

The Dead Zone — What to watch?

by Tim Enger

Camera one, cut to Jim McMahon's headband and fade to black... Thanks people, that's a wrap."

That's it sports fans. The 1985 professional sporting season has come to an end.

The Oilers have proved themselves worthy of a second Stanley Cup. The Lakers, and their rickety old center Kareem Abdul Jabaar, captured the NBA title. The Royals thrilled underdog lovers everywhere by winning the World Series. The Lions finally got the "choke-artist" label off their backs by winning the Grey Cup. And the Bears destroyed everything in their path on the way to the most lopsided victory in Superbowl history.

Great, now what? We are now entering what is commonly termed the "Dead Zone of Sports".

This is a series of mid-season NHL and NBA games coupled with more golf tournaments and auto races than you care to know about. Usually, this period doesn't start

until the middle of February, because the excitement of the Superbowl itself keeps the average sports fan sated until that time. But, its not going to happen this year.

Why? Because this has been the year of unbeatables and underdogs, triumph and tragedy, records and refridgerators and the sport conscious public still could not get enough.

Barring the airplace disasters and the terrorist activities, sporting stories were some of the biggest news of the year.

Pete Rose surpassing Ty Cobb's seemingly uncatchable hit record. Umpire Don Derkinger's blown call in the sixth game of the World Series that cost the Cardinals the pennant. The tragedy of losing one of the NHL's great young goal-tenders, Pelle Lingbergh, in an auto accident. And the love-affair between America and a 308 pound blob of a defensive tackle.

All this built towards the Superbowl in hopes that it would become

the fitting end to one of the best years (give or take a few drug trials) sports had enjoyed in a long time. This was supposed to be a game that would have the people talking until baseball's spring training. Unfortunately, most people who watched the game stopped talking about it at halftime.

Was the Superbowl boring? Does Floyd Hodgins need a shave?

Even myself, a guy who would rather watch a meaningless game between the Houston Oilers and Indianapolis Colts than study for a Statistics final, turned the game off at the end of the third quarter. I mean what a let down! I neglected my homework for this?

Now the 1986 professional sporting season had begun and the sports pages are filled with stories about the life and death rollercoaster ride of the Calgary Stampeders, and the revelations of heavy drug use by the New England Patriots (gee, maybe thats why they lost). All of this crammed in between sto-

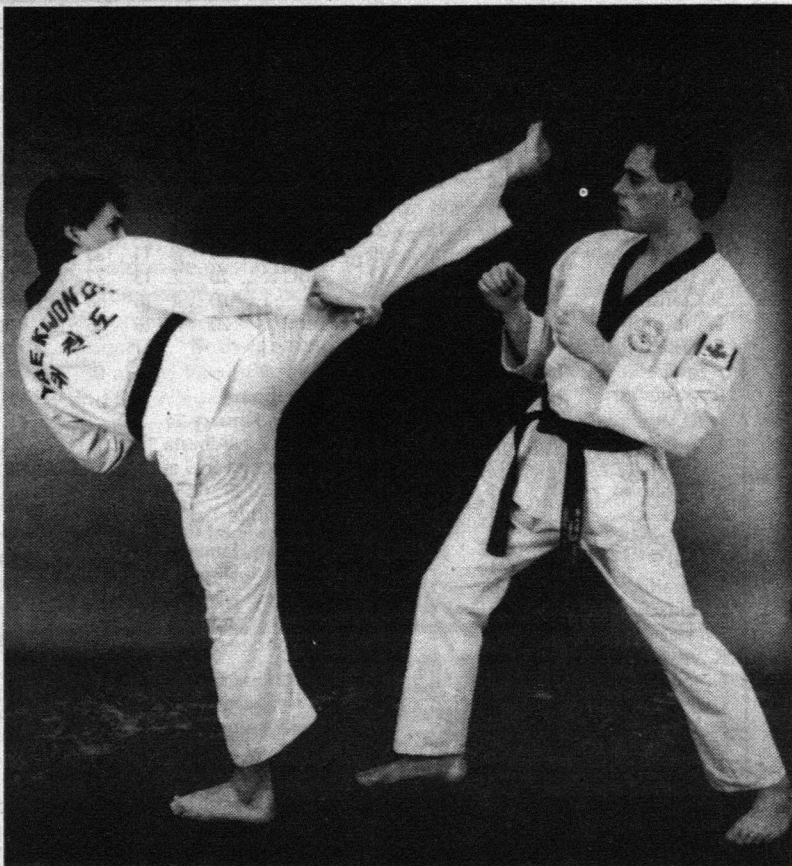
ries about the leaders after two rounds of the Topeka Open, and the winner of the Amarilla 500. And we mustn't forget the sports history that is made every year at the Superstars competition. It doesn't look too promising, does it.

So, the sports crazed public waits. They're waiting for the NHL and NBA games to become meaningful. They're waiting for spring training to begin. But now, with sports having a higher profile than ever before, they're waiting may become so intense that they may be forced to attend even an amateur sporting event. Heaven forbid!

A few years ago, a bunch of rich businessmen sensed this need for some serious professional sports during the "Dead Zone" from February to April. Sadly what they came up with, the United States Football League, was the wrong idea. It has since moved to a fall schedule citing that spring (or Winter as we like to call it) wasn't the right time of year for football.

So what's the answer for killing this void? Football doesn't work, basketball and hockey are nice, but with both the NHL and the NBA allowing 16 teams into the playoffs, its best to wait until April before you pay an attention to them (if you find yourself watching golf, then you're either braindead or 45 years old, and to this day I do not know how anyone can watch auto racing, except for the crashes heh, heh, heh).

Perhaps the world needs a new sport. One that runs from February to April with the championship game played a day before the NHL playoffs begin. Maybe not, maybe the "Dead Zone" is similar to the Bermuda Triangle — any sport that ventures in disappears until the zone passes. Good luck trying to amuse yourself for three months, sports fans.



Jordan Wilson (left) and Doug Hole spar in preparation for the Korean National Junior Team.

Tae Kwon Do from the best

by Mark Spector

If you've never witnessed world class martial arts, you really ought to give it a chance. And on this coming Saturday at 4:00 pm in the Butterdome will host some of the best martial arts that will be on display in Edmonton, or Canada, this year.

It is called Tae Kwon Do, a Korean form of the arts. And for the first time ever in Canada, the Korean National Junior Team will be on display.

In preparation for the World Junior Tae Kwon Do championships in Denmark in a few weeks, the Koreans will fight in eight exhibition matches against Canadian competition. Jordan Wilson, from the Kay H. Min Taw Kwon Do school and also a student at the U of A, says that the bouts will provide a valuable training ground for all the participants.

"We are viewing this as an opportunity to learn from the best in the world," said Wilson of the number one ranked Taw Kwon Do

country in the world. "For about ten years now the Koreans have made a yearly trip to Mexico to train and put on exhibitions. Ten years ago the Mexicans were not even where we are now. Now Mexico is second in the world in Tae Kwon Do."

"It's much like when the Canadians first played Korea in hockey and beat them by something like 33-0. The Koreans learned from that experience and have improved their game."

Tae Kwon Do will be a demonstration sport at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, Korea and Canada would like nothing better than to send some participants. Two of the best bets to make it to Korea in 1988

come from Western Canada and will be fighting this Saturday.

Ron Bilton is a graduate from the University of Winnipeg and is a two time Canadian lightweight champ. Bilton is a fourth degree black belt. Brian Armistead is the current Canadian heavyweight champion and will also fight this weekend.

From the U of A club will be Ron Dziwenka, a senior member. Doug Hole is a U of A grad but fights out of Master Min's club.

As for the Koreans, they are just returning from Mexico where they defeated the Mexicans in an exhibition match 5-2.

Matches begin at 4:00 pm on Saturday, but stand back because the feet and fists will be flying.

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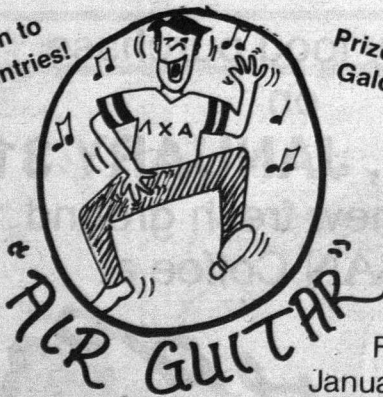
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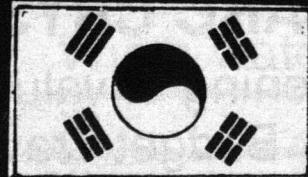
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