

Speaking on Sports

with RICHARD VIVONE

In the midst of my wanderings last week, I happened to drop into the University Ice Arena for some relaxation and solitude.

But no such luck. There was a strange bunch of yellow sweated gentlemen moving about in customary hockey-like fashion.

A bit jolted by the unexpected surprise, I checked the surroundings again but my suspicions were confirmed. The team on the ice were the senior Edmonton Nuggets.

But damn it all anyway. There were a few familiar faces in the crew. Being weak and weary, I sat down and pondered.

Ah, it all came back in one massive headache. We ran a picture of one of the skaters in the paper last week. I ran up to the office, tore through the pages and, disgustedly peered down at the golfer or hockey player.

He was none other than Brian Bennett—a big, strong kid who played with the Memorial Cup champion Edmonton Oil Kings junior hockey club.

If he goes to university, what was he doing with the Nuggets—a group of run-of-the-mill old has-beens and former pros?

Being a student, this correspondent figures he is knowledgeable enough to realize that students take up a lot of time and one can't go galavanting around the country (Saskatchewan) and expect to get decent grades.

Since our boy quit the Kings this year, we felt this was done to concentrate on assignments and classes.

While glorifying in this fantasia, another familiar face skated across the screen. That guy is in my English 383 class, I bellowed.

And sure enough, you guessed it. Ted Rogers, a neat, smooth skating little centre ice man was putting out for the Nuggets too.

But back to the Land of the Idle Mind.

English 383 is a tough course with a lot of material to read and essays to hand in. Time, concentration and work is required.

But what the hell! Who's kidding who? This is not on their minds—either one of them. Mr. Orlesky or Warwick or whoever is in charge of the senior club must have dangled some pretty bait in front of the ex-Oil Kings. Bait so good that the players are taking a severe chance in blowing their entire school year over a few hockey trips and other less important inducements (like maybe cold cash!).

The Nuggets are in the Western Canadian Senior Hockey League that has members all the way from Calgary in the west to Moose Jaw and Regina in the East.

Since the Saskatchewan entries outnumber the Alberta entries, the club has to make a fair number of trips to the wheat province. That takes time, time, time!

Are these boys going to pick up more valuable experience under the guiding hand of Mr. Solinger than they will find in a Green and Gold sweater?

Do they enjoy practicing at 9 o'clock in the evening at the Jasper Place Arena one night and then lugging all the equipment to the University Arena the next night for another session?

Just think, fellas. Practice at 5:30 during the week, have the evenings free, play only a half dozen road trips—always on weekends and never miss a Monday class.

Ah, that sounds too good to be true, doesn't it.

It's also too incredible to believe they are playing for the Nuggets.

Schizophrenic 'Birds prefer American game

By DAN MULLEN
Ubsysey Sports Staff Writer

VANCOUVER—The University of British Columbia's football Thunderbirds are preparing resignedly this week to play the last four games of their nine-contest schedule.

The Thunderbirds are perhaps the most schizophrenic college football team in existence in 1966 playing as many as five games of their schedule against United States competition under American rules, then turning to the Western Canada Intercollegiate Athletic Association for their remaining four games.

And no one connected with UBC football likes the situation one bit.

"We'd rather not play the Canadian schools at all," head coach Frank Gnuip told a Vancouver press conference before UBC's opening game this fall.

Half the room replied with ominous rumblings, and a good Canadian sportscaster whined that he'd like to be told just why UBC doesn't like the WCIAA and Canadian competition.

The reason, as Gnuip pitifully informed his questioner, is that it's just more fun playing against American college teams.

"The rules favor the players in the American game," Gnuip says.

"I don't know who's supposed to benefit from the rules in Canadian football."

Gnuip says 95 per cent of his players prefer the American game, and not just because of the rule differences.

AMERICAN REFS GOOD

One four-year veteran put it this way:

"When you play the American teams, the game is cleaner and faster. They hit you hard, but it

all happens before the whistle blows."

"The officiating is usually good—refs in the States control the violence, not the game."

So what, he was asked, is different about the Canadian college game?

"I've never seen home-town refereeing the way it's done on the prairies. The players there seem to think that tough football means committing as many undetected penalties as they can.

"And many of the guys you play against are so awkward you can get

hurt in a freak accident."

This year the football Birds have been to California (where they lost 9-7 to the Humboldt State College Lumberjacks), and to Honolulu, Hawaii (where they succumbed to the University of Hawaii Rainbows 27-6).

So don't blame the Birds who have won the WCIAA football titles, if their hearts just aren't in it when they take the field against the Silver Sasquatches from Broken Antler, Alberta.

After all, they've been down in the Big League Country.

Women interested in competitive volleyball are invited to attend tryouts for the intervarsity team. Excellent coaching is offered by Miss Carson who has scheduled the tryouts for Mondays and Wednesdays from 5-7 p.m. in the West Gym of the Physical Education Building.

"HOWLINGLY FUNNY"

—Dorothy Crowther, New York Times

"BRILLIANT"

—Brendan Gill, The New Yorker

(ADULT)

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