It started on the way to the forum

by Wes Oginski

held, something goes wrong, said competitors were allowed to Ian Newhouse, one of the many travel freely, their city-states 1980 Moscow Olympic Games.

day conference, a week ago last Commonwealth Games. Saturday, discussing the connec-

of the Canadian Association of

Young Political Leaders. The Politics of International Sports focused on the acquisition ing how a country will and organization of international sports events. This is a timely topic, in that Canada has hosted two such events in the past five image of the citizens themselves. years, and will host another two in

attempted to assess the influence of athletes to train them for war.' of politics in the conduct of these sport events, and the conse- cent forums." quences of these politics on the individual competitor.

the next seven.

Politics/Sports Relationship Defined

Dr. Gerry Redmond, from the U of A, and Ed Davis, a Calgary Olympic Development Association (CODA) board direc- said David. tor, discussed the history of political involvement in sport.

"There is too much they were not competing. stands it is not cond onalism."

Canadian politics become everybody," said David.

Newhouse was a part of a one involved best at the level of the

"This use of sport was to tion between politics and sport, create a link between Britain and

sponsored by the Alberta Chapter her colonies," said Redmond. "These trophies are also used to create national unity," he added.

> Davis spent his time showdemonstrate its ambitions and beliefs through its athletes.

"Athletes often reflect the "Commencing with the early rise of Germany," Davis explain-

The conference also ed, "the Germans used the glamor Sport arenas are magnifi-

French and British looked on

"By organizing physical exertion, Britain and France kept had five hurdles to overcome (to soldiers and citizens in shape,"

Canada has not made up its C.O.D.A. mind about how they wish to

Wes Oginski

Redmond traced this become involved with sports municipal government to have athlete, joined Newhouse in "What is wrong with the relationship back to the ancient according to Davis. There is a the Games; getting help from the explaining how they as athletes Olympics, for every year they are Greek Olympic Games. Though strong attraction between both spectating and participating.

We must very seriously athletes who did not attend the would remain at war. The athlete think of restructuring interwas also expected to fight when national games because as it stands it is not conducive to

Universiade '83



In this same period, the Edmonton Canada

the sports as gentleman games. That Politics of the 1988 Calgary is, until World War II.

from "By organizing physical exer-"Early on we recognized we

obtain the '88 Winter Olympics)," said Bill Warren, vp of Sports,

These were: convincing the

and staging, and for obtaining the 1980 Moscow Olympics. sites outside of Calgary; convin-cing the Canadian Olympic in response to the Soviet invasion Association to accept the bid; of Afghanistan. convincing the federal government; and convincing the Inter-years of that (training) and having national Olympic Committee.

the Calgary bid are sensitive about the city's attitude.

"The role of the municipal government in our bid was "I wrote a letter to Abbie minimal," he said. "They would Hoffman (director of Sports have us believe through the press they were involved more than they were." Out of a \$2 million investment, Warren estimates the agree with it as a non-violent city government donated \$50 demonstration," Van Doren said,

'Internationally, we've found ment politics....but there was a tremendous amount of sport Russian tankers were still using politics," said C.O.D.A. executive Canadian ports. vp of Tripartite Relations, Jack Wilson. politics was with the Eastern sports. block countries," he said.

Though the Calgary con- decided, is if women want to tingent had to solicit support, they decided not to do so directly.

"We relied on getting to know the I.O.C. members," Wilson explained. "We did not ask them directly to support us."

"There were no deals," said

Politics and the Competitors

Frank Van Doren, another Games.

provincial government for the bid felt about the boycott by Canada at

your main goal of making the The original organizers of Olympic Games taken away from you," Van Doren said, "when it happens, you realize sports and politics mix.'

Canada) supporting the boycott," he said.

"I went with the boycott and but as an athlete it still hurts.

Even so, six months after the there wasn't very much govern- Olympics, Canada made a major grain sale to the Soviet Union.

Dr. Anne Hall, of the U of A, Where we did get discussed the political organizainvolved with international tion of women in international

"The first thing that has to be

become involved in the male

sports world," she said. Eventually they will be strong enough to lobby and get action, like the obtaining a women's marathon at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. This is the first long distance running event for women at the

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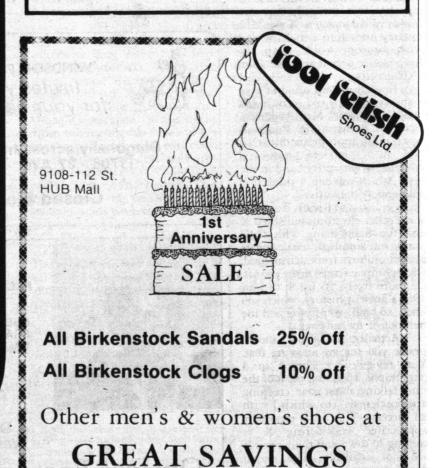
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