

# View From the Cheap Seats

by Mark Savoie

Hockey season has officially begun, with the NHL now firing on all fronts. As a result Canadians across this country will be having hockey never far from their minds until the Stanley Cup finals are decided. I'm picking Montreal, but admittedly, I'm more than just a little biased.

Hockey season in Canada is not just reserved for the NHL. There are several minor leagues, most notably the AHL, three major junior hockey leagues, university hockey, high school hockey, senior hockey, and countless recreational leagues. Beyond that, hockey, which in its modern form is a purely Canadian sport, has become such an international sport that Canada hasn't won the Olympic Gold since 1952; and there are hockey leagues in such disparate places as Saudi Arabia. As an international sport only soccer (football) has a broader grassroots appeal.

There is excitement at the NHL level because it seems that several teams have a shot at the cup. Edmonton is defending champion, but without Jari Kurri they seem ripe for a fall. Boston won the Prince of Wales Conference but both Montreal and Buffalo have made moves to improve their weaknesses, noticeably the acquisitions of Denis Savard and Dale Hawerchuk by the Canadiens and Sabres respectively. The Norris Division is no longer the joke it once was, and in the Smythe Division both Winnipeg and Calgary are legitimate divisions. And who can count out Wayne Gretzky, even if he is with the ancient Los Angeles Kings.

In minor hockey the excitement around here revolves around the return of the AHL to Fredericton. The Fredericton Express are now unlamented, and the presence of the Fredericton Canadiens is heralded by even those who loathe the entire Canadiens organization. The Express left a bad taste in this city's mouth but hopefully a classy club like the Canadiens will treat Fredericton with respect, something that couldn't be said for the Nordiques organization. The games will be at the Aitken Centre, here on the UNB campus.

Major junior hockey is usually ignored in this part of the country, but this year the excitement comes from the Oshawa Generals, in the form of Eric Lindros. Lindros is touted as having Gretzky's mind in Lemieux's body. He's also touted as being the world's most overrated hockey player. Who's right? Who knows? This season will tell.

Last year UNB had its most exciting season since it challenged U of T for the national championship back in 1984. After that the team went down the toilet, despite such premier talent as John LeBlanc, who would later star for various AHL teams. But now Mike Johnston has instilled pride back into UNB since he came here from the University of Calgary. And the way he did it seemed so easy. All he did was get good players and instill a winning attitude. Why couldn't Nickelchuck figure that out?

Hockey is a great game. More importantly perhaps, it is Canada's game. Go out and play some hockey this winter. If you can't play, support a team. Just remember, hockey is even more Canadian than the beaver.

## Rowers off to good start

Chances are, if you climbed out of bed at about 8:00 a.m.. The men and women of the UNB/STU Rowing Club will have already been on the water practicing for two hours. Mornings, afternoons, evenings, and weekends the athletes of the UNB/STU Club face increasingly cold weather. Coaches with Rapier like tongues, and yes, even the occasional blister to prepare for the upcoming "head of the Connecticut" regatta. This will be the club's 4th appearance at the regatta which will see them competing against 125 of "the United States" top rowing schools, including schools such as Harvard, Yale, UCLA, and Florida state, to name but a few. But fear not!

With double the number of athletes over last years program, a number of "quality" athletes among their ranks, and a luxury coach to deliver them safely to and from competition, the program is strong. Head Coach, Kim Norris checks his enthusiasm to cool optimism, "We're ex-

pecting a good showing this year. Look for wins from the women's four, the women's singles, the men's singles (both light and heavy), and the women intermediate eight. Also look for top ten finishes from both the men's and women's novice eights and the men's intermediate eight."

The "head of the Connecticut" regatta will be raced on the seventh of October. Until that time the

athletes of the UNB/STU Rowing Club can be found on the St. John rower perfecting their craft. If you have the opportunity (or the inclination), watch them for a few moments and witness the power, the precision, and the grace of the shells slicing through the wa-

ter. It may look easy enough, but it took many hours, and many sore muscles to make it look that way.



# INTRAMURALS

### Co-Ed Broomball

The most fun on the ice. Get a group of your friends together or register individually for the Co-Ed Broomball league. Games will be played on Saturday and Sunday afternoons at the Aitken Centre. The Entry Deadline is Wednesday, October 10 at 3:00 p.m. Registrations are being accepted Monday through Friday between 11:00 - 3:00 p.m. in the Recreation Office.

### Tournaments

#### Co-Ed Volleyball Tournament

On Saturday and/or Sunday, October 20 & 21 the gyms will be alive with the Fall Co-Ed Volleyball Tournament. Individual and team entries will be accepted at the Recreation Office up until Tuesday, October 16. don't be left out! Get a group of your friends together or register individually and we will find a team for you.

#### Badminton Tournament

The Fall Intramural Badminton Tournament will be held on Saturday, October the 13 and Sunday the 14 with competitions in Men's and Women's Singles and Doubles. Entry Forms are available at the Recreation Office, please have them filled out and returned by Friday, October 12. However, post Entries will be received on Saturday, October 13 until 9:30 a.m.

### Intramurals

### Men's Ice Hockey

Time is running short. The ENTRY DEADLINE for Men's Intramural Ice Hockey is Wednesday, October 10 at 3:00 p.m.. Only the first 24 teams will be accepted. This year we are experimenting with two levels of league play. for those interested in some fun and exercise there is a recreational league and for those looking for a more competitive game there is a separate league. Individuals can register at the Recreation Office and be placed on a team. All eligible individuals are encouraged to participate! Team managers should pick up an information kit in the Recreation Office between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. DON'T DELAY!

### Men's Basketball

The entry deadline for Men's Intramural Basketball is drawing to a close. There will be two types of league lay. One league is competitive and the other is recreational. There is only room for 21 teams, so get together with your friends and register soon. Individuals can register at the Recreational Office and be placed on a team. The entry deadline is Tuesday, October 16. DON'T DELAY!

### Men's Ball Hockey

Entry Deadline for men's ball hockey is Tuesday, October 16, so get together with your friends and register soon at the Recreation Office. Individuals may register and be placed on a team. Don't delay. Pick up your entry forms at the Recreation Office.

### UNB/STU Figure Skating Club

The 1990/91 UNB/STU Figure Skating Club will hold its first meeting October 15, 1990 at 7:00 p.m. in room 116A at the Lady Beaverbrook Gym. The club is open to those with previous figure skating experience and new members are welcome. If there is anyone wishing to learn how to figure skate arrangements can be made. The cost is \$20.00 per term. The first term fee must be paid at the meeting. Application forms and schedules will be available at that time. For more information please contact Sue Cassidy at 455-8674.

### Figure Skating Club 1990-91 Ice Schedule Fall Term

Wed. Oct. 17 - 4:15 - 5:15 pm  
Sun. Oct 21 - 3:45 - 4:45 pm  
Wed. Oct 24 - 4:15 - 5:15 pm  
Sun. Oct 28 - 4:00 - 5:00 pm  
Wed. Oct. 31 - 4:15 - 5:15 pm  
Sun. Nov. 4 - 6:15 - 7:15 pm  
Wed. Nov. 7 - 6:15 - 7:17 pm  
Sun. Nov. 11 - 1:00 - 2:00 pm  
Wed. Nov. 14 - 4:15 - 5:15 pm  
Sun. Nov. 18 - 1:30 - 2:30 pm  
Sun. Nov. 25 - 6:15 - 7:15 pm  
Wed. Nov. 28 - 4:15 - 5:15 pm