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# Sports

Wrestling Bears go  
hungry in Montreal —  
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Alan Small

## Nilsson will help Oilers

So Kent Nilsson will be playing with the Oilers.

He was dangerous when he played with the Flames, because he was one of the few Flames that could keep up with Sather's boys, let alone match them.

I still wonder why all those Calgary fans hate him with such passion. The idea that he doesn't show up to play every game is exaggerated. Every player in the NHL fails to play to the top of his potential for the usual 100 games each season.

Some say that when the going gets rough, Nilsson leaves his heart in the dressing room. The Oilers showed little heart during their last road trip, or the series against Calgary for that matter.

All Oiler fans should be ecstatic over getting another point-a-gamer, for just a lousy draft choice. Hockey players with the talent of Nilsson are not a dime a dozen.

Anyways, if Edmonton can get another person to get under Calgary's skin (like Nilsson) the trade is well worth it right there. He might just fill the void on the Messier, Anderson line empty since Ken Linseman left for Boston.

I got in gear for Brier fever last weekend at the umpteenth annual Redwater bonspiel.

Curling is more than the drunken revelry that everyone seems to associate with the game. Sure it has its share of fun times in the upstairs lounges in rural Canada, but when it comes down to pressure and suspense, it holds a back seat to no sport.

There is no more pressure filled situation as when the skip gets set in the hack to throw the last rock, meaning the life and death of his team in that weekend's bonspiel. Anyone who has played the position knows the feeling. If he blows the shot, not only does he feel like the proverbial dead mosquito, but you have to remember you let your team down as well.

Also unlike any other sport (except golf) the increased competition that has evolved hasn't taken the gentlemanly attitude away from the game.

So, when you're watching the curling on the tube in the next few weekends, take into account that these curlers are athletes, and not the drunken party-goers everyone seems to think. The game will be that much more enjoyable to watch.

# Pressure's on for Panda trio

## Hanneman leads with third best score in Canada

by Mark Spector

With only three gymnasts heading to McMaster University today to compete in the CIAU Final meet, Jimmy the Greek wouldn't exactly have the Alberta Pandas rated as favourites to come home with the Canadian team title.

The top three girls on the Canada West champs may rank as the top underdog though. With only the three top scores counting in the team standings at the national meet, Diane Patterson, Monica Kmech, and Michelle Hanneman will have to be virtually flawless if they are to match or better Alberta's third place finish at last year's CIAU's.

With some schools sending as many as five competitors, the pressure will be on the Pandas. "You try not to think about the pressure when you are competing," states Hanneman, who heads to Hamilton with the third best All-Around score (35.60) in Canada to date this season. "If all three of us stay clean we could still capture the team title."

"There's definitely more pressure," admits Patterson. "But the (team title) is still in our goals."

In her freshman year at the U of A, Hanneman has led the Pandas for much of the year. Her 35.60, attained at the Canada West championships in Calgary, was good for



top spot at the meet. She won three of her four events (balance beam, vault, and uneven bars) while placing third in the floor exercise.

"I've had a pretty strong season after getting off to a slow start," she says. Pulled back muscles and tendonitis in a shoulder slowed her down early this year, but injuries are nothing new to the graduate of Louis St. Laurent High.

In 1982, Hanneman was ranked number one in Alberta heading into the open nationals, but a knee injury forced her to sit out. The knee would eventually require surgery, as would an elbow two years later. An Edmonton native, she is pleased to find herself still competing in her home town.

"I've always wanted to be able to train in this city. Part of my aim in staying in Canada is that others will do the same. My original plans before my injuries were to take a year off school and fulfill my goals in gymnastics," she said, but admitted that she never really pursued any scholarships in the United States.

"I was told that I would be able to get some good offers from the American schools," she says. And that possibility is still alive, as federal cuts for the CIAU will mean that the lesser profile sports in Canada West may suffer greatly next year. "I'm a little concerned about the gymnastics program right now," Hanneman said. "Right now, if I plan to continue, (if not here) there is no professional gymnastics. Either you're good enough to go to the

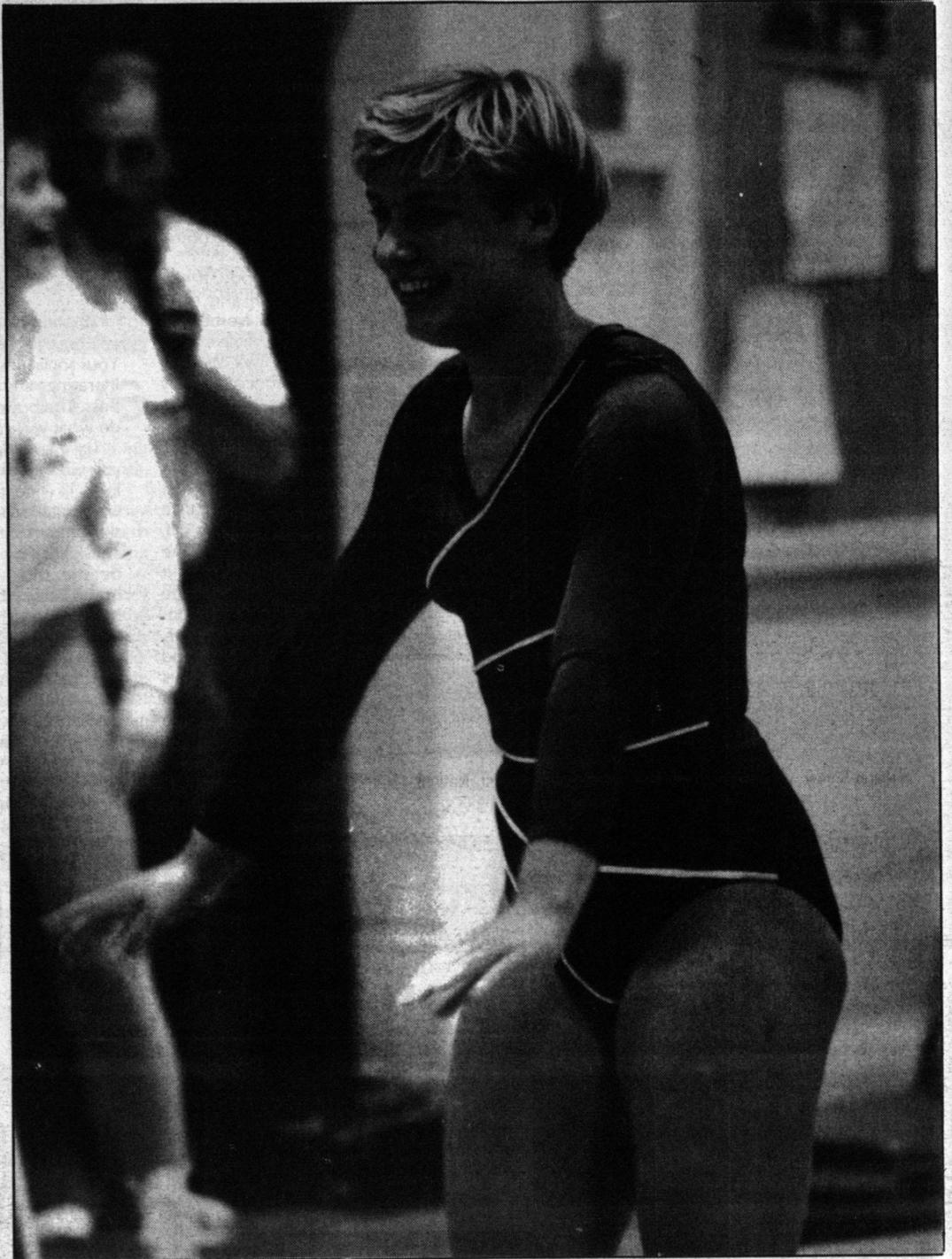


photo Ron Checora

**Michelle Hanneman is off to the CIAU's in Hamilton this weekend. Along with Diane Patterson and Monica Kmech, the trio will have to be almost perfect to have a chance at the team title.**

States or you're not."

Meanwhile, in the Golden Bears' camp, five gymnasts are going east from what coach Francis Tally calls "The best team that I've ever had at the U of A." Malcolm Dunsford, Ron McLeod, Gary Kapitza, Joe Freedman, and Brad Law will all be representing Alberta at McMaster.

It will be McLeod's final meet as a Golden Bear, as this is his fifth year of competition. "I just took an introductory gym course and took it from there," says McLeod of his start in the gym. His sports interest in high school was pole vaulting, and he still works high over the mat, as the horizontal bar has become his strongest event.

## Wildcard Sunday

by Mark Spector

The Golden Bear basketball team, who resumed their practice schedule Monday, can not be counted out yet, according to one of the six voters for the wildcard positions in the upcoming nationals in Halifax.

After a Canada West semi-final loss to the Victoria Vikings two weeks ago, the Bears' season seemed over. But a two game sweep of the Vikings by UBC has breathed new life into Alberta's chances.

Jim Leith, who will vote on behalf of Canada West on the two wildcard berths, says that Alberta and Victoria are running neck and neck at this point. "I don't know (who will win the vote)," says Leith. "I happen to think that a strong case can be made for both teams. But there's no way that both wildcard teams will come out Canada West," he added.

Six representatives, one from

each CIAU basketball conference, will first report on any deserving schools from their conference, then vote during a conference call to be made on Sunday. After whittling the field down to "four or five teams," each one will be voted on separately. "Two votes and you're out, three votes and you stay in," is how Leith says the procedure works.

"The first priority is a team's overall record against Canadian competition," says Leith. "Secondly, you have to ask how has this team done against competition that was in the top ten at the time. Then the team must have been fairly consistently near the top of the rankings during the season.

"Finally, something that is more difficult is the playoff situation," he continued. "Alberta is skating on a bit thinner ice there."

Should Alberta be chosen, they will leave for Halifax on Tuesday.