



# SPORTS



## sports

In my last column I touched upon an area in the Edmonton sports media which has tremendous potential for further examination. At the end of the column everybody was familiar with the new society in Edmonton. But I realized soon after that I had only tackled a small part of the, and I use this word in the correct sense, problem.

The manner in which the Edmonton Journal and Edmonton Sun handle the Edmonton Oilers and Edmonton Eskimos is disgraceful. I gave my reasons for thinking such and tried to back them up with suitable examples. I now plan to continue my attack on the Edmonton sports media with some criticisms on the other form of major media hype in this city: Television.

The television media has appeared to confine its hype to just the Edmonton Oilers and I must say they have done a particularly admirable job. In fact they have perhaps surpassed the Journal and the Sun in their mad rush to inundate the people of this city with everything concerning the Oilers. (Glen Sather had better hope that his ear infection doesn't spread and turn into piles).

Actually to even further confine this hype one station can be specifically finge...I mean named. This station is of course CFRN.

The people at this station are absolutely fantastic. They have hit new heights. I now give you some examples of their total devotion to the Edmonton Oilers and to the repugnance for which they stand.

Hockey broadcasts (or should that be broadcast) are a perfect example. It seems they go out of their way to find colour commentators who will continue to fawn over the Oilers as much as they like.

In a recent televised game down in Calgary, which the Oilers won 5-4, the Flames had a powerplay. Now where I come from the mark of a pretty good powerplay is when a team can control the puck totally and then when a good opportunity presents itself, score. This is exactly what the Flames accomplished. They threw the puck around the perimeter of the Oilers box never letting the Oilers come within four feet of it. When finally the player stationed at the bottom corner of the box, to the right of Grant Fuhr, left his post to attack the opposing Flame player, he tossed it back to the pointman who in turn passed it to a team-mate standing right beside Fuhr and he put the puck underneath the goalie for the goal. A beautifully executed powerplay. This should be the first comment that should come out of the colour mans mouth. I'll tell you what Dornhoffer (I excuse any misspelling) said: "The Oilers were defending that powerplay beautifully!"

Bullshit! The Flames scored for crying out loud! The Oilers did not do their job of killing that penalty. Why can't these people give credit to the opposing team. It seems these people are afflicted by the Oilers as if they were some sort of disease. They don't appear to have the ability to make objective criticism. Why? I leave that question with you, for now.

I now turn to a television show which is on every week entitled "This Week in the NHL". To say that the title is a little misleading would not do it justice. The title is a load of horse dung. That show isn't about the NHL. It's about the Edmonton Oilers. I believe they use the title they do to attract a larger viewing audience. People tune in to that show thinking that they are going to see highlights from all over the league, this would be along the same lines as shows similarly entitled: "This week in Baseball" and "This week in the NFL". These shows live up to their titled billing. People are given a great many highlights from many different games from the league(s). They are usually very entertaining shows.

Somehow CFRN's show smells of false advertising to me. In actual fact I think it is one gigantic rip-off. The advertisement for the show particularly infuriates me. The broadcaster states that the show presents an overview of the NHL with highlights from around the league. I watched that show, they show highlights of the most recent game the Oilers next opponent played. Does this constitute 'from around the league?' They state that they have interviews with the players (they show a picture of Wayne) they state that they have interviews with the coaches (they show a picture of Glen Sather). Of course they don't specify what players they are going to interview. I guess this gives them the right to mislead a public into thinking that they may see somebody else besides an Oiler. The show should be re-titled: This week with the Edmonton Oilers. At least in this manner people would know what they were going to see.

I could find more things to use against the sports media in this city but I think at this point I should offer my opinion as to why the media in this city acts the way they do. Constant criticisms without alternatives for a solution or reasons as to the formation of those criticisms, I believe are futile.

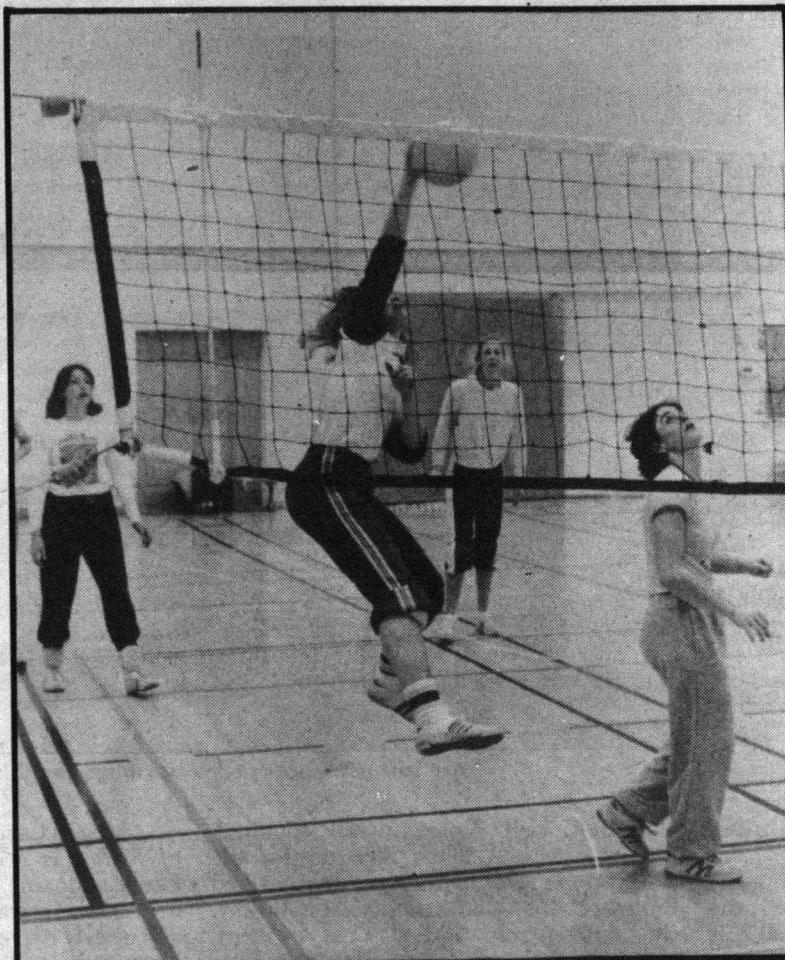
The media in this city have not grown up yet. That is the reason, in one sentence, why there is so much hype heaped on the Oilers and Eskimos. Let me explain.

The city of Edmonton is still very young. I feel that the media does not have the maturity to handle the success of their spots teams in a graceful manner. They constantly hype the teams because they don't know what else to do. All this success has happened rather suddenly. I believe that the mark of a class organization is not only the ability to lose gracefully but also the ability to win just as gracefully. I think this can be applied to the media and they do neither very well.

A media in a city such as Montreal has had the chance to grow a little. They applaud their teams when they do well but have the class and the maturity to applaud the opposing teams when they do just as well. The Edmonton sports media have not acquired this brand of class and maturity. Hopefully they will. Hopefully very soon.

Andrew Watts

## Pandas doing very well



Pandas in practice. The team is coming together. photo Martin Beales

The volleyball Pandas spent the better part of three days in Calgary this past weekend (Jan. 8, 9, 10) at a 20 team all-women's tournament and came home having achieved a 6-1 won-loss record, attained an all-star award, defeated the defending CIAU Champion U of Saskatchewan Huskiettes, and generally jelled as a team.

On Friday night and Saturday during the day the Pandas crushed all of their opposition in the preliminary pool by 2 games to 0. They defeated SAIT 15-1 and 15-13; Edmonton Spartans 15-6 and 15-5; Calgary Ramblers 17-15 and 15-13; and a Dinnie Club team 15-9 and 15-7.

Saturday evening saw them come up against the Dalhousie University gals team from Halifax in the playoffs to decide the top 8 teams. In what turned out to be the only poor match for the Pandas, our girls lost 3-0 (15-5; 15-6; 15-5). The coaching staff felt that the Pandas were caught a little off-guard by the 3rd ranked university team in the nation after having steamrollered through the earlier preliminaries. Dal's middle attack was clicking well and the U of A blockers just did not adjust quickly enough.

On Sunday the Pandas played two excellent matches, beating the highly regarded Kindersley A and

A team 3-2 in a very hotly contended match. The green and gold squad beat A and A 15-7 and 16-14 in the first two games of the match, but lost the next two 13-15 and 11-15. This set the stage for the fifth game and the local girls were ready, and walked off the court with a 15-7 victory. Excellent outside hitting by Adri Meeuwissen and Tracy Mills and setting by Debbie Covey made the difference at the net while consistent serve reception by Audrey Mills and Louise Ashcroft allowed for a diversified attack.

Sunday afternoon saw the big one, a match against the U of S Huskiettes, defending CIAU Champions. The same match flow occurred - the Pandas won the first two games 15-9 and 16-14 and lost the second two 12-15 and 9-15. However, the Pandas stuck to it and won the fifth game 15-9 thanks to a great team effort. Linda Bocock and Lynne Stephenson combined for some excellent blocking and Leanne Daneyko subbed in periodically and performed well.

The Pandas, despite losing only one match, ended up fifth overall because of the draw set-up but the strong Sunday finish augers well for the upcoming third Canada West Tournament at the end of the month.

### SPIKES AND TIPS

- Tracy Mills received an all star award for her placing on the weekend.
- the Pandas are in the midst of setting up their first alumni game for the weekend of the 22nd and 23rd of January.
- Assistant Coach Therese Quigley will be taking a more active role with the team this term, running practices and handling the team from the bench during matches. Coach Hugh Hoyces will perform more of a scouting and observing role during the match, from the stands. In this way both coach talent will be utilized to utmost.

## Intramurals are continuing

by Garnet DuGray

Men's intramural basketball playoffs are continuing at their torrid pace this week with finals of all three divisions to go tonight (Thursday) in the Main gym starting at 7:30 p.m. In Division I action, it promises to be a return battle of last year's final in which L.D.S. downed the Shooters, so one can be sure the Shooters will be out to avenge that loss to the well disciplined L.D.S. squad.

Despite the rigors of Engineering Week, the Electricals downed Mineral on Tuesday past and will meet Law 'B' in the Division II final. Also in Division III action, Law 'D' will be vying for a title as they meet up with classmates from the Law 'E' squad. Be sure to come out and cheer your team onto victory.

Speaking of basketball, the men's 3-on-3 tourney runs Monday - Wednesday next week in the Main gym starting at 7:30 p.m.

deadline on Tuesday, January 19 in the men's office for bowling, indoor soccer and badminton. The bowling goes Saturday and Sunday, January 23 and 24 each day in the SUB bowling area. Indoor soccer runs each Tuesday - Sunday evening with the exception of Thursdays from January 22 -

February 26, while the badminton tourney will go Tuesdays and Thursdays, January 26 - February 11 in the Education gym at 7:30 p.m. each night.

This weekend proves to be a big one for cross-country ski

racers with men's race at one p.m. on Saturday with a clinic at 9 and 10 a.m. Saturday and Sunday down at the Kinsmen Park by the football fields.

Be sure to check out the women's office for the clinics to start next week in Jazz fitness.

## Athlete of the Week

Laura Cabott  
Panda Basketball



This week's BOSTON Pizza Athlete of the Week is Laura Cabott, a 5'9" guard with Panda's Basketball squad. Laura scored a season high 11 points on Saturday night to lead the Pandas to a 53-50 victory over the defending national champion Victoria Vikettes. She hit seven of thirteen times from the field and was five for six from the foul line. Laura also had two rebounds as the Pandas gave the Vikettes only their second loss in the last twenty eight Canada West games they have played. For her outstanding performance Boston Pizza is pleased to name Laura Cabott as the University of Alberta's Athlete of the Week.

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