

How to stop the brawn drain

Do athletes need subsidies?

In the last few years the subject of sports scholarships in Canadian universities has been a hot issue. Right now they are banned by the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union, the governing body of university sport. Many people would like to see that change. Others feel scholarships would do more harm than good. Howard Bloom of Carleton University offers some of the facts, and his views, on the subject.

by Howard Bloom
Carleton University

It's time for Canadian university sports to grow up. The issue of whether or not Canadian universities should hand out scholarships to athletes is of paramount importance. The decision made by the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union (CIAU) at next summer's

Hunger realized he would sit on the bench and watch his team play, but at the same time, he knew he wouldn't have to worry about the cost of university.

The opportunity to play at an American university was attractive from the start for Hunger, but the fact that he wouldn't have to pay for his education made it an offer he couldn't refuse.

We can't ignore the way we've treated university athletes...

meetings will likely determine the future of university sports in Canada.

The question is simple: Do we adopt the use of scholarships, or do we go back into our caves and hide from reality? It's time for Canadians to see the light: to reach out and attempt to improve the level of competition in university, and to thereby improve the university as a whole. Enrollment continues to drop at most Canadian universities. Students are dropping out to join the job market. As numbers continue to dwindle, how university attracts new blood will become an important issue.

University sports in Canada has long been a weak sister compared to other levels of sports. The games weren't interesting to watch, and the level of competition just wasn't very good.

A few years ago basketball coach Pat O'Brien attempted to lure to Carleton an outstanding player named Rick Hunger. Hunger instead decided to head down south to Providence College on an athletic scholarship.

In 1976 the Canadian Olympic basketball team stunned the experts by finishing fourth in the Montreal Olympics. Instead of singing out praises, Canadians

should have been waving the stars and stripes.

Eleven of the twelve members of the team had been trained south of the 49th parallel.

When the games were concluded, most of the team went back to school, in places like Colgate, Washington and Clemson.

Just imagine if some of them had come to Carleton. But why should they, if they can go to an

American school and not have to worry about the cost of university?

How many athletes have taken out costly loans that will have to be paid back once the days at Carleton have come to an end?

Think for a minute about the effect of having a member of the national team play basketball at Carleton. Ravens games would attract bigger crowds. More importantly, the team would gain



a great deal of publicity.

High school students would know that much more about Carleton if a sports hero attended the university. More importantly, the members of the press who have long ignored the university sports scene might finally pay some attention. University sports in the United States attract a great deal of publicity. Youngsters dream of growing up and going to their favorite college where they can cheer on their heroes. The same is hardly true of Canada.

Another important difference between American and Canadian college sports is attendance. A Saturday afternoon at Ohio State sees close to 100,000 people jam the football stadium, while less than 1,000 fans might attend a Ravens game. The product being offered in Canada is simply inferior. Anyone Canadians

might want to see has left for where the going is good. If we improve our athletic programs by keeping our athletes home, apathy among students towards games will decrease. It has to, if the product improves.

Over the past year, several major American schools have

their football teams barred from post season bowls because of similar problems.

There are however, over 400 schools that belong to the American National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). The people who don't want to play by the rules are in the minority. Most of them play by the rules, and do their best to insure that their students graduate.

In Canada it would be much easier to police the schools. There are only 35 universities that belong to the CIAU. Keeping checks would be easy.

To avoid too much abuse of the system, scholarships should be introduced on a gradual basis. At first they should be handed out to only a few athletes per team, similar to the way scholarships are handled in the NCAA's Division II and III.

In time, the number could be increased. The money for the aid can be easily found. Every university has several rich alumni. They could be approached about helping out. Money just isn't an issue.

It's time we grew up and treated university sports as a business. University sports shouldn't be just a bunch of boys coming out to play for the good old school on Saturday afternoon. Those days have past.

Many athletes have to forget about part-time jobs in order to play university sports. It just isn't fair that they have to miss out on the opportunity to make some much-needed money to put themselves through school. They shouldn't be paid to play, but they

A university in Arizona saw six members of its basketball team expelled...

come under fire because of the treatment of athletes at their schools. A university in Arizona saw six members of its basketball team expelled because of irregularities in their grades. Both UCLA and the University of Southern California have had

should be able to go to school and play sports without having to worry about going broke.

Come on Canada, let's get out of the dark ages, and into the 20th century. We can't ignore the way we've treated university athletes anymore.

TERRY JONESTOWN



Well Samurai coach has done it again. In his unending effort to free the Oilers of any leadership but His own, der Kaiser has traded B.J. MacDonald and Pat Price for 375 lbs. of substandard Ken-I-ration.

Yup, B.J. made the mistake of asking to be paid money without being named Gretzky. Without MacDonald to pull up their average the Oilers are now the Ugliest team in the league.

And Price? Well at least the editors liked him; he had a good name for headlines. How are you going to like reading, "The Lariviere is Right."

And how about those two oversized punching bags now wearing the glorious Oiler drip. Lariviere shows the potential to become hockey's Marvellous Marv (Throneberry). He has been touted as a defensive defenseman who will steady the younger players. That means he can't skate.

Pat Hughes. Well, every few years another player named Hughes is foisted on the sports media as "the muscle the Oilers need to be competitive." Eventually they all wind up in Dustbowl, Oklahoma, playing against the guys from *Slapshot*.

Commandant Klink... er Sather is impressed by Hughes' penalty statistics. That's a lot like being impressed by the number of goals a player has had called back because he kicked the puck in the net. Fortunately, as long as he is hurt, he can't hurt the team.

In the end Glen Slobber expects history to prove him right. He said a fire hydrant could score 40 goals playing with Gretzky and the continuing stream of players such as Cam Connor, Dave Semenko, Curt Brackenbury and Peter Driscoll is his attempt to prove it.

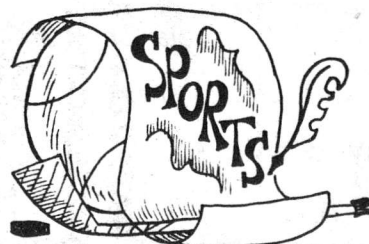
But over the next two weeks, as the Oilers bury themselves in the sediment of the standings, there is one comforting thought: Wayne Gretzky will get the play the Russians. Maybe he can even pick up a few bucks selling Superrifle jeans and Kremlincola.

Athletes to be honored

Every year about this time the University of Alberta Athletic Department holds its annual awards presentations banquet and dance.

Well this year is no exception. Colour Night, as it is called, will take place Friday evening at the Edmonton Inn. In between eating, drinking and dancing, awards to U of A athletes will be made. The male and female Athlete of the Year will also be named.

Tickets to the formal affair are available at the Athletic Department offices in the physical education building. Cost is \$14.00 per person.



Sports Quiz



by Dick Hancock

- 1) In what year did Roger Maris hit his record breaking 61st home run?
- 2) What do baseball players Mike Cuellar, John Mayberry and Joe Morgan all have in common?
- 3) Former major leaguer Gil Hodges was one of the unfortunate players on the first (1962) edition of the New York Mets. What team first did he establish in the first game of that season?
- 4) Which three major league teams has Ron LeFlore been a member of since being released from prison?
- 5) Although he holds the major league record for home runs, there is one milestone Hank Aaron never reached. What is it?
- 6) Canadian pitcher Ferguson Jenkins had a long and successful career with which National League team before moving on to the Texas Rangers of the American League?
- 7) What famous baseball player married Marilyn Monroe?
- 8) Another Canadian, an outfielder from Melville, Saskatchewan, has also made his mark in the major leagues. What's his name and who does he play for?
- 9) What brother combination holds the major league record for career home runs by brothers?
- 10) What player has appeared in more All-star games than any other major leaguer?

Answers page 2