

Pools

cont. from p 14

"Shane Churla has little hope in being a top scorer. But when you read in the paper that he took a spearing major and a game misconduct, he's your best friend that morning," McCulloch said.

Of course, with a hockey draft as complicated as this one, the compilation of statistics would be difficult. Two years ago, the OSHL solved this dilemma by commissioning Fedun, a computer programmer, to devise a program.

"When we started, it was a four or five hour job to calculate them manually. Now, in a half hour, the computer spits out the results,"

McCulloch said.

The program, PROSTATS, worked well, so Fedun decided to market the program.

"Some guy in Venice, Italy bought one," said Fedun. "It made our whole summer."

One of the major parts of the draft is that the owners develop pride in the teams, and don't feel so hot when one of their players is injured.

"(Bruin forward) Keith Crowder has been a "Chainsaw" for all four

"I've refused to trade Keith Crowder for Wayne Gretzky."
— McCulloch

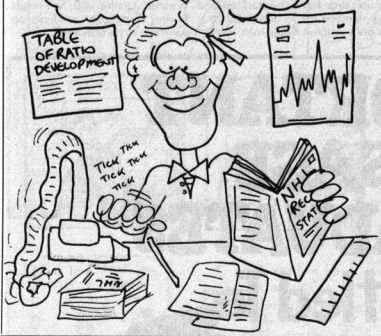
years of the pool," owner McCulloch said. "then I was flipping through the Boston Bruin media guide, and I find that he's named one of his kids Cameron. After all the years I've taken care of him," McCulloch joked.

"Rumors say that his jersey will be retired when he finishes his career," said a proud McCulloch, "he's the quintessential OSHL player. I've refused to trade him for Wayne Gretzky."

Although some money is spent on the draft (about \$100 per franchise), McCulloch claims that the money isn't what the draft is all

THE STATS ANGLE

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THE HOMER ANGLE



LET ME THINK...
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SIMMER, KASPER
CROWDER, LARSON
LINSEMAN, BYERS
THELVEM, MARRWAY
WESLEY, BURRIDGE
AND...
JAY MILLER

about.

"It gives me something to bitch about in the morning," said McCulloch. "It's more of a hobby."

Although private office hockey pools run rampant among the population at this time of year, the question of them being legal is still up in the air.

"Gambling isn't banned, per se,"

said Alberta Gaming Commission research officer Jose Villa-Arse. "It's unlawful when the organizer takes a percentage off the top or if he charges people a seat, like at a poker game."

"Whether it is illegal or not is judged by the police, not by us," Villa-Arse said, "but police usually will act only if there's been a complaint."

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