

Olympic retrospective

Legacy of the Olympics

By MARGO GEE and LISA TIMPF

Standing in the Velodrome last summer during a tour of Montreal's Olympic Park, we were awed by the beauty of the facility. The track was a geometric masterpiece, precisely curved, and made of the finest wood from the jungles of Cameroon. The design of the roof was extraordinarily intricate and advanced.

The Velodrome, along with the Pool Complex and Olympic Stadium, make up the incredible physical legacy of the Montreal Games. Equally impressive, however, was the lack of users. Not one person was involved in any form of physical activity—anywhere in the Olympic Park. It seemed particularly strange considering the number of children on summer vacation who could have been using at least one of the six pools that hot August morning.

The Olympic Games leave three different legacies to any country hosting them. First, there is a physical legacy: the remarkable complex of ultra-modern athletic facilities. Aside from providing a stage for the world's finest competitors, they should contribute to upgrading the host nation's athletic standards following the Games. This can only occur if the facilities are well managed and priced within the range of public accessibility. My tour in Montreal left me wondering if this was being accomplished.

Second, with the escalating cost of staging the Olympics, a financial legacy is unavoidable. Usually this amounts to a rather large debt, although in the case of Los Angeles 1984 it was an almost unbelievable \$150 million profit. The Montreal Games cost roughly one billion dollars and eight years later, the stadium has still not been completed!

To cover the deficit, various measures were employed by the Quebec government such as raising real estate taxes in Montreal. This was just one of many unpopular "solutions" which, in part, contributed to out-migration of that province.

The final type of legacy is not as tangible as world-class facilities or world-class debts. Increased nationalism, prestige, and pride in the country's ability to stage one of the greatest spectacles on earth, are immeasurable benefits to the host country. Although the Montreal Games were marred by political intrusion and financial mismanagement, they were, nonetheless, a magnificent example of achievement—both athletic and administrative in the face of overwhelming odds.

The Calgary Winter Olympics of 1988 will leave physical,

financial, and psychological legacies of their own.

The building of speed skating ovals and luge and bobsled runs for the Games will provide much-needed world-class training and competition facilities for future Canadian winter Games hopefuls. As well, the presence of such facilities within the country might encourage more Canadian athletes to participate in these sports, thus broadening the base from which future elite performers might emerge. In addition, top-class skiing and skating facilities will be made available, with the Saddledome in Calgary providing yet another hockey venue.

The Calgary Winter Olympics, however, will not leave the same sort of financial "legacy" as the Montreal Games. Firmer control of construction activities combined with the landing of a lucrative contract for the television rights to the Games may, in fact, result in a slight financial "profit" for the Games. One Olympic Association official suggested that this legacy might be used for the promotion of amateur sport in Canada in the future.

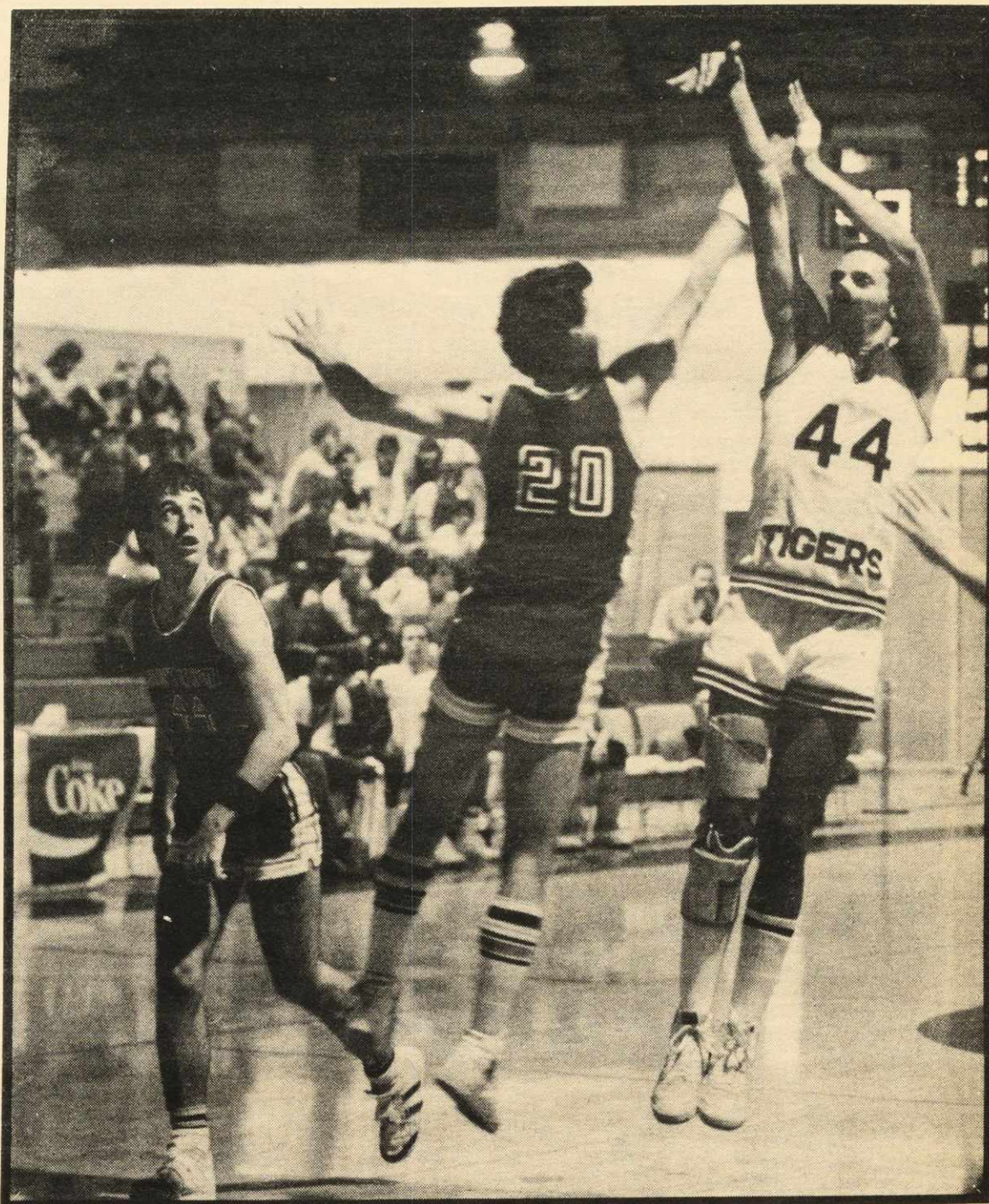
Both Abby Hoffman, director of Sport Canada, and Roger Jackson, president of the Canadian Olympic Association, have expressed a belief that hosting the 1988 Winter Olympics will provide a boost to amateur sport in Canada because of the enthusiasm and interest generated by the event.

In addition, the pride of Canadians in the performance and philosophy of their amateur sport programs would conceivably be enhanced, and thus public support for government programs for sport promotion might be ensured. And, if Canadian athletes perform well, a further benefit of increased mass participation might result.

One benefit of hosting the 1988 Games will be the opportunity to spread the values of Olympism to Canadians. By having the venue for the event within the country, increased interest will lead to increased receptivity to the dissemination of these values, which is a crucial factor for the future of the Games themselves.

The future of the Olympic Games may hang in the balance in 1988. If boycotts continue at the Winter and/or Summer Games, it is almost certain that the balance will tip toward the termination of Olympic competitions. One the other hand, if boycott and catastrophe-free Games occur in 1988, the healing process of the rift in international cooperation seen in recent Games might be facilitated.

One anticipated problem within Canada is maintaining



Tigers' Bo Malott shoot's for two as the Tigers split in weekend action.

Pat Jordan, Dal Photo.

Tigers fate looking brighter

By MARK ALBERSTAT

THE MEN'S BASKETBALL team tried to resurrect winning ways of old when they took on the Mount Allison Mounties in a pair of home games over the weekend.

The teams split the matches with Friday night's game ending

the enthusiasm once the Games are over. According to Jackson, it is unlikely that Canada, having hosted almost every major multisport event possible within the last decade (the Summer Olympics, the Commonwealth Games, the World University Games, and now the Winter Olympics) will bid for any competitions of the same magnitude until at least the turn of the century.

Will the enthusiasm and facilities left as Canada's Olympic legacies be enough to sustain interest and performance, or will a decline in both be the inevitable result of the passage of time, the creeping obsolescence of facilities, and the fading of the impact of the Games?

Only time will tell.

in an 82-76 score for the Mounties while Saturday afternoon the Tigers squeaked by the visitors with a 66-55 score. These games left the Tigers with a three and nine record, while the Mounties now have a five and six tally.

Friday night's game saw Mounties' six-foot-one guard Randy Field collect 30 points while teammate Johnny Johnson had 16 and Richard MacKay 14.

Al Ryan led the Tigers with 16, all in the first 20 minutes. Bo Malott had 16 and George Leacock 15.

Despite the six-point margin the game was almost always in the hands of the Mounties.

The Tigers threatened with a minute and a half left when they came within four points but back to back steals by MacKay extinguished the Tigers' hopes in this game.

Saturday's game had the Tigers get off the blocks quickly and by the half they had a 13-point cushion. This margin disappeared in the second half and the fate of the game purely was decided in the last ten seconds.

Dal's first basket in this match was from George Leacock. He

had 18 points for the day including one dunk and four one-pointers. Other high scorers for the Tigers were Louis Atherton, who scored 14 points and earned player of the game honours for his efforts and winning foul shot, and Bo Malott, who chipped in 15 points, sporting a knee brace and a taped hand.

Mounties' Randy Field put on a one-man show for the visitors as he gathered 25 points, 19 of which came in the first half. Johnny Johnson chipped in with 14.

The last ten seconds of the game saw Mounties' Scott MacLachlan get his fourth point of the game and at the same time tie the score 65-65. Six seconds later Mounties' Richard MacKay had his fourth foul giving Dal's Louis Atherton two single point shots at fame, and giving Dal a chance to earn the winning margin. Atherton made the first shot but missed the second, good enough for the lead which the Tigers held for the win.

The team's next home game is Friday Feb. 8 against UPEI at 8:30 p.m., and Saturday Feb. 9 they will play again at 3 p.m.