

SPORTS

Tennis team is playing a waiting game

by Ajay Bhardwaj

There is a new ball game hoping to join the ranks of inter-university sports. The sport is tennis, and in October of 1987, the University of Alberta Tennis Centre University Students' Team was put together.

The team is composed of eight players, all of them men: Alan Becken, Chuck Blackburn (a finalist of the U of A Junior indoor championship), Kuen Cheung (the champion of last year's junior indoor championship), hard serving Dave Gates, the consistent Riyaz Karimjee, Darryl Motechuk, Sean Saunders, and Ted Yoo.

"Some play provincially and would be ranked in the top 100 provincially," said "organizer" (and somewhat of a coach) Rob Bell.

Unfortunately, the tennis centre could not put together a women's team. "This was not meant to be a unisex team," Bell declared, "we had very few women come out (for the tryouts). Helen Runzer did make the team but decided not to continue for personal reasons."

The lack of women trying out for the team was caused by the problem of "few women playing competitively in Edmonton. It would have

"It would be nice to see tennis become a university sport."
— Bell.

been nice to have a few women on the team. You could have more events," said Bell.

Bell also stated that the team has both short term and long term objectives. According to Bell, the short term objective is to "establish some sort of team so that any competitive students who were going to the U of A would have a tennis outlet." The long term objective is to "have a team in place so that if funding ever becomes available and if the universities ever decide to include tennis as an in-

tercollegiate sport."

The likelihood of CIAU tennis becoming like NCAA tennis, however, is not a good one. "I don't foresee anything in the near future," said Bell, a U of A alumnus. "It would be nice to see tennis become recognized as a university sport." The NCAA has produced such players as Jimmy Connors, John McEnroe, and Tim Mayotte.

The tennis centre tennis team "offers a couple of hours per week of training time for someone who already considers themselves as a

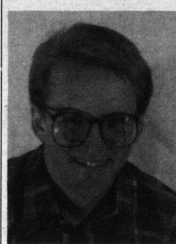
competitive player," said Bell.

Although it is not organized tightly, the tennis centre tennis team is trying to land a tie with their University of Calgary counterparts. The tie has already been called off once, but it may go this weekend with either Calgary coming north or Alberta going south. Home ground has yet to be decided.

The tennis centre students' team was put together by Rob Bell who is the pro at the tennis centre. He describes himself as a player who "would play at a competitive level

at the provincial level." He may only be competitive at the provincial level but he is qualified to coach at the highest level. Bell has the highest certification available at the Canadian level. He also has some certification from Australia and more from the United States. He has certifications from both Vic Braden's school and from Dennis Van der Meer's professional tennis registry.

With Bell at the helm of the U of A tennis centre, the students' tennis team could become a larger part of the sports scene at the U of A.



Randal Smathers

Hockey's just a memory

I have an admission to make, and it's not easy. I have always been a hockey NUT — that's not the admission — but now my love-affair with the game is fading; that's the admission.

It's now the middle of March, and there are only seven or so games before the playoffs start, but I just can't get excited about them. Even the post-season doesn't seem all that great to me this time around.

This is the best year in the history of the NHL for attendance, with the closest division races since expansion, twenty-one years ago, so the quality of play isn't the reason for my disaffection.

Although my favorite club, the Maple Leafs, are once again a boil on the buttocks of the league, my second faves, the Bruins, are at the head. (We true Bruin fans know the Beantown B's will finally destroy the evil Habs de Montreal in the playoffs this year.) So, I can't claim alienation as the cause, either.

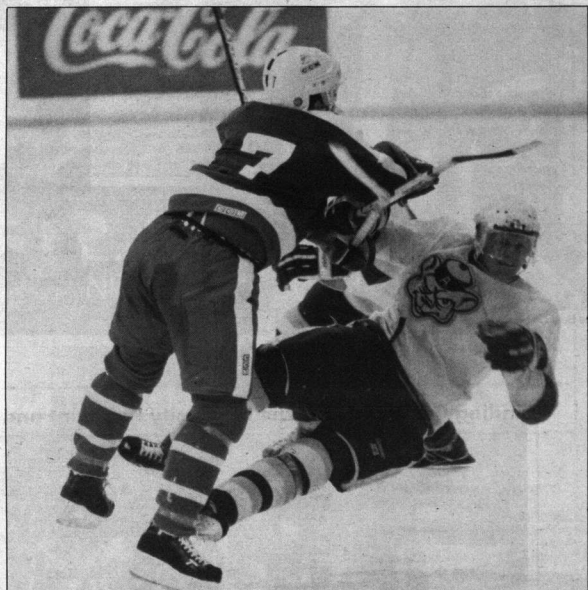
I think I got a clue as to the source of my dissatisfaction earlier this week, when I saw on TV that Bobby Orr had turned forty. I started watching hockey the year that a kid with a reddish brush cut broke into the NHL, and then broke all the rules for defence-men. He wasn't a player, but a god. Gods aren't supposed to age, but now even Orr is getting old.

All the rest of the guys who I grew up watching are out of the league, just like Number Four. The hockey card I wanted more than any other was Ron Ellis. Remember him? How about Normie Ullman? Heck, even "kids" like Terry O'Reilly and Darryl Sittler are gone... but not forgotten.

I simply haven't been able to keep up with the turnover in the league, as other interests and duties crowded out the (considerable) time I used to spend poring over hockey stats, watching HNHC every Saturday night, and generally sponging up every bit of information on the NHL I could.

I have also discovered the joys of another game, a more reflective one. Instead of a game where even a long career — with the exception of Mr. Hockey's — ends in the early to mid-thirties of the athletes, I now revel in the gentler joys of a sport where many guys go until they're 45.

It has been said that baseball is for old men. I am not an old man, but maybe, just maybe, I can see the day approaching when I won't consider myself a kid either. But what the heck, even kids like baseball, don't they? This one sure does.



Catch the year in university sports in pictures. Check out P14.

photo Rob Galbraith

Time to brush up on your sports trivia

1. This former NHL president has a Canada West trophy named after him.
2. This former NHL coach of the year won the CIAU hockey championship with the Toronto Varsity Blues in 1983-84.
3. What country do George Bell, Damaso Garcia, Juan Samuel, and Rafael Ramirez come from?
4. Calgary Flame Joe Nieuwendyk was obtained in a trade for what former NHL superstar?
5. What's the name of Chicago Bear Jim McMahon's radio program?
6. What NHL team went on strike and what decade did it occur in?
7. How many NHL franchises have been situated in the state of Pennsylvania, and give their full names.
8. Name the famed Negro League catcher who holds an unofficial world record for hitting home runs.
9. What is the original name of the Houston Astros?
10. What team did Moses Solomon, The Rabbi of Swat, play for?
11. What is the nickname of former Giant and Yankee hurler John

12. After Bobby Orr's record eight Norris Trophy awards, what defenceman holds the most Norris Trophies won?
13. How many Frank Selke Trophies has checking forward Bob Gainey won in his career?
14. Who were the opposing coaches in the first All-star game, between the Toronto Maple Leafs and the NHL All-Stars, in 1947?
15. Former presidential candidate Jack Kemp played for which AFL club, and name the team his son, Jeff, quarterbacked.
16. Like Bo Jackson, this famous athlete played football and baseball. As well, this man won three Olympic medals.
17. Name the three teams that beat Canada at the World Cup of soccer in Mexico in 1986.
18. Who is the only original player from the 1972-73 Quebec Nordiques that is still in the NHL, and what team does he presently play for?
19. What lightweight boxer is

known as the "Pazmanian Devil"?
20. Montreal coach Jean Perron coached which CIAU club to two

university championships in early eighties?

- Answers:
1. Mike Keenan
 2. Kent Nilsson
 3. The Dominican Republic
 4. Montreal
 5. Hamilton (The '70's)
 6. Hamilton Mountie Off
 7. Four: Quebec, Pirates, Flyers
 8. The Colt '45's
 9. The Colt '45's
 10. Montreal Alouettes
 11. Vince Vazzana
 12. Keith Brooker; Hartford
 13. Frank Langford
 14. Jim Thorpe
 15. Buffalo Bills; Seattle Seahawks
 16. Day, Dick Irvn
 17. Four
 18. Count Harvey
 19. Count Montefusco
 20. Brockton Dodgers

Trapper season just around corner

by Alan Small

Baseball fans will rejoice on April 20th when the 1988 version of the Edmonton Trappers come home to John Ducey Park to take on the Las Vegas Stars for their first home stand of the season.

A couple of new faces will adorn the grass and dirt of Ducey

this season. Look for pitcher Vance Lovelace to help shore up a lacklustre pitching staff that PCL hitters ate for breakfast last season.

Another new trapper will be Steve McCarty, a former Oakland A's pitcher, who will attempt a comeback to the big leagues.