

Out in Left Field

by Paul Arsenault
Murray Nystrom

With recent acquisitions of illegal recruitment in the AUAA, by the CIAU has brought back the old question, why shouldn't Canadian Universities offer "Free Passes"? Presently there are five schools put under the microscope. These schools are well aware of the consequences, it's going to be hard to find any of the schools guilty.

Paying athletes in Canada to play has little to zero benefit for the school. In the States TV rights generates money, corporate sponsorships in the millions, and the enormous amount of people who attend the games. If a Canadian University recruits and pays for the education, there will not be a significant increase in enrollment or a multi-million dollar sponsor. Seldom will an athlete make it big and any back equal or increased amount of money in Alumni dues.

You'll never see Canadian Universities pay their athletes, there just isn't the money available. It is fine if the athletes gets money from their Alumni but not through the school. Playing hockey, football, basketball etc. is the decision of the students and he/she hasn't a right to receive money just because they play in the CIAU.

I commend the CIAU for their inquiry. Schools must play by the rules and if they can't do so then a suspension is in order. Bring back some honest recruiting, sell the program, sell the institution. I am also assuming that if these programs are found innocent the apologies should be in order.

The month of March is upon us and in the weeks ahead is plenty of sports action from probably as many sports a person can think of. Baseball is the big story as all 26 major league teams have their month long pre-season vacation in the sun in Florida and Arizona. The biggest news coming out of spring ball this year is that there is no strike. Can you believe it? - the Players' Association seems happy, the umpires seem happy, you know, the only people in baseball who haven't gone on strike are the bat boys. Speaking of strikes - you ever wonder how much money Roger Clemmons is going to average with each strike he throws this season?

March is also a big month for CIAU sports. Basketball, volleyball, wrestling, swimming etc, all wrap up this month - where has the season gone?

This month will also see the start of the World League of American Football - if anyone really cares. This is a good thing though, isn't it? At least there will be something to watch on TSN Sunday afternoon. The station is carrying most of the Montreal Machine's football games and guess who will be quarterbacking Montreal's offense?

The NHL season is heading into the home stretch with this years biggest prize still up for grabs - no not the Stanley Cup but Eric Lindros. The last month of the season should be really exciting as the bottom place teams try to lose as many games as possible in order to win the first pick of the draft. Hey - speaking of draft - the UNB Red Devils are running their second annual NHL Playoff Pool. Last year's was successful and this year's cash prizes are going to total two thousand dollars. You can pick up entry forms from Coach Mike Johnston down in the LB Gym.

Did you ever wonder ...

Which way the Penguin shoots in the Pittsburgh Penguin Emblem?

Which way a Baseball spins on a long fly ball?

What happened to the Global Hockey League?

If the Montreal Canadiens would have to change their name if Quebec separated?

Why a CFL Football has those two white circles at either end of the ball?

What the hell the Montreal Expos emblem is supposed to be?

How the winners of the NFL, NBA or Major League Baseball can call themselves World Champions when they only play in one country?

How many stitches are in a baseball?

TRIVIA: Who and when was the last Triple Crown Champion?
LAST WEEKS' ANSWER: TANYA PITT

Bloomers to defend title

by Frank Denis

The UNB Red Bloomers are off to Halifax this weekend to compete in the AUAA women's basketball championship at Dalhousie University. The finals will be held at Dal as the Lady Tigers finished in first place at the end of the regular season with an 11-3 record. UNB also compiled an 11-3 record but by virtue of Dalhousie scoring 4 more points than the Red Bloomers in their two games, Dal gets first place.

Last Sunday the Red Bloomers finished their regular season in front of a packed LB Gym, by easily defeating the UPEI Lady panthers 74-48. The game was never in doubt as the Red Bloomers took charge right from the opening tip off. After leading 38-21 at half-time, UNB coasted home.

Leading scorer from UNB on Sunday was Kara Palmer with 24 points. Those points gave her a total of 231 on the year good enough for second place in the league behind only Cindy Flynn of Saint Mary's. Jennifer Hale also had a strong game for UNB with 13 points and 6 steals.

Red Bloomer coach Claire Mitton is confident about the AUAA's this weekend, "Right now we're playing our best basketball of the season, so I like our chances. Tracy Ross has recovered from her injury so we'll head to Dalhousie with a healthy team."

In Halifax this weekend, UNB will be competing as defending champions but Mitton believes if anything, there is less pressure on the team than there was last year when they hosted the AUAA's. "Last year we played in the AUAA's with two girls, Lynn



Bloomers Bonnie Hale puts one up against UPEI

Photo by Jamie Rowan

Christiansen and Pauline Lordon who were both 5th year players and had never gotten the chance to go to Nationals and we wanted to win it for

them so their careers could end on a positive note," said Mitton.

Four teams will be competing for the chance to compete against the best female basketball teams in the country at Quebec City. The CIAU's will be hosted by the Universite de Laval and held from March 8 - 10.

The path to Quebec City for the Red Bloomers may have been made easier had they earned the right to host, but coach Mitton believes it shouldn't make too much of a difference. "It would have been nice to be hosting this weekend, but going away also has its advantages. We'll be together for a few days as a team and that should help us as we like to emphasize the team concept."

Teams competing this weekend in Halifax include Dalhousie, St. Mary's and Acadia as well as UNB. Acadia plays UNB in one semifinal with the winner facing the survivor of the Dalhousie - St. Mary's game.



UNB waiting for the rebound