

# VIEW From The Cheap Seats

By Mark Savoie

Five World Junior Hockey championships in six years! Can anyone doubt that Canada is the number one hockey nation in the world and that Canadians are the best hockey players in the world? And these are just our kids; the next generation of NHL talent. Can you imagine how dominant Canada will be when these guys are in their prime? Four of the six players on the tournament all-star team were Canadians, including the entire forward line. We won seven straight games, and only the game against the Czech Republic was ever really in doubt. I repeat: Can anyone doubt that Canada is the number one hockey nation in the world and that Canadians are the best hockey players in the world?

Well, for starters, I can. It is true that at present Canada is the dominant power in hockey: gold at three straight junior championships, gold in every women's championship ever held, gold at the last world championship, and a silver at the last Olympics that could just as easily have been a gold. The Canadian hockey picture is rosy, and getting rosier every year. Our youth are easily the class of the hockey world and the NHL remains the elite hockey league in the world, with most of its players still coming from Canada.

No one can touch us. The Czechs and the Slovaks that comprised the dynamo called Czechoslovakia are divided in strength between the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The Soviet Union is now Russia, the Ukraine, Estonia, and whatever other republic has declared independence this week; so the great Russian Bear that was the Soviet national team no longer exists... except that it does. Therein lies the problem and the threat for Canadian hockey. The Russian hockey team is not dead; it is just very very sick.

So long as the Russian people continue to love hockey and play hockey the Russian hockey team is not dead. Russians love hockey just as passionately as do we Canadians. Even given the difficulties of communications with the Western world in pre-glasnost USSR, many Russian hockey fans kept current on the doings of the NHL and its stars. Indeed, because they were not subject to an artificially constructed faith in their inherent superiority, Russians often had a much less myopic view of world hockey than did North American hockey fans. The interest of Russians in hockey is just as obvious as it is for Canadians. Russia and Canada have essentially the same geography and climate in that we both border the Arctic Ocean on our respective continents and we both know first hand the bitter cold of winter. Given this geographical similarity, it is hardly surprising that we have both fallen in love with the same sport.

So long as Russia continues to love the sport of hockey, it is inevitable that Russia will eventually replace Canada as hockey's superpower. In fact, they've already done it once. The Soviet Union of the late 1970s and early 1980s was a far more fearsome hockey entity than was Canada at that time. They won the second Canada Cup and the Challenge Cup of 1979 was an embarrassment for the NHL. Then, things fell apart for the USSR economically and politically, and Soviet/Russian hockey soon followed suit. No more was Tikhonov able to rule his team in his customary totalitarian manner. Players like Larionov and Fetisov quit the team, and the sense of unity of purpose was lost.

That, however, was not as big a deal in hockey terms as it is made out to be. Player's relationships with coaches change over time in Russia just as in Canada, and as a result new coaching styles are constantly needed. With the adoption of *glasnost*, a new coaching style was needed. The real import of the economic and political upheaval in the Soviet Union to Russian hockey is that they ran out of money for the team. Instead of playing in Russia, all of the very best Russian players are now playing out their careers in the NHL; and unlike many of the Swedes and the Finns, they are likely to stay here after they retire. As much as they may miss Russia, it makes no sense economically for them to return home. Thus, a generation of Russian hockey players are growing up with no heroes.

This won't always be so. Eventually, the Russian economy will improve to the point that the lure of the West won't be so attractive. At that point Canada's status as hockey's sole superpower is doomed. This is because once the Russian economy develops past worrying about how to feed and house the Russian people, there will then be time for the people to take thought of their love of hockey. Once that happens it will just be a matter of time. The population of Russia is so much greater than that of Canada that they won't even have to come close to our percentage involvement in the sport in order to have a talent pool far larger than ours. And that's the bottom line. Once you get rid of the prejudice of nationalism, the country with the largest talent pool will dominate, and once their economy recovers, the country with the largest talent pool by far will be Russia.

## Mason and Cleveland top athletes for November

# UNB Athletes of the Month

November's Varsity Reds athletes of the month were Carla Mason of the women's volleyball team and Jamie Cleveland of the cross country team.

Carla, a fifth year Business student, from Newcastle, NB, has continued her strong play from 1993-94 when she was selected as AUAA MVP and a league All-star. The Varsity Reds currently sport an 8-0 record in AUAA play and Carla has been chosen as Pepsi Player of the Game on two occasions. However, Carla's best performance came at the Moncton Invitational Tournament. Carla was selected as the tournament MVP as UNB went undefeated to take the title. Carla earned further recognition as AUAA and CIAU Athlete of the Week for her strong play in the tournament. Coach McGarvie says that Carla is "the most dominant middle attacker in the AUAA this year."



Ross Antworth, Female Athlete Carla Mason, Male Athlete Jamie Cleveland and Rob Knesaurek presenting Athlete of the Month. Photo Paul Mysak

Jamie is a fifth year Geological Engineering student from Fredericton, NB. As UNB's first finisher (4th overall), Jamie led the Varsity Reds to a second place finish at the AUAA Championships. Jamie's placing earned him AUAA All-star status and he was also selected as AUAA

Rookie of the Year for his efforts this season. In addition to AUAA competition, Jamie combined his running talents with his swimming and cycling expertise to capture the Canadian Triathlon Championship for his age group and he went on to compete at the 1994 World Championships.

### Club Sports

## Take a dip with the Scuba Club



Hi everyone, and welcome to a new season of Scuba Diving Excitement!

The UNB SCUBA Club is proud

to be starting a new BASIC OPEN WATER course on January the 22nd. Course begins at 8:00 pm at the Sir Max Aitken Pool. Names are now being taken for this course if you are interested or you have questions contact Kevin Johnston at the number below.

The fun starts this Sunday night January the 14th, Dive for \$5 are back! To participate be at the Sir Max Aitken Pool at 8:00 pm with your bathing suit, a pair of wool socks and \$5.

For those who are interested scallop

season is now open. Licences may be purchased at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Open Pool time is always great for practicing your SCUBA skills. Club members may attend open pool time on Monday January the 16th from 7:30 pm-9:30 pm. New members are always welcome at our club, a one year membership is \$20.00/student and \$40.00/non-student.

For more information on any of these upcoming events please call Kevin Johnston at 472-3103.

## Start Accounting for Your Future.

### Here are some facts:

CGA graduates, with their training as professional accountants, broad business experience, computer literacy, and comprehensive knowledge are in steady demand by employers.

CGA graduates are employed in all segments of the economy including business, industry, government, public service and education.

Over 40% of CGA graduates hold senior executive positions including president, director, chief executive officer or controller.

The CGA study program, an advanced accounting education program, is Canada's first professional accounting program to fully integrate computer technology into its program of studies.

The CGA study program combines regular assignments, in-depth rational examinations after each course thus eliminating the need for a final comprehensive examination, and mandatory practical experience in order to prepare men and women for leading positions in financial management.

As a Certified General Accountant you will have a decided edge in tomorrow's career marketplace.

### CGA Courses (levels 1 - 4)

FA1 Accounting 1  
EM1 Economics 1  
LW1 Law 1  
QM2 Quantitative Methods 2  
FA2 Accounting 2  
FA3 Accounting 3  
MA1 Management Accounting 1  
FN1 Finance 1  
MS1 Mgmt Info Systems 1  
AU1 Auditing 1

### University of NB (Fred.) Equivalent courses

BA 1203 & 2203  
Economics 1000  
BA 3703 & 3704  
BA 2603 & 2604  
BA 3235  
BA 3236  
BA 2223 & 3227  
BA 2413 & 3424  
CS 1043  
BA 4238

## Tai Chi And Kung Fu Courses at UNB

Do you want to build up your health and enhance your concentration, will power, and flexibility and also learn skills for self-defense?

An experienced Chinese Tai Chi and Kung Fu instructor will be starting Tai Chi and Kung Fu Courses at Room 322 UNB Marshall D'Avray Hall on January 16 1995. The classes will be in every Monday and Thursday evenings. For registration or information please call anytime Ming Chen at 455-2524.

## UNB & STU FITNESS CLASS

STEP INTO '95

with

UNB & STU CAMPUS RECREATION

JANUARY 16 TO APRIL 28, 1995

WINTER 1995 REGISTRATION

Lady BEAVERBROOK RECREATION Office

Wed. JAN 11, Thurs. JAN 12, Fri. JAN 13

FROM 12:00pm TO 1:30pm & 4:30pm TO 6:30pm

FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION

CONTACT THE REC OFFICE

FITNESS CLASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY TO FRIDAY 12:30 TO 1:20PM

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY 4 TO 7PM

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY 5 TO 7PM

(NOON ONLY DURING EXAMS - MON, Wed & Fri)