

“The” Cobourg Sportswriter

Layton “Scoop” Dodge



Layton Dodge was born in Cobourg in 1937, a time when you didn't really need a car to get around town. He stayed here all his life and figured you never did need one. For many who knew Layton, the memory that first comes to mind is of him riding his bicycle from one sporting assignment to another.

Growing up, Layton loved sports. Though he never was part of an organized team, his buddies said that he was the best road hockey player around. When he left High School, **Layton's love of sports became a lifelong passion.** He joined the staff of the Cobourg Sentinel Star as Sportswriter and

published his first column on September 5, 1957. He was to continue to publish for the paper until his final column on October 8, 1996 - almost 40 years!

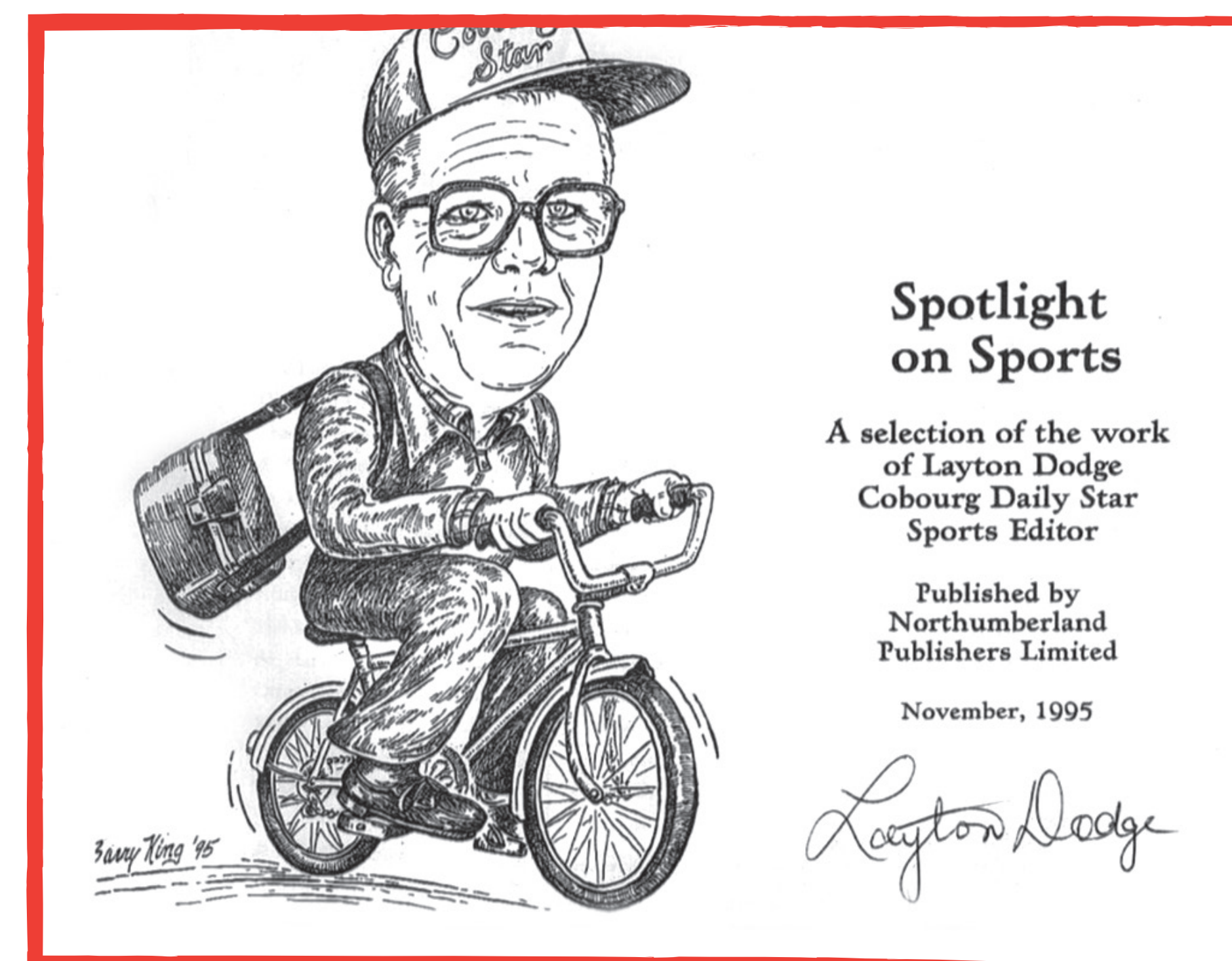
During that time Layton covered most sports in the Cobourg and surrounding community with love, diligence, integrity and honesty.

You didn't always agree with Layton's opinion but he was right on the money most of the time. Layton had humility as well, and after writing on a few controversial sports happenings over the years and having rebuttals to his view sent back to the newspaper, he issued apologies to the people concerned, “publicly”. Layton was never unfair.

Perhaps Layton's greatest quality was his understanding that **sports means as much to the House League player as it does to the All Star athlete.** He gave as much space in his columns to the House League games and players as he did to the Rep teams and stars. Literally hundreds of very proud parents could tell you that their not so talented little Johnny or Mary's name had appeared in Layton's column for some small sporting accomplishment.

As another part of his contribution to local sports, Layton was also **the league statistician for many of the local groups:** the Church Hockey League, Legion Minor Softball, the Cobourg Mercantile Hockey League, the Town Softball League, the Cobourg Bowling League - the list goes on. Most would agree that Layton Dodge **“was the very best small town sports writer you could ask for”** (Ross Quigley).

Over the years, Layton was recognized by many local organizations for his outstanding contribution to their particular sport. He was especially proud when in 1987 the Ontario Amateur Softball Association presented him with the Frank Feaver Award as **Ontario's “Mr Softball”.**



Layton Dodge set a standard which will probably never be matched, but is well worth aiming for!