



SONJA FLUET AND JULIET SUTTON exhibit the fencing form that enabled them to win all but four of the 24 bouts they fought in the WCIAA Fencing Championships held in Calgary at the weekend.

Sports Feature

Gymnastic Club Growing, Looks To Bright Future

By Dave Henshaw

The Gymnastics Club is the youngest intervarsity club on campus. It is in its third year of WCIAA.

This doesn't mean that it is in over its head, for it can hold its own with the best of them. Last year, the girl's team came third in WCIAA competition. Early this month, Ken Hardy paced the men's team to a victory at Northern Montana College by capturing the all-round title.

There is no dual (men's and women's) WCIAA competition at present because the universities of Saskatchewan and Manitoba don't have men's teams. Next year, the University of Victoria is coming into the league and it is hoped that men will have WCIAA competitions in the near future.

GYMNASTICS NOT POPULAR

Geoff Elliott, coach of the men's team, doesn't understand why gymnastics doesn't catch on because of our indoor climate. He and D. K. Enger, women's coach, have to start almost from scratch in training their gymnasts because there is almost no emphasis placed on gymnastics in high school.

Things are looking up, however, there are a number of high schools in the city who are forming clubs and a school from Calgary is pressing for a meet with some of the Edmonton teams. Victoria Composite and Jasper Place Composite as well as Paul Kane High School in St. Alberta have gymnastic teams.

To further interest in the sport, the U of A club has given demon-

strations at high schools in the Edmonton area. The Alberta Teachers Association apparently is looking into gymnastics; coach Elliott gave a lecture at the Convention last weekend.

PROBLEMS

There are a number of problems facing the club. One is creating enough interest in the student body to form a larger club. A second difficulty is finding people who are willing to judge events. Gymnastics is a subjective sport and personal opinion counts in judging. There are not enough people who feel they are qualified to undertake this unpaid task.

Yet another problem is that there is no professional outlet for amateur gymnasts, so it will never become a major sport. According to coach Elliott, "It is a vicious circle, it is not taught enough in high schools; it is difficult for students to become gymnasts here, so they don't teach it when they leave."

It takes a year of training to get anywhere near competition level so this makes it necessary for gymnasts to work almost all year round to get into shape.

Another snag is that the coaches can't find anyone who will instruct the club while they teach the team. Faculty of PE members are all tied up so an outside person is needed.

Canada placed in the top half in gymnastic competition in the Olympics. According to Mr. Elliott, this was a good showing considering our small population and the level of gymnastics in this country.

Golden Blades

Win Millman Trophy

U of A fencing team took the WCIAA championship in Calgary last weekend.

The U of A foursome won the combined teams trophy and the Millman trophy. The U of A girls came up with the Millman trophy by losing only four of the 24 bouts which they fought. This year, the men's trophy went to U of M.

The Golden Blades have now held the Millman trophy for the past three years.

Fencing has been a WCIAA sport at this university for more than 30 years, the team and the club, from which team members are picked, has consistently been one of the strongest in the conference.

The woman's team is especially strong, having won its half of the championship for the past three years.

Prospects are good for the next few years. The Fencing Club has been growing with the years and many of the beginners are coming on strong. Advanced fencers travel to Red Deer one Sunday of each month for practice and training. Much to the delight of Club

members, city high schools are starting to express an interest in fencing. Junior clubs have been formed at Holyrod school, at Ross Shepherd and at St. Albert. At present there is one senior club in the city in addition to the one on campus—the Edmonton Fencing Club.

There is no professional fencing coach in western Canada. There are hopes that Professor Roger Crosnier of France will be able to come to U of A next year to conduct a coaches clinic. Last August, Professor Crosnier conducted clinics in the east with a great degree of success.

Juliet Sutton, president of the fencing club, said it was possible that fencing would become a credit course in the Faculty of Physical Education in the near future. Both Mrs. Sutton and Francis Wetterberg, provincial coach, were confident that the University Athletic Board would sponsor the proposed clinic.

Representing the University at the WCIAA meet were Sonja Fluét, Juliet Sutton, Bernard Steinraths and Arthur Wood.

Pucksters Bow Out Lose Last

By Gary Kiernan

The Golden Bear hockey team has packed up the skates and equipment for another season.

This event took place at the weekend and the worst part of it, was that it was done on a losing note.

Playing under international rules, the Bears dropped two games to the University of Denver Pioneers at Denver. Friday night, they were trounced 7-3 and Saturday they bowed out 4-2.

Bears were never in the game Friday night, and they fell behind 2-0 at the end of the first period. The score was a humiliating 6-1 after two, and only in the third frame did the Bruins outscore the Pioneers.

Saturday's game was more like the Bears past encounters. Down 1-0 after one period, Bears bounced back to take a 2-1 lead early in the second. The Pioneers tied it up in the dying seconds of the second frame. Neither side scored during the first 15 minutes of the final period, then a Pioneer goal, while Bears were short handed, increased the tension. In the last minute of play, Bear coach Clare Drake took Orest Swyripa out of the net in favor of another forward. Bears put on the pressure and bounced a shot off the goalpost. Pioneers picked up the bouncing puck and scored into the empty net to put the game out of reach. Saturday's marksmen were Harper and Lundgren.

The only WCIAA team which is still in action is the University of Manitoba Bisons. Last weekend they dropped the U of S Huskies 5-2 and 11-7, to take the Hardy trophy and advance into the Dominion Intercollegiate Championships.

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