

SPORTS

Small screws up another pick

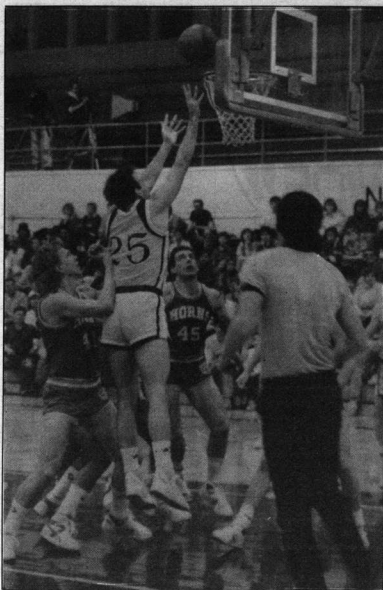
by Alan Small

WANT TO GET WARMED UP FOR THE OSCARS? Friday night has the U of A's annual Color Night Banquet and Dance at the Fantasyland Hotel. For \$21 you can honor the U of A's finest athletes. Cocktails are at 5:30, while the awards ceremony is at 6:15, with the dinner at 6:30. Tickets can be purchased at the Department of Athletics office, Room 220 in the Butterdome.

DO YOU KNOW A PAST U OF A ATHLETE OR BUILDER who hasn't got any recognition? If so, your best bet is to grab one of the nomination papers for the University of Alberta Sports Wall of Fame and fill it out. The program has been going on for three years and the U of A wishes to honor some more people, come September. Remember, this is a serious honor, as past inductees range from the likes of Peter Loughheed to Clare Drake to Susan Nairn to Randy Grege. Deadline is on May 6th but they will be retained if your presentation is unsuccessful.

WHO'S RUNNING THE BLUE JAYS? Now that Upshaw is gone and Bell is quiet, manager Jimmy Williams can help stirring the pot. Now, he has decided to use Fred McGriff as the full-time first baseman and leave potential 30 tater man Cecil Fielder on the bench. Yes, McGriff will hit at least 30 taters himself this year, but that means Williams isn't exploiting his club to its fullest potential. Fielder should be DHing (he isn't a great fielder despite his name) while Bell should be in left. Keeps those kids in the minors or on the bench. One must remember that Wally Pipp had to get sick for Lou Gehrig to make the Yankee lineup back in the thirties.

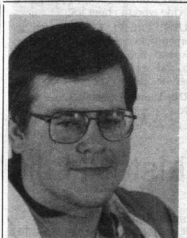
SO KANSAS HAD TO SCREW UP ANOTHER ONE OF MY PRE-



Will Mark Baker (25) win an award on Color Night? Photo Paul Meneses

DICTIONS DIDN'T THEY? Not only have the Royals burned them on two occasions in baseball, but now the

Jayhawks of NCAA hoop fame had to beat the Oklahoma Sooners in the hoop final on Monday night.



Alan Small

Answering the reader mail

In the two years at *The Gateway*, the fellow at the top of this column has had more than his share of fun working for this paper's sports department.

It all started humbly enough in the September 18, 1986 edition, with a story called "Stadium Sidelines".

Since that time, Mr. Small has been told to "walk a mile in (athlete's) sneakers", told that one of his columns was "one of the most racist, hate-mongering, red-necked, paranoid pieces ever seen... and totally uncalled for and dangerous."

This year, when Mr. Small took over as the sports editor, Mr. Small and one of his writers, Randal Smathers, were "rebuked" by one of the U of A's sports convenors for printing "confusion reigned in the pressbox". The letter blamed Mr. Smathers and Mr. Small for the inconsis-

tencies in the statistics sheet they were provided. And for the final paragraph, the letter accused the sports department of practising "shabby journalism".

When asked after the letter was printed, Mr. Small replied, "so much for a good rapport between *The Gateway* and the Department of Athletics Sports Info Office."

On March 29th of this year, a letter was printed about how *The Gateway's* coverage of the Panda gymnastics squad was "a joke".

Hold it.

There is one thing that must be told about the sports section of *The Gateway*. What we are running here in Room 230 SUB is the best university sports section in Canada. I say that with no arrogance or braggadocio. What I state is merely fact.

At the beginning of the year, I met the Dean of Physical Education, Dr. Gerry Glassford, a highly respected man, he told me not to heavily emphasize the win-loss record of the Athletics squads. When the Bear football and hockey teams were knocked out in their respective western finals, this sports section did not harp on how they should have won. That is low-brow. What we did was write columns praising their respective performances, even though they came up on the short end of the stick. They are class teams involved with a class organization, and they were treated accordingly.

Another definition of low-brow writing is the unabashed cheering for a team. In *The Canadian Press Stylebook*, there is a sentence which reads: "The news must be treated even-handedly, without

regard to special interests and with favor to none."

It seems to me that the Panda gymnastics squad wanted me to say, "the rest of the teams on this campus are slugs; the gymnastics squad was the only one to win a national title, so we're just going to write about them." When they won the Canada West title and the national title, they received coverage in the sports section both times. Although I congratulate the Pandas for their tremendous effort, I'm not going to say "How 'bout those Pandas" like you would hear during a Blue Jays game or during the Olympics.

Finally, the sports convenors who made my life miserable for most of the year; if we practice "shabby journalism", then you practice "shabby letter-writing."

It pains me to use this final column of the year to air my beefs, instead of thanking the people who made this section tops. But here they are in no order:

I would like to thank Randal Smathers for making me be firm in discussions; he expects no less, Ajay Bhardwaj, for his persistence, Gord Stech, for his humor from hell, Carolyn Aney, for coming through in a pinch, Kristan McLeod, for writing about different sports, like mountain climbing and nordic skiing, to Eric Baich for reading my mind for his hilarious cartoons, Phil Previle, for coming through early in the year, Carol Kassian who was so dependable, the photo staff, who showed me how important great photos are (they were), anyone else I have missed and whoever stops this run-on sentence.

Have a great summer.

and screw me up once again. I was sure that the Sooners would knock off the Kansans especially the way they beat Arizona. Looks like I'll be battling 1000 for my predictions again this year. What else is new?

IN CASE YOU WANT TO WATCH SOMETHING DIFFERENT BETWEEN HOCKEY GAMES there's the Masters golf tournament being held this weekend from Augusta, Georgia. There is one really fascinating story about this tournament, especially the way they are telecast. At any time, the announcers are never to talk about the money the

players are to win when they do well in the tournament. The tournament organizers firmly reprimand the announcers for these slip-ups. When the winner gets congratulated, they are only to talk about "The Green Jacket" and not about the \$100,000 cash they will receive. Thou shalt not demean as cheapen the tournament or the course at any time, or say Bobby Jones instead of Bob Jones. Check it out this weekend. There's not a golf tournament better once you get past the sugary theme music used by CBS.

Hockey picks were better off forgotten

by Randal Smathers

If it takes a big man to admit he's wrong, then I'm 72", 280 lbs.

I promised Al Small that I would dig out our NHL picks from October and see how we did here at the Gateway; we did pretty awful.

Not satisfied with self-criticism, I also dug out my old *The Hockey News* to see how their "blue-ribbon panel" did, especially their Edmonton correspondent, Dick Chubej. I neglected to save the local papers' prediction issues, so I don't have their picks, but we'll catch them next year.

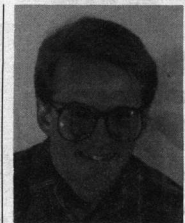
The big winner was Tom Henschaw, *THN's* Boston writer. He correctly picked LA and Vancouver

right. His 9.5 percent is only about twice what he could expect to get if he drew names at random.

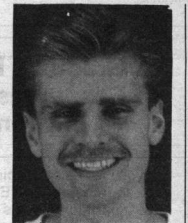
The Hockey News as a whole had five correct, as the majority of their panel picked Vancouver, LA, NYR, Washington, and Quebec, and half of them picked the Habs for the Adams title.

My best pick was hitting the Capitals for second place at 85 points — spot on. Stech's was getting the bottom three in the Smythe, and all within four points (Winnipeg, LA, and Vancouver, predicted at 79, 72, and 61 points, actually at 77, 68, and 59 points respectively).

My worst pick came from the



Gateway's Smathers and Stech: less than 50% correct.



(4th and 5th, Smythe); Detroit, Chicago, and Minnesota (1st, 3rd, and 5th, Norris); Washington and the Rangers (2nd and 5th, Patrick); and Buffalo and Quebec (3rd and 5th, Adams), for a total of nine correct out of 21 teams.

Runners-up included our own Gord Stech who had eight right: Winnipeg, LA, Vancouver, Detroit, St. Louis, Chicago, Washington, and Quebec.

The other local writers did a lot worse: I got four right, and Chubej three. I hit Minnesota, the Rangers, Washington, and Boston. Chubej correctly picked Detroit, Montreal, and the Rangers.

The bum of the year, prediction-wise, is Montreal's Glenn Cole, who only got LA and Vancouver

right — taking the Leafs first in the Norris at 80 points; they actually got 52 points, edging into 4th.

Stech's worst pick was taking Jersey sixth — only two places out of their actual finish of fourth, but he said bad things about them and said they'd only get 62 points, 20 shy of their total of 82.

THN didn't guess at points, but Al Morganti, their Philly correspondent, not only picked Minnesota for second in the Norris, he said they'd make it to the Stanley Cup finals.

What does all this prove? It proves that a) hockey is a volatile sport, and b) you shouldn't bet the family farm on any "expert" predictions in the upcoming playoffs. I like Boston and Calgary... how bout you, Gord?

Lister Hall's busy

by Carol Kassian

Residents of Lister Hall have continued to increase their participation in the variety of recreational activities on campus. This trend has been contributed to through the efforts of the Lister Hall Students' Association (LHSA) and Campus Recreation, who have been working together to continue to develop the recreational programs available to the students living at the residence.

This past year, the Lister Hall Satellite Recreation Coordinator, Todd Muir, has acted as a liaison between Lister Hall and Campus Recreation. He has concentrated on planning for the provision of future recreational opportunities to residents of Lister. Muir prepared a questionnaire and is currently analyzing the results to obtain information from the residents them-

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