

Sports

Women's hockey on bottom rung

Carl Grame Stewart was a self-proclaimed W.A.S.P. male chauvinist pig. "A typical man," as one of these purple disciples might concur, Stewart played his only year of NHL hockey for the Pittsburgh Penguins in the first year of expansion.

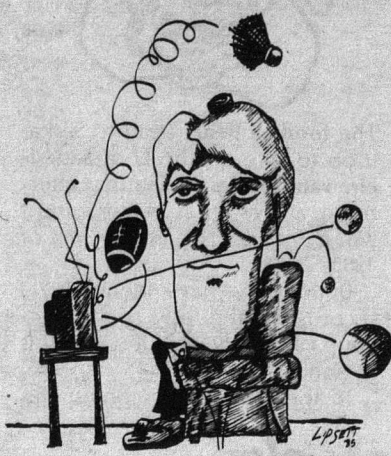
Margaret Phinney, by rights, shouldn't be able to stand this man. She is a playing coach for the Pandas hockey team.

That's right, Pandas. Women trying to play what has traditionally been one of the most male-dominated sports around.

So why do Phinney and Stewart see eye to eye on the issue of women's hockey here at the U of A?

Because one day about a year ago Carl Grame Stewart decided to go and see the women that claimed that they were as good as men when it came to strapping on the blades for some old-fashioned, full contact with slapshots ice hockey.

"I went to see the Edmonton Chimos play in the Canadian championships, just to see what it was like," recalls Stewart. "Well I



by Mark Spector

walked into the arena and immediately heard this enormous crash. I turned around and went back outside and asked the guy if he was sure that this was where the women were playing.

That crash turned out to be a body-check, and Stewart has been hooked on women's hockey ever since.

Right now, the pair are simply trying to create some enthusiasm amongst the females on campus.

"In the past, most coaches have been brothers and boyfriends of the players," says Phinney, "and they have taught the goon hockey that they learned from their coaches. "We want women to know that it isn't all hitting and slapshots but that hockey can just be a fun game to play."

Stewart says that the only prerequisites are the ability to skate and the willingness to be taught the game of hockey.

But there is only one catch.

You have to be able to practice on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 2:00 p.m. That is fairly impossible for most students.

Stewart is claiming discrimination because of the definite lack of cooperation that has been displayed by Athletics towards his cause. "I've asked for better ice time and have been turned down. We can't get equipment, we can't get a decent ice time, I don't even have

pucks," claims a disgruntled Stewart.

Part of the team's problem is that they are not a varsity team but only a club. Clubs are not eligible for Athletics funding as, for instance, the hockey or football Bears are.

But their main stumbling block is the fact that there is no varsity women's puck team in Canada West. One university is going to have to be the first to take the big step towards equal rights between the blue lines. But regardless of who takes the initiative, it's going to be a while until it happens.

"Women's hockey isn't recognized anywhere, so as much as I'd like to help them out there isn't much that I can do," explains Coordinator of Women's Athletics Sue Natrass.

"In order for them to get varsity status, they have to have good competition," says Natrass.

So the vicious circle syndrome sets in. No competition, no team. No team, no competition.

And concerning the poor ice

time, the Pandas have nobody to blame but themselves. "Unfortunately, they didn't even request the ice time until the third week of September. By then all of our ice time is allotted," Natrass says.

This is a good program that is destined to go places. Carl Grame Stewart is an experienced hockey player who is genuinely interested in teaching women how to play hockey and play it well. If they ever get into an intervarsity league they will no doubt taste success.

But the Pandas hockey team will have to be patient.

The rowing club has to pay for pool time in which to train. Other clubs have existed without the help of Athletics for years now.

Right now, the Pandas will have to forge their own trail without the financial support from Athletics that they claim is necessary. Once they can piece together the puzzle of women's hockey in Canadian universities, the Athletic department will no doubt offer a helping hand. Until then, they're on their own.

X-country takes two of four

by Ashram Mustapha

The U of A cross-country runners finally broke their winning habit last weekend at the Provincial Championships in Calgary, winning two out of the four team categories.

The Junior Women's team beat the Calgary Spartans club over a 4k course. Scoring a clean win for the Pandas was Barb Russell (1st), Kirston Wadsen (2nd), Mave Muldowney (3rd), Karen MacMillan (5th), and Heather Fuhr (6th).

The Junior Men's team was also successful last weekend, beating both the Calgary Spartans and the U of C. Tom Bessai (3rd), Mike Lind (4th), Dennis Colburn (6th), Sven Appiersback (7th) and Manuel Rodriguez (9th) covered the 8k distance for the Bears.

However, the Open Womens team has to settle for second place to the Calgary Spartans on the 5k circuit. Coach Jim Haddow attributes the loss to the Panda runners being split between the Open and Junior categories.

Marlene Jugeleit (6th), Cindy Liv-

ingstone (9th), Marg Fedyna (13th) and Anita Matygi (17th) scored for the Pandas.

The team with the toughest breaks was the Open Mens, who were edged out of first place by the Calgary Thunderbolts.

Scoring for the Open Men was Scott MacDonald (8th), Angus MacDonald (10th), Jerry Rose (11th), Brian Newlove (13th), and Darren Winkelar (22nd). Unfortunately, one of the team's strongest runners, Carl Bessai, suffered a sprained ankle and was forced out of the difficult 12k competition.

The Provincial meet served basically as a team trial to decide which runners would compete in the Canada West meet on Nov. 2, where six other Universities will be vying for the top two places.

Last week's 5k Dual Meet between the Chasquis Masters Men and the Pandas was "not the best" according to coach Jim Haddow. The Pandas scored 37 points while the Masters had 21.

Intramurals

After a fun-filled and hard regular season, flag football playoffs are now underway. In Division 1, Delta Upsilon 'A', the "A" conference champs will take on Pink Flamingo Repair in one semi-final match. The "B" conference champs Law 'A' will go against the Civil Engineering team in the other semi-final game.

The winners of the two semi-final games will play on Saturday, October 26th at 11:00 a.m. on Corbett East to determine the '85 division championship.

Campus Recreation - Women's Intramurals will be holding a Women's Intramural Hockey Tournament on Monday, November 11th, 1985 from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. in the Varsity Arena. Players that wish to enter a team in this year's



tourney must do so by Tuesday, November 5th at 1:00 p.m. in the Gold Office. Some equipment required for the tourney will be supplied by Campus Recreation but not all. Participants must have their own skates and sticks. A limited number of shinpads are available so participants are encouraged to bring their own where possible.

On Sunday, October 20th, the Men's Intramural Soccer league

will have their '85 playoff semi-final and final games.

In Division 1, the Latin Connection will play Geology 'A' for the championship.

Division 2 will see S.P.A.T.T. go against the 'A' team in one semi-final and Kappa Sigma of the semi-final games will go against each other in the final to be played at 12:00 p.m.



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PLEASE NOTE:

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