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Foreword

Kurt F. Overhardt

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FOREWORD

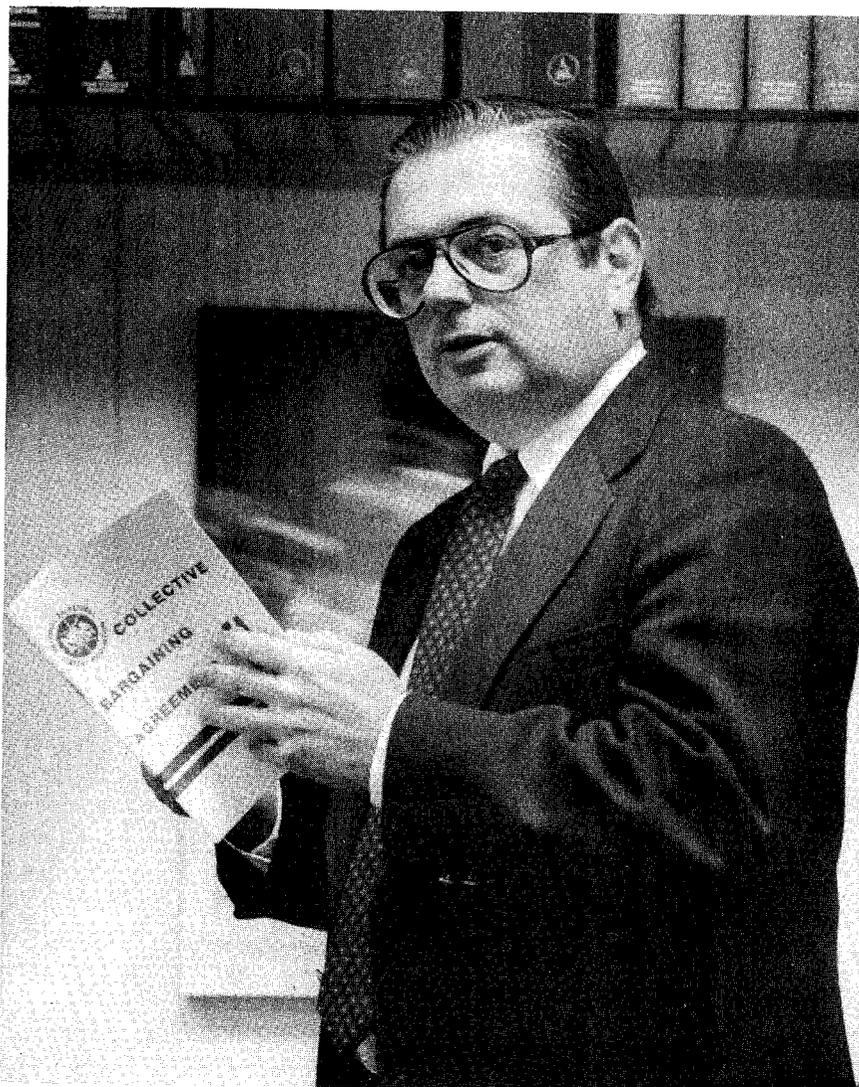
Sports Law, there is no such thing. Sports Law is simply law as it applies to sports. Therefore, Sports Law encompasses contract law, tort law, intellectual property law, corporate law, etc. . . . What has been the cause of the current explosion in this relatively new area of law? The primary reason is sports today is big business. Professional player contracts exceeding six figures, multimillion dollar television contracts, and individual product endorsements are just a few examples of the big bucks involved in the industry. Moreover, as college sports gain popularity, the pressure to win often has more to do with additional revenues than student-athletes' educational experience.

For better or for worse the lawyer's role in sports is increasingly important. This point is clear when considering that the four largest professional team sport leagues in North America all have lawyers as their respective commissioner or president. Furthermore, professional teams and university athletic departments have or soon will be required to hire in-house attorneys to efficiently meet the burgeoning legal issues evolving in sports. As business and other aspects of our society demand good lawyers to positively contribute to the system, the future of sports also needs such contributions. However, the most important thing that needs to be preserved is the Game itself.

Lawyers and businessmen alike should not lose sight of the fact that sports were created to provide fun and challenge to those who play, and entertainment to those who watch. The lawyer's role in the sports industry should be proactive. Lawyers must deal with vital issues such as players' rights without jeopardizing the quality of each sport. Intercollegiate athletics must step back and reevaluate current demands on the student-athlete, and focus more on educating rather than winning. Nevertheless, the reality is that law can play an important role in the sports industry, but to do so there should be more thought and dialogue addressing the legal aspects of sports.

The purpose of this Sports Law Symposium Issue is to provide a scholarly forum for current and emerging legal topics that relate to sports. The articles included provide positive and meaningful analysis of their respective subjects. The Editor wishes to thank Leslie Speed Greene and Jon J. Franklin for their assistance and support, and all of the individuals that contributed to the issue.

Kurt F. Overhardt
Symposium Editor



LARRY FLEISHER, 1930-1989