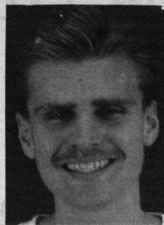


SPORTS



Gord Stech

Stats! Stats! Get yer stats!

Finally, we could have the best coach of the year race in NHL history. Since no coach improved his team by more than 30 points to automatically win the award, this year should be an eight-man race. Glen and Jean each get high marks for overcoming their respective

---piles of turmoil and disension to further improve the NHL's two most recent Stanley Cup winners. JD from Motown improved his 500 club into a c-note contender despite the Wings' galactic medical bill this season. Then there are the Terrys. True, the Smythe's Terry took over a talented team, but as a rookie he'll probably finish a crisp first overall. Terry from the Island might get 90 points and a Patrick pennant from a kid-bolted St. Citizens' Home that was supposedly dropping down for a visit with its Penguin & Devil neighbors. Terry from Bruin country is doing similar things with his boys. Then there's Terrible Ted who brought his team from the Adams bomb-shelter to just four points away from sixth overall... without a point-a-game man. And you can't ignore the made-for-Mafia look-alike from Hogtown just for working for Hal and making his team so "entertaining"... Yes, Campbell Conference (CC) teams do score more. As of a week ago, 20 out of the top 28 scorers were CC players. Nine out of the top 14 were from the Smythe. Ironically, only one player out of that top 28 was a Red Wing (Stevie). Detroit has been

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third in GF most of this year, yet their second highest point man is 45th overall (Gallant)... Which two second-year players are currently exclaiming "What sophomore jinx?!" (HINT: They'll probably finish in the top ten scoring next week and both wear the colours Royalty)... Hartford and Philadelphia had no 20-goal men at the All-Star break. The Whalers won't even

have one 30-goal shooter unless some of them switch their opaque-lead face-shields to standard plexiglass. Some Oilers have been employing some kind of mesh-targeting device, as they'll finish this season extremely close to a record six 40-goal hurters... Useless but interesting: The Sabres are winning by a little and losing by a lot. They're four games over .500 yet have a -19 GF/GA differential... Worst choice for a shadow: Brian MacLellan... Yes, I'd be in favour of changing the Art Ross race to a scoring average system as in baseball. But staying injury-free is a partly mental quality that many good athletes have. Wayne knew all about that for eight years. Besides, I don't have a calculator... Depth is becoming a NHL buzzword for good reason. There could be an invisible plague in the NHL this year as several teams have been devastated by injuries. Detroit has dressed 32 different players this year and they haven't even lost the most man-games due to injury. That award goes to the Stars who are somewhere in the 300s now. After Doug Crossman, the Flyers' next best iron-man has missed at least six games. Vigorous applause

for the Oilers' trainers, therapists, nutritionists, holisticians, etc., for once again helping the team to largely escape injury. They should get at least 12 players over the 75 GP mark... The Flames lead the league in some other categories too: Most men over 100 PIM (10), most men over 200 PIM (4), most point-a-game men (5), and highest +/- man (+43). OK, I know, yippee... Trade-talk: Hull and Bozek for Ramage and Wamsley? You know the saying, "You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours,?" Well STL GM Ron Caron just re-wrote it to, "You scratch my back and I'll give you a full-body massage and a hand job"... I would have said Buffalo for sure over the Bruins in round one but Moog should nix that chance.

Too bad for the Pens. If you're trading away young prospects for immediate quality help, don't go half-way. They already gave up Simpson and Joseph for Coffey, they may as well have snagged Moog. Even if they do finish fourth this year, the Pens have temporarily ruined their chances for a Cup in three or four years, when Craig and Chris will be in their prime and Paul won't.



Sullivan Trophy winner Sid Cranston shows a T-Bird.

Photo Rob Galbraith

Cranston, Drake, cap record setting years

by Alan Small

Bear forward Sid Cranston, who broke the CIAU record for assists and points, and tied the record for goals, won the Sullivan Trophy, which goes to the CIAU hockey nationals in Toronto last weekend.

Bear head coach Clare Drake won the CIAU coach of the year as well. Drake, who has won 660 games with the Bears in his illustri-



ous coaching career, previously won this award in the 1974-75 season.

Cranston also was named to the CIAU all-star team, along with Bear defenceman Parie Prof.

McGill University's Tim Iannone won the Cooper-CIAU most sportsmanlike award over the Bears Stacey Wakabayashi. Iannone, who was second in the CIAU in scoring, was also nominated in for the Sullivan Trophy.

The Sullivan Trophy has turned into a launching pad for the top

CIAU's star. Three of the last four years, the Sullivan Trophy winner has gone on to play in the National Hockey League.

Four years ago, Mike Ridley, who then was playing for the Manitoba Bisons, won the award, and is now with the Washington Capitals. The '84-85 winner Rob Whistle plays defence for the St. Louis Blues, while the '85-86 winner, John LeBlanc, was until recently playing a regular shift for the Vancouver Canucks.

The York Yeomen, the OUAAs champs, won the University Cup Sunday with a 5-3 win over the Western Ontario Mustangs. The Yeomen who have been at the nationals for the past four seasons, last won the cup in the '84-85 season when they defeated the Golden Bears 3-2.

The eventual winning goal was scored on a long slap shot by Kent Brimmer, a shot that Western netminder Mike James should have had. The goal, which came less than 30 seconds after the Mustangs tied it up, virtually broke the backs of Western, who were at the nationals for the second time in as many years.

York advanced to the final with a 4-3 victory over Canada West champions, the Calgary Dinosaurs. The Mustangs made the final game when they defeated the number one ranked UPEI Panthers 3-1.

was a junior and intermediate player with Middlesbrough, which is presently in the English second division.

"I'll expect a few swerves here and there," said Vickery of his first year in pro coaching. "The Brick Men cleared out some of their senior players, but they still have a strong nucleus, which will be the strength of the team."

His work at the training centre will also be a boon for recruiting for the Brick Men, as the top players in all of Alberta come through the training centre.

"We've got three under-18's," Vickery said, "they'll be good prospects for the team this year. Some young players from Vancouver are also coming to try out."

Vickery to take on Brick Man job

by Alan Small

Golden Bear soccer coach Len Vickery, who also serves as the Director of the Alberta Soccer Association's Regional Training Centre, will be the main man on the sidelines for the Edmonton Brick Men of the Canadian Soccer League this season.

Vickery, who has coached the Bears for three years now, will be joining at least eight current or former Golden Bears who play for teams in the CSL.

Vickery was able to find the time for the summer which away from the Regional Training Centre at the

U of A. Matter of fact, Vickery's appointment has the blessings of the ASA and the Canadian Soccer Association.

"I didn't know if they would allow me to leave my summer position," admitted Vickery.

Vickery's work in the summer slows down as most of the players at the training centre leave to play with senior select teams, the CSL, or with national squads, so the ASA let him take on the task of handling the Brick Men.

"It's the winter part of the program that is important," said Vickery of the training centre, "it's there

to ensure year round development."

One possible problem Vickery might encounter is that if the Brick Men do well, their season may last well into the month of September, when the Bears schedule starts for the new school term.

"There might be a bit of an overlap," Vickery said, "that will be one of the concerns that will need to be addressed." Vickery also said that there are plenty of qualified coaches at the training centre that could fill in.

Although Vickery is most noted for being the coach of the Golden

Bears, he is not paid by the university. He is paid for his work with the ASA, and the work he does with the university is compensated by the U of A's donation of playing fields at the Faculte St. Jean, the use of the Universiade Pavilion in the winter, and the office space.

The agreement to work with the Brick Men had to be agreed to by the Alberta Sport Council, who directly funds the training centre, but since the training centre is lightly used, they allowed Vickery to try his luck with pro soccer.

Vickery has had some experience with professional soccer, when he