

Females fitter

Canadian female students have scored a victory in the physical fitness division of the battle of the sexes.

Females tested over three months in 1983 between ages seven and 17 were 20 per cent fitter than their counterparts of 15 years ago, while male students are only 7.5 per cent more fit, a national physical fitness study compiled by a University of Ottawa professor shows.

Girls between the ages of 15 and 17 made the biggest gain in the study of 3 186 children in 147 schools throughout Canada. They are 33 per cent fitter

than the female students of 1968. Boys between 11 and 13 made no gain in their fitness levels. The next step will be to compare the fitness levels of Canadian students with those of other countries, University of Ottawa professor Roger Gauthier said. "Fifteen years ago girls over the age of 12 stopped participating in sports," said Mr. Gauthier. "Sports was not something that girls did. This has changed in the past ten years."

He cited more interesting sports programs in the schools along with government programs such as Participaction and the Canadian Fitness Awards as reasons for the fitness improvement.

Grass is greener for Omnisport

In November 1981, as heavy rains drenched England, a British Broadcasting Corporation television crew went out into the streets of London to shoot some flood scenes. After showing cars up to their hoods in water, the cameras panned to an unbelievable sight: on the Queen's Park Rangers' soccer field a game of soccer was in progress on a surface that appeared to be bone dry.

If the Ontario firm of Omnisport International Limited, world marketer of the artificial turf, had paid thousands of dollars to an advertising agency, it could not have come up with a better promotion for its product.

Omniturf's porosity, however, is only one of the qualities that is making it a best-seller on the world market.

"As an ex-ballplayer, I know that soccer's an entirely different game when it's played on synthetic turf," said Barry Davies, marketing director for the St. Catharines firm. "The game is more entertaining to the audience, for one thing, because it's faster — muddy fields slow it down considerably.

"The most amazing thing about the Queen's Park Rangers' experience with Omniturf has been that the club's injury rate has dropped by 35 per cent, a major improvement for any team in any sport," he said.

Burns a concern

Mr. Davies said the major concern players have had about artificial turf is that it can cause skin burns if they slip and fall.

"Unlike competitive nylon products such as Astroturf, polypropylene Omniturf doesn't retain the static electricity that builds up in the course of a game," he said. "In fact, in all of the games played on the QPR field — and that includes rugby and field hockey — there hasn't been one burn recorded."

Recently, three British groups signed orders worth £2 million to have recreational facilities surfaced with Omniturf synthetic grass. Six multi-purpose ball play areas — each the size of a football pitch — will be built at Sunderland in Brent, West London and at Rhondda.

In the past year Omnisport has installed more than 200 tennis courts (at a cost of £8 000) in Europe.

The company has sold turf in 17 countries — in Europe, the Middle East, Australia and Africa.

Last year's report of immigrant source countries



Preliminary statistics for 1982 indicate that more immigrants came to Canada from Britain than from any other country. The following preliminary statistics, compiled by the Immigration Statistics Program Data Directorate of Employment and Immigration Canada, list the top ten immigrant source countries.

Britain	—	16 186
USA	—	8 945
Poland	—	8 134
India	—	7 535
Hong Kong	—	6 378
Vietnam	—	5 791
Philippines	—	4 908
Federal Republic of Germany	—	4 349
China	—	3 532
Guyana	—	3 402

In total, according to preliminary statistics, 119 018 immigrants came to Canada in 1982.

Refugees

The following list, based on statistics from Employment and Immigration Canada's

Refugee Policy Division, indicates the number of refugee landings in Canada in 1982.

These landings represent (i) refugees and designated class members who arrived with immigrant visas during the period shown and (ii) refugees and designated class members who arrived previously with Minister's Permits and who were landed in Canada during the period shown.

Eastern Europe	9 328
Indochina	5 621
Latin America	413
Africa	372
Middle East	272
Other convention refugees selected abroad	189
Total refugees and designated class immigrants selected abroad	16 195
Convention refugees granted protection in Canada	626
Total	16 821