

Baehr & Curadh Podcast

Episode 004

Sports

Baehr: Hello from Baehr and Curadh, a podcast from the Land of Awes Information Services.

Baehr: This is episode four of the Baehr and Curadh podcast. We're going to talk about our opinions of sports.

Curadh: It should be a very interesting topic today because of someone's joy of sports and someone's lack thereof.

Do you play any sports?

Baehr: Hardly ever.

I've never enjoyed sports, but in the last year, we have tried some new things, and I have discovered that I don't mind playing putt putt golf. I guess that's a sport, although we don't keep score or anything. We just hit the ball.

And we have also started bowling, although we do the bowling with the ramp where you roll the ball down the ramp and always with the bumper bumpers up. We'll do, like most bowling alleys. I guess the place that we go to has an all afternoon, like from noon till 5:00 for one price. And since I'm unemployed right now, we can do that. And when you divide it out by the number of games we play, it's a reasonable price.

But other than that, when I was in school, we would have the dreaded...

Curadh: Gym class.

Baehr: Well, choosing sides, which I was always near the last one to be picked.

And so, I played football and basketball and baseball and dodgeball and those kind of things in PE class. But I never...

Curadh: You never signed up for anything like outside of school to play?

Baehr: No, wait. I believe between my second and third grade, I signed up for Little League. I don't have a lot of memories of those times, but I do know that I signed up for Little League.

Curadh: You don't have memory of those times because, did you have a baseball accident?

Baehr: Yeah, I believe it was in third grade, we had divided up teams, and we were playing baseball, and we were lined up to bat. And the kid who was in front of me, he hit the ball, one of the few times he ever hit the ball, and he was so excited, he threw the bat and he threw it right at my head. And there was all kinds of blood and pain. And my mother took me to the hospital.

Here's an interesting side story. When I was at the hospital in the wheelchair with this big pack of ice on my face, this candy striper comes up and she says, "oh, what happened to you?"

Curadh: For younger people, explain who a candy striper is.

Baehr: It was a young, like, nurse volunteer.

Curadh: Okay, all right. I knew that.

Baehr: But when I pulled the ice pack away from my face, she recoiled in horror. I don't know what she saw, but she was horrified.

Curadh: Wow.

Baehr: And my eye was all bloody for months and months.

Curadh: Did you have surgery?

Baehr: Well, I had eight internal stitches and eight external stitches to pull the wound together.

Curadh: Okay.

Baehr: And I don't really have a whole lot of memories before that. Maybe that would explain a lot about me.

Curadh: That's crazy.

Baehr: Anyway, that's one time I played baseball that I remember, but I believe it was the year before that I signed up for Little League baseball. And I don't really know what possessed me to do that. I was terrible, terrible, terrible at it. Nobody wanted me to play, and I didn't really want to play either.

Curadh: I think you were kind of encouraged by your parents.

Baehr: No, I don't think so. I don't really know why I wanted to sign up for that, but I didn't sign up for any sports ever after that.

Curadh: I can imagine some sort of injury like that would do that wouldn't make you want to pursue it.

Baehr: I don't think it was.

I'm just not good at sports, and I don't care for the competition.

Curadh: It just wasn't your Lane.

Baehr: Yeah. I liked reading. I was a geek back in the days when that was not a good word.

Curadh: Before Big Bang Theory kind of made being a nerd popular.

Baehr: Yes.

Baehr: Did you play any kind of sports?

Curadh: Yeah. Safe to say. I played it all.

I played football up until 8th grade, played basketball. Everything. Up until high school, I played. I played basketball, baseball, football, skateboarded played beach volleyball through high school, just for fun.

In college. I did that the main sport that I really did was basically a little short story was going into freshman year high school, I was getting a lot of trouble. Grades were terrible. I was hanging out with, not a bad background, but I was just skateboarding all the time. I would be a little skate rat.

My mom made me join the crew team growing team back home.

Baehr: Your mother made you?

Curadh: Yeah. She's like, you're going to do this. So, I think it was a little bit of structure. She was full time. She worked full time. My dad worked full time. He worked third shift. So, it's something for me to do.

And I swore up and down that I was going to hate it. And by the time spring and summer began, I couldn't wait to get back in the boat. So, then I wound up rowing all four years in high school, and that actually eventually got me a scholarship to WSU. Just a small, partial scholarship. That's how I wound up in Kansas was an athletic scholarship for rowing at WSU.

But, yeah, I played all sorts of sports growing up. Yeah, I was always out and about doing something like that.

Baehr: I recall your mother said that she spent a lot of money on knee surgery from a basketball accident.

Curadh: Well, the first time was a basketball accident. What happened was it was a football accident, playing street football with friends, and one of the guys on the other team tackled me awkwardly. I just remember, I fell down. It hurt really bad. I felt like someone grabbed a bucket of cold ice water and put it on my knee.

So didn't really... Would have got up and tried to run the kickoff because I got a touchdown, tried to run the kick off back, but I couldn't put any pressure on my knee.

Went to a local doctor. Local doctor said there was nothing wrong with it. Well, at the time, I was going to a diabetes control and complications trial in Philadelphia a month and a half later, I went up to see them, and the doctor for that trial saw that my knee was swollen. He's like, "there's something wrong there. I'm going to send you to a specialist, a knee specialist."

And so, I went to go see this knee specialist outside of Philadelphia. This is right when arthroscopic knee surgery was coming out, but I basically blew out my knee. I tore my anterior crucial ligament, my posterior crucial ligament, my meniscus, and I broke my patella.

The first doctor gave us a terrible diagnosis. So, yeah, I had, like I said, I have arthroscopic knee surgery. And that was my junior in high school in the fall, and then I re-damaged it the winter of my senior year.

Baehr: Well, I do remember when you had your leg amputated, it was below the knee amputation. And your mother made the comment that "I'm glad you got to keep the knee because we spent so much money on the surgery for it."

Curadh: Yeah, exactly. Yeah. There's a lot of rehab and physical therapy and stuff like that for it. Two major knee surgeries.

Baehr: I haven't seen you play any sports in the ten years that we've been together other than the bowling and the putt putt, you're sort of confined to watching sports now.

Curadh: Yeah. We discussed before, we met in November. I lost my leg in March, so it's kind of confined me what I can and can't do. I can't run and jump and do all that anymore.

But, like, I talk to you in the past, I've debated about rowing again and actually contacted the coach at wish you about what programs they have set up. And I guess I just haven't jumped on it yet or decided really what I want to do with it.

Baehr: I guess rowing is something that having an amputated leg would not preclude you from doing, it all.

Curadh: No, I imagine there's probably certain devices, obviously, for people who don't know, when you row you, there's a foot structure that you put your feet into, that kind of, like bolt into the bottom of the boat. So, I imagine there might be some sort of device. But when I did talk to the coach, he was saying they were getting the Wichita Rowing Association, which has nothing to do with Wichita State University. Rowing had donations or fundraisers or something like that for people who had disabilities kind of like mine, so they could row.

Baehr: And I would be concerned that you would need some kind of a quick release thing. So, if the boat tipped over you wouldn't be trapped stuck to the boat.

Curadh: Yeah, basically, there are shoes that are in the boat for lack of a better term, that are bolted in their foot stretchers at the bottom. And basically, they're just sneakers that you tie your shoes into.

But, I mean, it's been almost 30 years, about 25 years, since I rowed. Pretty sure the technology might have changed. I'm not sure, but yeah, it's something I'm still debating on, if I want to do or not.

Baehr: What sports do you like to watch on TV?

Curadh: Well, you know this. I will watch anything on TV, ranging from all the major sports to the non-major sports. I mean, I'll watch major national sports. I'll watch soccer, men and women soccer. I'll watch that. I'll watch any kind of Olympic sport. I love the Olympics. I'll watch that.

I won't watch anything that has to do with driving a car or racing a car or anything with four wheels or two wheels. There's no interest. It does not interest me whatsoever. But no, I'll watch anything probably to watch on TV. Football, men's, men's college and NFL. Die Hard 49ers fan.

Baehr: But you don't watch NASCAR?

Curadh: No. Will not watch NASCAR. I'd rather have my nails pulled out and watch paint dry at the same time than watch NASCAR.

Baehr: You're not interested in watching people turn left, and turn left, and turn left, for hours on end.

Curadh: Yeah, I have no interest whatsoever. Like I said.

Baehr: And you watch the Olympics?

Curadh: Yes.

Baehr: You watch pretty much everything on the Olympics.

Curadh: Pretty much. Yeah.

What sports do you like to watch on TV?

Baehr: Well, not much.

Speaking of the Olympics, I do sort of enjoy Olympic wrestling, not professional wrestling.

Curadh: No, big difference.

Baehr: I think that ballet is not choreographed as much as professional wrestling.

Curadh: Is that's probably true.

Baehr: But Olympic wrestling is sort of the bastard stepchild of the Olympics. They don't cover it very much. If you want to see it live, you've got to watch it. When it happens at, like, three or four in the morning, they don't even cover any, like synopsis of it. I don't really understand.

Wasn't wrestling one of the first Olympic sports?

Curadh: Yes. Well, I think the wrestling you're talking about that you enjoy watching the Roman Greco. I think they took it out. I think they just added it back in, but I knew they took it out for, like, one or two Olympics, but it was one of the original sports that was in the Olympics. Obviously, the Olympics started back with Greece, started to the Olympics, and obviously roaming Greco wrestling was one of the first sports at the time. But then they have other wrestling, too. They have, like, freestyle wrestling, which is more of the wrestling that you would see in high school. I believe I'm not that familiar with all of that.

Baehr: You never see, like, high school wrestling on TV.

Curadh: No, I don't know that I'd be interested in it's a different kind of wrestling, too.

Curadh: The Roman Greco is more of an upright standing wrestling, whereas from what I understand, like, the freestyle wrestling is more down on the ground. But yeah, I'm no expert by any means in the wrestling. That's one of the sports. I mean, I'll watch it, but like I said, I'll watch the Olympics, but I have interest in certain things more so than others.

Baehr: And when you have a game on, I will watch along with you, at least for a while.

Curadh: Most of the time you watch college football.

Baehr: Yeah. I was going to comment.

Curadh: You watch College football.

Baehr: I like College football a lot more than professional football because it's less violent.

Curadh: Yeah.

And then I explained to you the one time you were asking why I explained to you that the NFL, the caliber of talent and speed and athleticism is way higher. There you have maybe the top 3%. And maybe college football players make it to NFL, say, the best of the best, the fastest and the fastest. And that's why it's so much more violent.

They both try to take steps where to kind of ensure safety, player safety, not safety. But it's still a violent sport, no matter which way you look at it.

Baehr: And I think college players, they're not getting thousands and thousands of dollars for each game that they play. So, they're probably thinking to themselves, I'm not going to let myself get hurt.

Curadh: Well, things are changing. They actually can get paid now, not every one of them now. But no, they have other things to worry about. They obviously have their studies to do. They can only see their coach. I think they're only a lot of practice up to 17 hours a week or be with the coach up to 17 hours a week in college football.

But, yeah, they're not getting paid six figures easily. I mean, I think the average salary if you come off the practice squad and play in one NFL game is like \$350,000 for a game, and that's if you're coming off the practice. I hate saying it, but if you're a scrub and those guys aren't scrubs by any means. But they're guys that are barely making it into the League make barely making the League and making \$350,000 for every single game. And my numbers are probably completely off. But they're not your superstars like Tom Brady. Anybody stands out in the League right now.

Baehr: Well, I realized that professional football is an entertainment industry and therefore money is involved. Do you think the violence is somewhat corrupted by the money? That they maybe seek out a little bit more violence just to make it more entertaining for the Fame?

Curadh: No, actually, the NFL cut down on the violence or the injuries when it's a violent sport, there's going to be injuries. And they've taken steps where you can't spear people, which is basically leading a tackle hitting with a helmet so you can get ejected or hitting the quarterback late. You get penalized and get signed off the field for doing certain things. The League will go back in after the games are over and look at certain plays to see if the person needs to be fine due to a dirty hit. Stuff like that.

The game's cleaned up is not nearly as violent as it was 30, 40, 50 years ago where guys, there were dirty things would happen at the bottom, the

scrum stuff like that. They've tried to clean it up, but inherently, it's just a violent sport.

Baehr: I've begun to notice lately that players aren't getting away with things that they obviously were before. Now, you see, there are even penalties for them saying bad thing.

Curadh: Oh, yeah, or celebrating too much or yeah, unsportsmanlike call. I think it's a 15-yard penalty, but if you have a dirty hit, they'll give you one warning, you do it again. You're out of the game, depending on the severity of the hit.

Baehr: That seems like a new thing to me.

Curadh: Yeah, they're getting tighter and tighter with the rules.

Baehr: And I understand now they put GPS trackers and microphones on all the players.

Curadh: Yeah, I know about the GPS trackers. That's why you see all those commercials where it says this person was running like 21.2 miles an hour and the ball was thrown. These and that's how there is a 7.5% chance that there's a lot of that.

I know that some of the guys are miked up because the coaches will call in the place of the quarterback. And then I believe, like the defensive captain has it. And then also, you'll see during the game, like John Doe, middle linebacker for Eagle, whatever. We have a mike for the game.

Let's see what he says, but it's heavily censored because it's not like your Sunday school teacher talking. These guys, they're using quite a bit of profanity, so it's all edited.

Baehr: And I'm sure they're phasing it in. So older players aren't suddenly faced with the microphone. It's probably the newer players who are, how do I put that... It's going to be part of their form of living now that having a microphone on them while they play is going to be common.

Curadh: Yeah. I imagine these guys are probably used to the cameras being on them all the time. I can't imagine how many cameras they used for one single NFL game. As the season goes on there's more and more cameras. The bigger the game, the playoffs, there's more reps, there's more cameras.

Baehr: And I'll bet the players are probably taught basics of PR because they get interviewed live during the game. They probably have to practice what they're going to say.

Curadh: Well, yeah. Maybe. You always joke. A lot of them seem like canned responses. "We gave 110% today," but these guys, they've been doing it for so long, obviously.

I know, like in college. They have orientation where you stay away from certain boosters, and someone approaches you about this. You can't do this because it'll break NCAA violation rules, violations. These guys go through a lot of meetings and training and all that kind of stuff. And then the NFL wants to have a squeaky-clean image. So, they constantly have committees and rules and stuff like that.

So, we know that you're not much of a sports person.

Do you ever enjoy watching any kind of sports live?

Baehr: I don't believe I've ever seen a live sporting event in my life.

Curadh: No.

Baehr: Well, I can't say that in high school, one of the classes that I attended, it was like a business class. And as part of that, I would manage the concession stands. I wasn't like cooking the hamburgers and making the popcorn, whatever.

Curadh: Making change.

Baehr: Well, just making sure that the people who were working were getting their jobs done.

Curadh: Okay.

Baehr: Sort of like a restaurant manager, I guess. So. I was at games. Those were mainly football and basketball games, but I never watched. I was just always managing the concession stand. This is the only live sports I believe I've ever been.

Curadh: No, we went and watched a hockey game together.

Baehr: Oh, yeah. I think we came in in the middle of the game because by the time you got off work, the game had already started and the handicapped seats were clear up at the top. But I was fine with that because nobody could sit behind me.

And we really enjoyed that. You enjoyed it. I enjoyed it. I forgot about that. That's probably the only live sporting event I've ever seen.

Curadh: Well, you went to what some people might not consider, the Highland Games.

Baehr: Okay. I didn't go for the games because they also had a Renaissance festival.

Curadh: Yes, that's normally where they have those.

Baehr: But, I mean, that's kind of a sporting event, too, where they do the caber toss and stuff like that. I mean, it's not mainstream sports, but it's still competition. I probably have only seen one caber being tossed. Yeah, I've seen that.

What live sports have you seen?

Curadh: Anything and everything, I've been to professional baseball games, football games, basketball games, College, been to rhagades obviously.

There's nothing like going to a live baseball game. A lot of people don't like baseball, but actually going to the stadium and watching live baseball is incredible.

I'm not big on going to live sports any longer. I always joke with you that I can watch it on TV in the comfort of my own house, not to spend, I don't drink anymore, but spend \$15 on a beer. But I'm in my own home where it's climate control. I don't have to freeze my butt off or sweat my ass off. Get up and walk away.

And I'm not surrounded by thousands of people that are either drunk or just being obnoxious, which is fine. People go to those games to be entertained.

Baehr: I think in the ten years we've been together, that one hockey game is the only live game you've been to.

Curadh: Then you're probably right.

Baehr: It is more difficult for you now to get in and out of stadiums and stairs.

Curadh: And then I have anxiety when I'm in large crowds now because I'm always worried about me falling or something like that. It's in my own head.

I went to one concert and I left early because I pretty much had an anxiety attack because it was just so crowded, so many people and just constantly aware of the people around me. And when there's that many people, it's kind of hard to be that aware. But I'm always afraid that someone might knock into me or trip me in on fall and basically and then I get embarrassed.

Baehr: Obviously, you don't want to break your prosthetic, like, \$17,000 piece of equipment.

Curadh: Yeah, it's expensive, real expensive. But yeah, that's one of the reasons I don't go to the live sporting lens.

Curadh: What are some of the sports that you dislike watching?

Baehr: Well, the really violent ones, the ones where there's a lot of competition.

There are some sports, like skiing. I'm trying to think of sports where there are athletes who are trying to best their own performance. They're not trying to beat up each other, like gymnastics, I guess, would be one.

Curadh: Okay. Those are ones that I will watch over. The ones you don't like, the ones that have physical contact, I guess.

Baehr: Yeah. Polo. Football, basketball, I don't care for those as much. Yeah.

What about you? Are there sports that you don't like dislike?

Curadh: Like I said, anything with wheels pretty much. But no, I mean, like, you joke about... I enjoy watching golf. A lot of people don't like watching golf.

Baehr: Well, why watch golf when you could watch paint dry?

Curadh: Because you've never played. You don't know what it's like. You can go out and play golf and just a scratch golfer or whatever. You make one good shot. It makes it all the worthwhile. So, watching it, you kind of have more of an appreciation for what they do and how hard it is, what they do.

Baehr: I have heard people say that every once in a while, they'll just hit the ball just perfectly. And it was just zoom, and speed away in an incredible way and that it makes up for all of the other shots.

Curadh: Yeah. I mean, you go out there and have a terrible round of golf. I just don't be very good. You make one good shot and the ball does exactly what you wanted to do. And, like, say, you sink of 30-to-40-foot putt or you chip the ball in from whatever and it goes in. It makes up for the whole day.

Plus, that's one thing that I stopped doing when I lost my leg was golf. It was just too hard to get up and down on the paths and the greens and the fairways and the roughs and all that just the different angles you got to stand and all that. Obviously, it's not on a flat surface the whole time. So, it makes kind of difficult.

Baehr: There was one day when we were playing putt putt. We went to the mini course and I dropped the ball and I hit it and it went right in on the first try. I think they call it a hole in one. I wasn't elated. I was just shocked. Absolutely surprised that I could.

Curadh: It didn't make you feel good when you made it?

Baehr: No, I was just shocked, like what are the mathematical odds. It's probably the only time in my life that's ever going to happen.

Curadh: That's funny.

More of a question for me, but do you have any favorite sports athletes that you like?

Baehr: Okay. Gus Kenworthy, do you know who that is?

Curadh: I have no idea who that is.

Baehr: He is an Olympic athlete. I'm not sure what sport. I know that he's openly gay.

Curadh: He's just pretty.

Baehr: He is a very attractive man and likes to post on social media with his shirt off a lot.

Curadh: So that's why you like him?

Baehr: Yeah. The only one that I can think.

Curadh: He's easy on the eyes.

Baehr: Yeah. The only athlete whose name I can actually think of.

Curadh: Yeah, but that's mainly because he's gay and he's pretty. At least you're honest. Really.

Baehr: Nothing to do with this athletic ability.

Curadh: I guess that's too funny.

Baehr: Who is your favorite professional athlete?

Curadh: I really don't have any. There are certain players that I enjoy watching more so than others. Favorite player on the 49ers, Kyle Juszczyk. He's a fullback for the 49ers. I like him. Actually, I have a Jersey just like the way he plays MBA.

I kind of got back into the NBA because of Steph Curry. I just like to watch the way he plays. Guy can shoot the ball from anywhere on the court and make it kind of revolutionized the game in certain ways.

But I cheer for my teams. I just don't have any stand out certain players that I just absolutely drool over. I have an appreciation for the great players, but I just don't have stand out. I just don't. I guess I am a fan of

the sports in the competition, but I'd say probably just not any certain players.

Baehr: So, you like them as athletes, but you don't really care if they're people or not?

Curadh: No, because some of these people that are fans when you hear what they have to say about stuff and no, I don't care. They're human beings, just like the rest of us. They have problems, even though they're rich and everything and successful.

All of us get up the same way in the morning. We all put our pants on the same way, one leg at a time. I do it, even though I only have one leg. But I still have to put my pants on the same way everybody else does. So yeah, I'm not that type of fan.

Baehr: That's fair. You hear interviews. People will say "who is your favorite celebrity," but you never hear, like, "who is your favorite plumber? Who is your favorite lawyer?"

Curadh: Yeah, they're just doing their jobs and people who put them on pedestals and all that stuff. They're just human beings. But I don't want to hear their political stances. I could care less.

I'm going to see them play the sport that they're getting paid to do. I don't go ask the person who dry cleans my clothes what their political stances are, and I don't want to interview them.

So, I'm not going to put an athlete just because they're multi-millionaires up on a pedestal and ask their opinions on things.

Baehr: Do you feel the same way about other celebrities?

Curadh: Yeah, I could care less, really. I mean, I don't know. Well, I guess if obviously I'm left-wing and all that stuff, I'm not going to want to hear from a right-wing religious zealot who has completely different views.

Baehr: So, like, if you found out that singer had political views that you completely disagreed with, you'd stop listening to them singing.

Curadh: I mean, if they were homophobic and anti-gay rights and stuff like that. Yeah, I don't want to spend a dime on their music, but I couldn't tell you the last time that I bought an album or everything streaming. Now with free streaming.

I buy the stuff that I buy for being another name fan or 49er, fan or Boston Red Sox fan. I bought the Kyle Juszczyk Jersey that I have for the 49ers. That's only Jersey that I have with someone's name on it.

Baehr: We do have a lot of sports things around the house, especially Notre Dame stuff.

Curadh: Yeah, I joke with people at work. You go to my house and you could tell who I'm a sports fan of, but, yeah, it's a bunch of Notre Dame stuff. Red Sox, Shocker stuff, Shocker, which they'll stay, obviously. But most of its Notre Dame.

Baehr: Notre Dame is a Catholic University.

Curadh: Yes.

Baehr: That doesn't make a difference to you?

Curadh: No, it really doesn't, because they're a Catholic University. They're a homophobic, a homophobic institution. Well, I don't know. That's a whole other conversation right there. Some people said that the church is homophobic. Some people don't.

There's parts of every religion that people will turn and skew and say that they're homophobic. And there's other people that read the Bible a different way and says it's not homophobic.

Baehr: And you haven't really seen anything homophobic about Notre Dame?

Curadh: No, I don't know that I have, and I don't dive into it and dig deep. You can find problems with anything.

I know the 49ers. I know it's not a university, but they actually have a whole department set up for the gay community. Obviously, it's based in San Francisco, so they better try to cater towards the gay community.

But, yeah, I've never seen come up with anything that says they were against the gay movement. I guarantee that there's been gay athletes on those teams. You might not have heard about it, but pretty sure there's been gay athletes, there's gay students.

Curadh: Have you ever met a sports celebrity?

Curadh: Yeah. Funny story about that. Few years back, I went to a Kansas City Chiefs game. I was up there with a friend of mine's, Catfish. We were staying at the Westin and the Denver Broncos were in town to play the Chiefs, and he was a big fan of Eddie McCaffrey.

His son actually plays in that. Christian McCaffrey is a big star, but he played for Broncos. And my buddy Catfish wanted to meet Ed McCaffrey, and we're sitting in the lobby drinking beers, all that stuff, and we're down there for about 2 hours.

I'm like, I'm done. I'm going to go back up to the room. He's like, I'm going to stay here. I'm going to get his autograph. Well, I decided to go back up to the room and I get in the elevator.

The next thing, the elevator door opens up, and it's Ed McCaffrey and his wife and his son, Christian McCaffrey, who's now in the NFL, might have been he was younger than ten years old, stepped into the elevator, and it was just kind of funny that my buddy Catfish was waiting in the lobby to get his autograph, and I'm standing in the elevator with them.

And the right thing would have been to call my buddy up and say, hey, he's in his room. I met him in the elevator, but I went up to the room, had more drinks, watch TV. He finally showed about two and a half hours later, completely s--t faced. He said, "I never ran into him," like, yeah, I know. He's like, what do you mean? I'm like, well, I rode in the elevator with him. He was in the elevator when I came back up to the room.

He was a little upset. Then I didn't call him and tell him, but it was rather amusing, but, yeah, I've met athletes, but I mean...

I've met Jose Conesco, who is an old baseball player. He was an a-----e. Met him in Atlantic City. Seriously, he was an a-----e. Yeah. I went to a baseball card convention and I wanted to get a signature and I had some. It was like a rubber ball, and he wouldn't sign it. It's like, "I'm not going to sign unless it's a real baseball." And I think I was like, 12 or 13 at the time, and I was a fan of his until after that happened. And I was like, he could eat a bag of D---s for all I care, because he was just a piece of c--p.

Twelve-year-old kid looking to get a signature. I don't care what he signs, but he was just being an a-----e. But I don't put them on pedestals. Like I've said.

Have you ever met any sports celebrities?

Baehr: Not knowingly. I may have run across one and didn't know who it was. But as far as I know, I've never met any.

Curadh: Yeah, well, I could see that if you're not a fan, Ed McCaffrey could have gotten the elevator. You would have no idea who he was.

Baehr: I wouldn't know.

Curadh: Kind of covered this already... But you never participated, like, in a school team or anything like that?

Baehr: No, I never have. Have you?

Curadh: Yeah. Like I said, I had a scholarship at WSU for rowing, but before high school and rowing, like I said, I played football and baseball and basketball and all of that. But that was a long time ago.

Baehr: And those are all official school teams. It wasn't like weekend football?

Curadh: No. And then in college, we played intramurals. But I mean, really the only sport.

Baehr: What is that word? Intramural?

Curadh: Yeah.

Baehr: What does that mean?

Curadh: It's just like, club intramural. You come up with a team, and then they just have, like, intramural basketball, play football. Soccer? Generally, it was for the fraternity house that I would do those sports.

But the only school team that I ever really was a part of was the Atlantic City High School rowing team, and then Wichita State crew also or rowing.

Was there any sports that you'd like to try?

Baehr: Well, other than the ones that I have tried here recently, the putt putt and bowling, I don't know what I would be qualified to do, so. No, there really isn't any that I would want to try that I haven't.

Do you have any ideas of any that I could try?

Curadh: Not really. I really don't. Some people would say, like, the bowling and the putt putt we do, they're not sports. They're activities.

Baehr: That's fair.

Curadh: No, there's really not. I mean, I'm 48. The only thing I thought about maybe getting back into is rowing, but I don't think I could do, like, weekend football.

Baehr: No, I'd be worried I'd hurt my back. Even flag football.

In fact, there's a story...

In my grade school they didn't play full contact football, but they would play flag football, which, you wear this belt that had these what they called flags, little pieces of cloth on them with Velcro. And the idea was to pull those flags off instead of tackling.

And our school did not have enough flags for everyone in the team. So, the coach said, well, you don't have to wear one because nobody's ever going to throw you the ball.

Curadh: Wow, that's terrible. That's just terrible.

Curadh: If you had the talent, would you play sport for a living?

Baehr: Okay. The first part of that question changes the second part of that question, because if I had the talent, maybe I would feel differently about sports.

Because if I was an athlete. I most certainly would want to play for a living. If it was a good living. If I didn't end up paying more in medical bills than what I earned. Sure, I would play a sport. You're probably surprised to hear that.

Curadh: Yeah, I am actually.

Baehr: But I imagine because of the competition, but if you obviously have the talent, then you'd be more inclined to play it. If I could ski and people would pay to see me ski, I would do that. Of course. I think anybody I think who had the town the ability to do it would do it.

Curadh: I rowed for a long time, and I did it for just for the love of the sport. In rowing, you don't make any money. And I mean, it was still obviously was in high school and college, but it did get me a partial scholarship to college, so it opened a lot of doors for me.

Baehr: And it is very much a team sport.

Oh, yeah, there's individual one single sculls and stuff like that. But on the collegiate level, it's mostly team oriented. The top boat that you could be in generally the varsity eight.

So, we got to the program now that's your favorite.

What is your favorite joke right now?

Baehr: Okay. What does a baseball player do when they can't see as well?

Curadh: I have no idea. This is going to be a zinger, though.

So, what does a baseball player do when he can't see anymore?

Baehr: Become an umpire.

Curadh: That's good. That's really good. That's really good.

Well, thank you for participating in this. I knew the sports talk was not something you wanted to do, so I imagine we'll probably never touch on this again.

So, I guess that's enough sports talk for now. I hope everyone enjoyed listening.

This is Curadh...

Baehr: And this is Baehr. Goodbye for now.

Curadh: Goodbye.

Baehr: You have been listening to the Beahr and Curadh podcast, a production of the Land of Awes Information Services. We can be contacted via email using the address podcast@awes.com and Awes is spelled A-W-E-S.