

# Wanted: Neutral Referees

The Western Intercollegiate Basketball Conference has come a long way in the last few years.

Unfortunately, it still has a long way to go.

decides when a foul has been committed? Certainly not the players.

## HARD TO REFEREE

Moreover, no other sport is as difficult to referee. Basketball involves a fantastic amount of per-

And why did Saskatchewan lose four of six on the road while losing only once at home? And why did Manitoba win four of six at home while losing all of its road games?

Answer that, friend, and you've



**Alex Hardy**  
Sports Chatter

Solid evidence of this fact was provided last weekend, when the universities of Alberta and Saskatchewan met at Varsity Gym to decide the conference championship.

The fact that Alberta won both games, thereby capturing the title, was nice.

## REDUCED IMAGE

There was, however, a stigma attached to the victories. The stigma is one that has reduced the image of the Western Intercollegiate Basketball Conference to that of a child.

Saskatchewan coach Don Newton summed up the stigma best when he declared: "I won't coach in this league next year unless it grows up and appoints neutral officials."

His statement merits considerable attention.

In no other sport do the officials have more to say in determining the outcome of a game than in basketball.

As Sports Illustrated recently noted, in no other sport is a player permanently banished from a game for his mistakes. A baseball shortstop can boot a dozen ground balls and a football lineman can commit any number of violations without getting thumbed out by an official.

But in college basketball a player who is guilty of his fifth personal foul is waved to the bench for the rest of the game. And who

sonal interpretation on the part of the officials. This year's United States National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations case book contains 85 pages of official rule interpretations, yet still leaves much to the discretion of the referee.

What Newton is advocating is that a Western intercollegiate conference rule change be passed whereby neutral officials be imported for every game. It would eliminate Edmonton referees from officiating Edmonton games. It would eliminate referees from all Western intercollegiate cities from refereeing games involving their home team.

## HOME COOKING

Newton is inferring that home-town officials dish out home-town cooking. In effect he is saying that their decisions, which, as pointed out above must naturally involve a great amount of discretion, tend to favor the home team.

He points to the fact that Saskatchewan, normally a very clean team, was assessed 21 fouls in last Saturday's game, while Alberta received 12.

He is NOT accusing home-town officials of plotting against visiting teams. What he is saying is that certain forces are at work which make it extremely difficult for a home-town official to call a completely unbiased game.

"This league could be a good one, but it will continue to be bush-league until home-town officials are replaced by neutral officials," Newton argues.

I, for one, agree.

And Mr. Newton isn't talking through his hat. He backs up his argument with some interesting facts.

Why, for example, did the University of Alberta, Calgary team win all six of its home league games, yet lose all six on the road?

Why did the University of Alberta, Edmonton, team lose four of six games on the road, yet go undefeated at home?

won the argument.

## HOME FLOOR

Sure, the home floor, home baskets and home crowd make a difference. But Bob Babki and Trev Treen, Saskatchewan's sharpshooting guards, were able to pump in 25-foot jump shots just as easily in Edmonton as they did in Saskatoon.

Moreover, several players have admitted they play better on the road. They don't have to worry about going to classes, they can sleep all day, and they consider a hostile crowd all the more of a challenge.

I'm not insinuating for a moment that Mo Allen, who is in charge of assigning referees to the University of Alberta, Edmonton, games, and who referees many Alberta games himself, has an evil plot cooked up against visiting teams.

To the contrary, Mr. Allen is the fairest, and most competent, official this writer has seen work a local basketball game. He may become incensed at coaches now and again, but who wouldn't when one listens to some of the verbal garbage coaches have been known to toss the way of officials.

## RAISE STATURE

What I am suggesting is a quick and painless way for the Western Intercollegiate Basketball Conference to raise its stature.

By all means, let Mr. Allen referee games in Saskatoon, Winnipeg and Calgary. But for the good of the league, keep local officials from refereeing local games. Whenever the home team wins a close decision, the outcry of the visitors can be heard. It happens every time.

Mr. Newton's own school started the ball rolling this year when it decided to import officials for its home games from Regina. Surely the rest of the league can be man enough to follow suit.

"All I seek is a fair shake on the road," Newton says.

Admittedly, the change would cost the league a few bucks—but the increase in prestige that would follow would make the extra cost seem small.

Only when Don Newton's suggestion is adopted will the type of stigma that clouded Alberta's weekend victories be removed.

# Association Leader May Visit Campus

Paul Campbell, leader of the Moral Rearmament program in Canada, will likely speak at the University of Alberta in mid-March.

Exact date of the former University of Alberta student's visit has not been announced. Mr. Campbell is presently on a speaking tour of South America for the Moral Rearmament Association.

Now residing in Ottawa, Mr. Campbell was a 1938 U of A medical graduate. He also studied at the University of British Columbia.

Mr. Campbell was personal physician to MRA leader Dr. Frank Buchman for almost 20 years until Dr. Buchman's death in 1961.

## STUDENT MEET

Meanwhile, the local Moral Rearmament group is accepting applications to attend a world-wide students' conference, scheduled for Mackinaw Island, Mich. this summer.

Some 2,400 university and high school students from all parts of the

world attended last year's conference. Officials are hoping for 10,000 students this year.

The conference will be held in four three-week sessions starting June 14, according to U of A arts student Susan Bremness, who attended the 1964 sessions.

The conference aims at developing both the body and mind.

This year's program will aim at increased physical fitness of delegates. During tests taken at last year's conference, students improved 40 per cent on the average in physical well-being during one 25-day session.

## KEY SPEAKERS

Key speakers, including representatives from the U.S. State Department, senators and educators, will speak to students.

Also included will be a work shop program, in which delegates will be trained in such fields as journalism, drama, art and photography.

Scholarships will be raised to help students who require financial aid in order to attend the conference, says Vernon T. L. Eriksson, Moral Rearmament representative in Edmonton.

# Campus Bowlers Topple Calgary Stane Reps Seek Honor

Edmonton prevailed in a U of A vs UAC bowling tournament at Windsor Bowl last weekend.

Three events, men's team, women's team and mixed team, made up the tournament. The victory gave Edmonton possession of the Windsor Cup.

Edmonton defeated Calgary 6,756-6,401 in the men's competition. Edmonton's women's team won by a 5,636-5,004 aggregate, while the Edmonton mixed squad whipped Calgary 5,897-5,011.

Edmonton's Mike Hay won the men's individual title with a 254 average. Dave Gross of Calgary was second with a 228 average.

Marianne Holzer of Edmonton copped the women's crown with a 222 mark, well ahead of Calgary representative Sally Stefaniuk's 193-pin average.

Fraser Spears and Cathy Maloff of Edmonton captured top placing in mixed doubles, compiling a 1,580 pinfall for the three games. Second were Marna Marsh and Barry Copping of Edmonton with a 1,473 total.

Alberta's representatives to the WCIAA men's curling championships left Thursday for Regina, site of the two-day 'spiel.

Skipping the Edmonton team is Greg Symington, an education student. Other members are Malcolm Brown, third; Dick Sandilands, second; and lead Wayne Pascoe.

The Symington foursome emerged undefeated from the local varsity playdowns two week ago. A record 59 teams competed for the right to represent U of A.

Symington's rink scored a major upset in winning the playdowns. Rinks skipped by former Canadian schoolboy king Wayne Saboe and Wayne McElroy were expected to dominate the bonspiel.

Symington trimmed Jack Beach's defending champion rink in the final game. It was the second time Symington had beaten Beach in two days.

# Teachers Wanted

The Fairview School District No. 50, Fairview, Alberta, requires teachers at all grade levels for the 1965-66 term.

Interested student teachers may arrange for an interview with the Superintendent, Mr. D. J. Dibski on either March 4 or 5 by booking an appointment now with the National Employment Service, Administration Building.

(NES Phone 433-6242)

# PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

The Royal Canadian Air Force has openings available for physiotherapists for service in Canadian Forces Medical Hospitals across the country.

An applicant must be a registered female physiotherapist, Canadian citizen under 35 years of age and able to meet Armed Forces enrolment and medical standards.

For further information or to make application contact:

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9947 - 109 Street, Edmonton, Alberta

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