

Campbell

... looks at sports

The hockey Bisons came back from Turin with a bad record as the press screamed on with cries of professionalism, bad lighting, bad refereeing, and any other handy excuse.

It could have been any international hockey tournament in the last few years—every time the press screams, and every time the Canadians slip further down the standings.

The way the tears are freezing on the sport's room floors, you'd think the criers are actually thinking of playing hockey.

A lot of good that would do. But it isn't as bad as it looks. The National team is the first stumbling step in the right direction Canadian hockey has taken in recent history. There is no reason why we can't send an all-star university team to the Universiade.

You could base it on one club—this year it would have been the Bisons or the Bears—and add outstanding groups of players from other teams.

I think Martin, LeBlanc and Harper would function reasonably well with a couple of Bison defencemen. Sure the Bisons have got some good hockey players, but after you take out the Jim Irving line they are a second rate club.

If you put three powerful college lines on the ice, you might have a chance.

It might take a few days practice to break them in, but I think the boys would make the sacrifice.

College hockey players aren't that bad. When the fortified Oil Kings met the National team, the Austin Smith-Wilf Martin-Brian Harper line was the best on the ice, sinking two of the three Oil King goals in 4-3 losing cause.

Incidentally, the game was played under international rules, and the boys had no trouble. The different rules were named as a contributing factor in the Bison drubbing.

But what really makes me mad is the following statement in John Wilson's article from Turin.

"Compared to the Russian team's Spartan-like schedule of daily workouts, Canada did not practice once. The team was busy taking tours of Torino's sprawling Fiat factory or visiting nightclubs and signing autographs."

After this he has the nerve to suggest seven consecutive days of hockey were too much and implies this should be changed. The impression I get is the Bisons just weren't serious about playing hockey. So the Russians are in better condition—what the hell do you expect, they go to workouts, while the Canadians exercise other muscles.

And this seven days of hockey in-a-row bit, this is right out in left field. If all you have to do is play one game a day with no travelling between games, the schedule is a picnic. It may be monotonous with hockey every day—but not for a hockey player.

But even so, says Wilson, the Russians have changed the style of play. Listen, Wilson, hockey is hockey and a good team beats a bad team any day of the week. The Bisons just aren't a good enough team.

The Montreal Canadians could beat the Russians without changing their style of play.

According to Wilson, the Russians break quickly, and if you are forechecking, they trap one or two forwards. The problem here is forechecking not the Russians. They pass the puck well, but I'd like to see these Russians take the puck or a game away from fellows like Stan Mikita who like to hold the puck.

What we have here is the usual problem. A bunch of foreigners who play good foreign hockey and a team of Canadians playing bad Canadian hockey. Good teams win.

Next time around let's put a good team on the ice. There are enough good college hockey players in this country to build a team which should take second place.

And who knows—with the right attitude and a little practice they might even beat the Russians.

Bison performance disappointing at world hockey tournament

By JOHN MILLER

TORINO, Italy (CUP)—As expected, a Canadian hockey team came to the 1966 World University Winter Games to trade souvenirs and lose to the Russians.

Unexpectedly, Canada also lost to Finland, 8-3, and Rumania, 5-0. Had it not been for the spirited 5-3 conquest of favored Czecho-

slovakia, the University of Manitoba Bisons, 1965 Canadian Intercollegiate champions, would have lowered the Maple Leaf abruptly to half mast in international hockey circles.

Father David Bauer's idea of a university based international team never looked so impossible.

There are reasons, of course.

Intramural basketball finishes with flourish

By ALEX HARDY

One of the wildest finishes in recent men's intramural basketball history is assured tonight at the new Education Building gym.

No less than four teams have a solid chance at the first division title entering tonight's final set of games. Four contests are on tap, starting at 7 p.m. Spectators are welcome.

Presently tied for first are Lambda Chi Alpha, the pre-Christmas champ, and the surprisingly strong Physical Education entry. But none of the five teams in the round-robin playoff are undefeated.

Both LCA and Phys Ed sport 2-1 won-loss records. Delta Upsilon and Dutch Club are next with 1-1 marks, with only Psychology (0-2) appearing out of contention.

Division II also finishes up tonight, barring a tie for first. Four games are scheduled, starting at 7 p.m. in the Education gym. Physical Education "C" leads with a 3-0 slate, but Latter Day Saints "B" are right behind at 2-1. Lower Residence "B" (1-1), and Arts and Science "B" and Engineering "C" (both 0-2) trail.

In first division playoff action, Lambda Chi rebounded from its opening-night loss to Dutch Club and won two straight. Its latest was a hard-fought 43-35 decision over Delta Upsilon, thanks to a 14-point final-quarter splurge.

Captain Neil Bowker and Marty Klipper paced the victory with 12 points each. Ed Molstad added eight. Doug Krenz hooped 10 in a losing cause, with Don Sheldon contributing eight, Wayne Shaw seven.

Behind 19-11 at half-time, DU rammed home 18 third-quarter points to enter the final stanza with a 29-29 tie. But they are out-classed the rest of the way and could manage only six points.

Physical Education overcame a 21-16 first-half deficit to trim Dutch Club 53-41. Gil Mather and Pete Tyler netted 16 and 12 points, respectively, for the winners. Dutch Club got yeoman service from Don Holmes, who found the range for 17 markers.

The Phys Eders used a 17-point third-quarter to take the lead, then flipped in 20 points in the last 10 minutes to coast home.

Physical Education "C" got a stiff battle from Lower Residence "B" before emerging 52-45 victors. Earlier, they routed LDS "B" 47-26 and are assured of at least a first-place tie.

Ken Short and Bryan Rakoz led the win over Residence with 16 points apiece. Against LDS Rakoz potted 21 and Short 15.

Excessive fighting in men's intramural hockey is causing the administration worries. Director Fraser Smith says any game in which two or more men are ejected for fighting will determinate at that point.

"The administration frowns greatly on match misconducts," adds assistant Don Felstad.

Latest intramural point standings including cross-country skiing show Medicine in first place with 1,108 points. Engineering ranks second with 871, Phi Delta Theta third with 838.

Compared to the Russian team's spartan-like schedule of daily workouts, Canada did not practice once. The team was busy taking tours of Torino's sprawling Fiat factory or visiting night clubs and signing autographs.

"They've had it too easy," admitted Manitoba's athletic director Bud Fraser, "They weren't thinking about hockey."

The team was alarmingly overconfident before the Finland game. Canada beat the Finns 7-2 on the first day of the tournament, but the game was played the same day the Finland team arrived by train.

In their second encounter Finland took advantage of sloppy Canadian play to build up a 7-0 lead after two periods.

The game of hockey has changed since they first batted rubber in the 1800s on the frozen St. Lawrence. The darting, durable, machine-like Russians have changed it.

"I'm convinced we can't play Canadian-style hockey and beat them", says team captain Chuck Meighen, "I saw that when they beat our national team in Winnipeg."

Russia has brought soccer tactics to hockey.

You can't forecheck them because they break quickly and trap one or two forwards. Skating with them is like chasing gazelles.

The answer is superb conditioning and the ability to play the puck and not the man.

The Russians defeated the Bisons 6-2 and after the game the Canadians admitted they were a better team.

They had come up against the Iron Curtain version of college hockey—professionalism is a mor-tarboard.

Two Rumanians were policemen back home, posted to a precinct. But neither had ever been there. They just played hockey and their pay cheques were sent to the rink.

Canadian defencemen George Butterworth told of a conversation with another Rumanian player: "He said we talk of professionalism in Canada, but we said we really did not know what it is."

The Canadian team came from one university, while the Finns, Russians, Czechs, and Italians sent all-star teams and the Rumanians sent their national team. The Russian squad included two players from the national 'B' team.

Along with the usual alibis of poor lighting (true) and poor refereeing (very true) comes the complaint that the Canadians had to play hockey on seven consecutive days, meeting the Russians on the first day of the final round without proper preparation.

Every team had a tough schedule, and this probably detracted from play towards the end of the tournament.

The fact remains that Canada came to Torino never having played under international rules.

And the team was not well enough conditioned to play full-out past the fifth game of the tournament when they beat Czechoslovakia.

All Canada's expenses in Italy were financed by the Federation International du Sport Universitaire. The team was laden with souvenirs by the Manitoba government. Half the travelling expenses were paid by the federal government.

The Bisons did not finish among the first three teams in Torino, but maybe they taught Canada a lesson.

Maybe some blustery winter morning when 1,500 miles of Canada's prairies are frozen and mercury collapses in thermometers—just maybe, a bunch of kids in Flin Flon or Saskatoon or Moose Jaw will be out on the lake—playing soccer.

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