

CIAU Final a "classic"

by Alan Small

IF YOU REALLY WANTED TO SEE HOW Canadian hockey is played, you could have seen it at the CIAU hockey championships in Toronto. The final game, which was an all-Ontario battle between the York Yeomen and the Western Ontario Mustangs, was a classic example of Dave King hockey.

Dave King, the Olympic team coach and the game's color commentator, must have been in seventh heaven as both clubs were using the Olympic team's frantic dump and chase style. You know, the one where you dump the puck in, send four guys for it, jam the front of the net, and almost get a scoring chance. Seeing one team do it at the Olympics was bad enough, but seeing both on the ice at the same time was just too much. Only bad goaltending on both sides made the score 5-3, as if it were an Olympic game, the score would have most likely been 2-2, or 3-2, like the Canada-Sweden matchup...

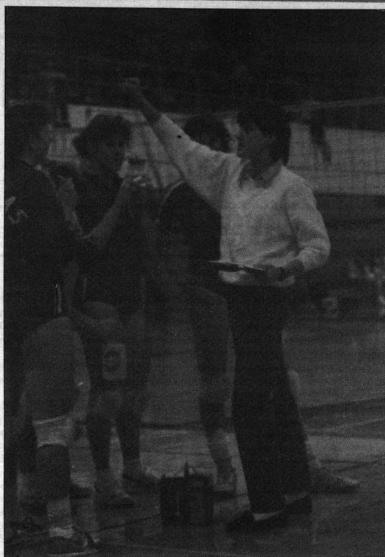
NOT ONLY COULD BOTH TEAMS PROVIDE NO OFFENCE but they couldn't take anyone into the boards without giving him a high stick. The way NHL officials are calling games these days, there would have been an even longer line to the penalty box as it was. It makes you wonder that if these guys can't take a man out without giving him a high stick, it might be worse when the forces that be force all players to the full cage. Ontario clubs use the full cage, and thus high stick everybody. Canada West clubs, who use only a half visor, hit more cleanly possibly due to the lack of extra facegear...



LET'S ALL JUMP ON THE BANDWAGON. Now that Hockey Canada is on site a full participant in CIAU hockey, one can wonder how many more cooks can they bring in without spoiling the broth. Hockey Canada came up with the "great formula" for playoff competition in the nationals, if you were from Ontario, you'd like it. Probably the most common question asked of me is why Canada West had three of the top four teams in the country, but only one of the four spots on the nationals. Just because there are more teams in the OUA, doesn't always mean that they play better hockey. If you ask me, the third game of the semis against the Huskies was better played than the CIAU final.

With Hockey Canada running the show, it just cements the belief that the hockey is being won in the boardrooms and not on the ice. If you think I'm wrong, just call me sour grapes...

IF THE OILERS COME UP WITH ANY more performances like that last one against Minnesota, this guy might fall off the bandwagon. On Saturday night, the Habs barely broke a sweat, beating Hartford, while the Oilers slept to a 5-5 with the No-Stars. Rainford and Courtnall do look good though. But does the rest of the team?



CIAU coach of the year Suzi Smith points out something to the Pandas.

Panda improvement nets coach reward

by Alan Small

In sports, one of the names of the game is improvement.

That is what the Panda volleyball club did this year, and that is why Panda head coach Suzi Smith won the CIAU coach of the year award.

Last year, the Pandas were 3-12 in Canada West play, good for fifth place in the conference. This year, the Pandas had a 6-9 record which

row," Smith said. "I thought that it must be an honor and that some day, it would be nice to win.

"The coaches knew where I came from. I started from square one. They knew that it was not easy to be ranked eighth in the country after two years," Smith said.

The improvement was a long time coming for the Pandas, who haven't been out of fifth or sixth place at all during the '80's. Matter of fact, the Pandas haven't won a Canada West championship since 1960. Even Smith concedes that the Pandas still have a long way to go before they become a powerhouse in the Canada West conference.

"We still have a lot of hard work to climb up in the standings yet," Smith said.

Not only that, but Smith believes that she still has a long way to go before she will be a top coach.

"I took ten pages of notes on how I can become a better coach," Smith admitted. "Volleyball is one of the most team sports that exist."



put them in fourth place in Canada West. In the CIAU, they were ranked number eight at the end of the season. It is that steady improvement that the coaches in Canada saw in the Pandas that honored Smith with the award.

"Last year, at the nationals, I was observing my old coach in Winnipeg in the award for the third time in a

Photo: Paul Marston



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