Virginia Tech Player Suspended in Aftermath of Brawl

Jack Bogaczyk

in baseball is surely in question.

Right now, I don’t know one way or another what’s going to happen,” said Humpries, hinting that he was trying to finish the game after the brawl and give Tech a forfeit win.

From this point on, it’s between the athletic directors of the two schools. Will we play Virginia Tech again in baseball? I think I would have to see what the circumstances are, then decide.”

Mets has not played for the Goldens since the fight, though it’s certain that he did not give Mahoney two broken jaws with a punch.

Mets is suspended for the rest of the year,” said Humpries. “But if we get in the (NCAA) tournament, he could be back for that.”

When asked what that exactly means, Humpries said it wasn’t his role as one of the two creators of the brawl that has sidelined Metts.

“IT was that (the altercation), plus this

They’re especially impressed with his throwing arm, both in strength and accuracy.

Ironically, Mahoney would not have been able to play in the fight because the gash in his head before the visit to Blacksburg.

“He only played five games at shortstop in two years,” sighed the WVU coach.

For the first time, a younger guy a chance to play. Saturday, we finished our season with a doubleheader at Pitt. Four scouts showed to see Mahoney play. When they found out he wasn’t there, they left in the third inning.”

In 26 games, Mahoney had a team-high seven homers and 27 runs-batted-in. And in two years at WVU since moving up from Potomac Junior College, he committed one error. “And he didn’t have a throwing error in two years,” added Rumsby.

Mahoney is injured, and Rumsby is now worried that the infielder might be

You can’t help but wonder that the scuffles in the future. Tech and WVU are in a bind as to their sports relationships. Mets is missing out on the enjoyment of being a part of a team that has won 39 straight games.

Humphries—as a former major league—has been involved in brawls before and his reaction immediately following the fight was one of regret, but resignation that these sort of things happen. And since Mahoney is sitting physically hurt in Morgantown, it might soften the Mountaineers to learn that Mets is sitting mentally hurt, too.

The major leagues have apparatus for punishing players that become embroiled in a fistful situation. In college baseball, the last stop is the coach.

If Humphries doesn’t enjoy being a policeman. But this time—after Tech’s second brawl of the season—the suspension was the right move.

Clearly, this is one instance where the third time wouldn’t be charming.

Disagreement seems to be very popular among baseball fields these days.

In the last week, we’ve had Texas-Ragin’ Cajuns Bert Blyleven admitting he flew at Royal Oak catcher Darrell Potter. And the Twins’ Rod Carew punched Detroit pitcher Dave Roberts after being hit by a pitch from the Tigers’ lefthander.

And closer to home, there was the bench-clearing brawl at Tech Park, stemming from the Tech’s Tony Metts and West Virginia’s Jer- ry Humphries.

Certainly, one can see how a fight can begin because someone threw a ball at another man or someone used a bat on something other than a baseball. But what is particularly disturbing about the fight in Blacksburg is that it stemmed from words exchanged between players on the field.

From Little League on up, words are used to taunt the opposition. Every base- ball player has heard: ‘Hey pitcher, your mother wears combat boots.*** A popular one from past years. As players grow older, the taunts become more cruel. Most words drive a player to try harder, but seldom do words brew a fight.

Mets has been suspended by Tech Coach Bob Humphries and Mahoney is seriously injured and cur- rently taking WVU’s final exams as a senior with his mouth wired shut.

Neither Humphries nor Mountaineer Coach Dale Ramberg know what’s going to happen to athletic relations between the two schools. Humphries said he hasn’t heard from WVU. One West Virginia school official said that he doesn’t expect the Tech-WVU competition in most sports to be altered by the brawl. But whether the Gobblers and Mountaineers will meet again