

Small Calgary notebook

by Alan Small

CALGARY — THEY'VE GOT IT ALL IN COWTOWN... The brand spanking new Jack Simpson Gymnasium was the facility for the basketball game this weekend. The 3,000 seats would be an imposing sight if they were full as they are quite steep and are right up in the action. It also has a 200 metre track on the upper level that doesn't reek of rubber, sweat, and beer like the Butterdome does. It adjoins the Olympic Oval, home of the speedskating events. The only indoor speedskating oval in the world, the Olympic Oval is big enough to have TWO international size hockey rinks in the infield. The U of A would be licking their chops for the extra ice, as Varsity Arena is as packed as can be and could be used more only if there were more hours in a day...

Not only that, the new complex holds The Pop Stand, a favorite

hide-out for the staff working the game. Firmly ensconced in U of C Sports Information Director Jack Neumann's office, The Pop Stand gives the staff a free chance to curl 12-ounce weights during intermissions.

A COUPLE OF CIAU OFFENSIVE LINEMEN made it down to the East-West Shrine game down in Palo Alto, California. A Dinosaur offensive guard, Craig Watson, played on the west side, while Western Ontario center Pierre Vercheval played for the east along with Heisman nominee Don MacPherson, who tossed balls to Montrealer Tommy Kane with Syracuse University all year. Both Watson and Vercheval were nominees for the Metras Trophy, for the top lineman in the nation. Vercheval won the award, Watson was runner-up.

Watson is the third Dino to make the Shrine Game. Tom Spoletini, an

offensive tackle, and Kent Warnock, a defensive tackle, both represented the west in previous years. Both are playing with the Calgary Stampeders. Mike Schad played with the east the year he went in the first round of the NFL draft to the LA Rams. An offensive tackle out of Queen's, Schad was on injured reserve most of last year and this year was learning the NFL from Pro Bowl OT Dennis Harrah.

DINOSAUR BASKETBALL COACH Gary Howard is a quick wit at post-game interviews but during time-outs it's his players that have the sharp tongues.

"I said that when we get the ball call a time out," Howard said to his team late in the second game between the Dinos and the Bears, "unless you get a breakaway lay-up." That is when freshman guard Greg Kern said, "You want me to dunk it." Against Victoria earlier in the year, Kern made a breakaway dunk and got a technical for hanging on the rim.

"It's an adventure every night," quipped Howard.

player's chance at a clear-cut scoring chance, and not receive a penalty for it because that kind of obstruction is now legal? Scandalous.

I have one adjective for today's backchecking: cowardly. If you have to resort to this business of tugging at, slashing, or hooking a guy who's skating by you, then you should be penalized for it.

My solution? Something along the lines of calling a minor penalty every time the blade of one player's stick touches another player above the waist. If it takes a year of three-hour games to get used to, then let it happen. Dino Ciccarelli and Dave Brown are only two recent additions to a list of players who are taking 8-15 game "breaks" to tell NHL execs what I'm telling you now. And until new rules are enforced, that list will become longer than John Ziegler's list of "things to do NEXT year".

Smith's coaching criticized

cont. from p.13

Sporting a bandage on her thumb as the result of a training injury, she made the tournament all-star team as a power hitter. "Barb has a cannon of an arm, but the cannon used to shoot all different directions," said Smith.

"Now, it's controlled. She used to smoke them out of bounds, but now she knows when to hit, when to use the half-speed shot. I have a lot of praise for her."

Smith is also still trying to adjust for coaching after years of playing the game. "You have to see the big picture. I've been able to sit back a little bit more. You know, you see a bad call and I don't go as nutso as I used to — it's not going to kill us, and I have a lot of confidence in our players. It's a pretty big adjustment, but it's one I had to make. I've got a ton of work to do (in learning how to coach)."

Perhaps the best insight into Suzi Smith, coach, came from Tracy Mills discussing Suzi Smith, player. "She isn't six-foot-four, and she couldn't jump a 45 inch vertical, but she was on the national team for years,



Suzi Smith inspired her troops Saturday.

played in the Olympics, things like that." She seems to be teaching her team how to do that.

Ciccarelli's stick oath

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says, get this, TEN GAMES! YAAAHAAHAAHAAHAAH! It'll be a hit! It's the funniest thing since Toronto CITY POLICE issued a warrant for Dino's arrest!

But I digress. The real point, is that it's NOT funny anymore. I know Dino doesn't always carry his own stick like a table hockey player does, but he's only doing what almost every other player in the NHL has adopted as a religion. He's using his stick for self-protection, and "defensive" hockey.

"This is my stick. There are many like it, but this one's mine. My stick is my best friend. I must use it on my opponent before he uses it on me."

Full Plastic Faceshield. In the NHL.

Didn't think it'd ever come to this. And it's not new.

Quebec's Peter Stastny totalled up all the stitches he acquired during the course of one season a few years back. Guess the total. If you said triple digits you're close. 300-plus and you're right on. Why do you think Minor Hockey League kids look like little Robo-cops today? Why do you think there are fewer of them?

But you know who the biggest losers are? You and me. Let's face it, all the puck-less stickwork is ruining hockey's pureness. When was the last time you saw an honest breakaway without a defending player somehow impeding the offensive player's progress with his stick just enough to destroy the offensive

LITERARY CONTEST INFO:

Deadline for all entries: 4 pm Feb. 12

All entries must be typewritten and double-spaced, with name, address and ID number on a separate page.

Maximum Lengths:

Short poem: 25 lines

Long poem: 200 lines

Short story: 3000 words

Note: poems counted by lines!



Submit entries with self-addressed stamped envelope to:

Elaine Ostry,
The Gateway
Rm. 282, S.U.B.
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Edmonton, AB
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Only 2 entries each for poetry categories
only 1 entry each for short story category

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