that sport.



### #19 My Hero

- Make a list of characteristics of a hero. This list will serve as your criteria for evaluating the qualifications of a hero.
- Select a "hero" from the sports pages and a hero from literature for comparison. (Make sure both heroes meet the criteria you established.)
- Compare and contrast the two heroes selected.



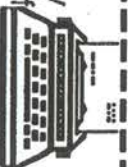
### #21 Weaver of Stories

- Clip five to ten photos from the sports pages and write a story about a current event or issue at your school. Use the photos you clipped from the newspaper to illustrate your story.



### #23 Sports Expert

- A sports writer must be extremely knowledgeable about a variety of sports, though a writer may have one specialty or favorite.
- Select a school sport about which you are knowledgeable. Report on one event in this sport at your school. Write your story in a style similar to the sports reporting in your newspaper.



### #18 Symbolic Of My Opinion

- Draw an editorial cartoon to honor or recognize a coach or player in your favorite sport.
- Write an accompanying editorial to further recognize this person's contribution to the world.



### #20 Picture This One

- Select an interesting sports photo.
- Write four sentences about the photo. Each sentence must be of a different structure (declarative, interrogative, exclamatory, imperative).



### #22 What's In A Name?

- List five professional sports teams' names that you find in the newspaper sports pages.
- Analyze the names of each team to determine why the name is appropriate. Consider the history, geography, natural resources, climate of the home city or state of each team for clues to the origination of their names.

Franklin  
Lightning  
Bolts



### #24 Big Sports, Big Money

- A professional sports team can be an economic plus for a city or area in which it is located.
- Select a professional sports team of your choice in your city or a city near you. Read the newspaper for ideas on the ways the team boosts the economy of its surrounding area. Develop a list of the economic advantages made possible by the team.





### #25 At A Glance

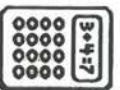
•Look for different types of graphs in sports news. Find one example of line, bar, picture or circle graphs. Clip your examples and mount each on a separate sheet of paper.

•For each graph, write one or two sentences explaining what the main point of the graph is.



### #27 Batter Up!

•Using the newspaper, follow your favorite baseball team for a three or four game series.



•Calculate the batting average of the clean-up hitter for the series. Batting average is computed by dividing the total number of hits (H) by the total times at bat (AB). ( $BA = H \div AB$ )

### #29 Danger in Sport

•Golfers often receive warnings of the hazards of the weather if they are caught in a storm on the golf course. Boaters must be aware of the weather forecast before a day of boating.



Hunters must follow safety rules to eliminate serious risk to themselves and fellow hunters. Select a sport from the newspaper and develop a list of safety precautions that should be followed in this sport. Prepare a speech on this issue and present it to your class.

### #31 Hall of Fame Resume'

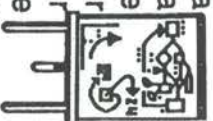
•Select a recent inductee to the Hall of Fame. Read feature stories and news stories about this new member of the Hall of Fame.



•Research these reports to develop a resume' that would showcase the Hall of Famer's talent, education, experience and awards or special citations.

### #26 Draw A Picture For Me

•Your task is to develop a chart on how to read a graph or chart from the sports pages. Clip a graph or chart from the newspaper sports pages. Mount the graph on plain paper. Circle statistics and major parts of the graph/chart. Draw lines from the circled items on the graph or chart to your explanation of the item.



### #28 The Race Is On

•Refer to your newspaper's sports section. Using the standings of your favorite league, develop a bar graph to reflect "Games Behind" the league leader. Does your bar graph depict the status of the teams better than a chart?



### #30 Badge of Courage

•Select a sports hero from the newspaper (in a story or picture) and develop a short story about the climb from being an "unknown" to becoming a sports star. Your story may be fictional, so that you can include imagined (or real) trials endured or obstacles overcome by many sports figures on the road to fame.



### #32 Sports Concerns

•If involved in sports for even a short period of time, a sportsman usually learns of rules or regulations that seem unfair or unnecessary. Use the newspaper to find an example of a rule or judgement being questioned by a player or a team.

•Examine the situation, report both viewpoints in the controversy and decide which view you share.

