

"New York's Future as I View It"

The future is certainly bright for New York as far as sports are concerned. New York, the most cosmopolitan city in America, has seen every type of sports event, and has viewed many records set and broken, but still there is a brilliant future ahead in which many more records will be surpassed.

New York also has some of the most loyal fans to be found in any city, and I am not just referring to those of the baseball marvels, the Mets. It is true that Met fans are nothing less than fanatical (I have felt this emotion many times at the old Polo Grounds and new Shea Stadium), but all the other New York teams have followers who would do anything short of murder (maybe that, too;) to see their team win. The New York Rangers, New York's entry in the National Hockey League, have been out of the end of season's playoffs for approximately four years, and the New York Knickerbockers, a basketball team with much potential, also has been at the bottom of their league standings for a few years now. This cannot be blamed for lack of fans attending these sporting events- the Mets continue to surpass even the great, American League champion New York Yankees in attendance, the Rangers almost always have nearly a full house at Madison Square Garden, and the Knicks also have a good following at the Garden. Possibly this all means that the worst a New York team becomes, the more New York fans will go to see it, but I feel that , in the future, as the teams improve, even a greater number of fans will go to see them. What will be more exciting in the future than having the Rangers win the Stanley Cup, the Knicks win the National Basketball Association playoffs, and the Yanks and Mets play a subway (or maybe a helicopter) world series

in the same year. It could very possibly all come true.

In the future I envision New York as being one of the top places in the world for playing any sport, with even more advanced sport centers than it has now. New York has already brought the future to the present with new Shea Stadium, which was the most modern baseball park before the opening of the Astrodome in Houston. However, New York intends to surpass even the Astrodome - in several years Shea Stadium will also have a dome on it, but this one will be retractable, so that on sunny days baseball can be played outdoors, while on rainy afternoons and nights the dome will eradicate the rain check, as the game will be played indoors.

The scene of New York sports will be changed even more when the new Madison Square Garden is completed by the proposed date of 1967. This new arena will be erected on the present site of Pennsylvania Station, and will become the new haven of the hockey and basketball clubs, as well as the diverse other attractions now seen at Madison Square Garden. This new center will be an attraction in itself, just as Shea Stadium is, and will bring more people out to watch the events. The center will include 20,000 seats for hockey, with an unobstructed view of the ice, a Sports Museum and a Hall of Fame, forty-eight lanes for bowling, a smaller Forum for various sports events, and extensive exhibition space. In the new improved arena it can be expected that the sports played there, from track and field to basketball, will be even more rousing to watch than ever.

With all of these new facilities for the spectator, and with attendance to all sporting events being as overflowing as it is, I feel it is doubtful that we will witness an augmentation in pay television coverage of sporting events.

New York is a fortuitous city, in that many of its sporting events are covered and broadcast by the local television stations. Such cities as San Francisco and Los Angeles do not televise, for instance, any baseball being played at the home field, and only sundry other games on the road. In these towns one must pay to view the local sporting events, and, although this happens in New York to a certain extent (with boxing, for example), I feel the rise in attendance that will come from the improving play of the teams and the fabulous new sports centers will keep pay television from advancing by keeping the fans flowing out to the ball parks.

The future, therefore, is extremely optimistic for the New York sports fan, with up and coming teams and new sports centers in the making. This emphasis on sports will also be beneficial to the public in another sense, as it coincides with the wishes of the nation, state and city, in that, through greater interest in sports, more children will have an incentive to actually participate in such diversions as baseball and basketball, thus helping more youngsters of the future to become physically sound.