

Speaking on Sports

By STEVE RYBAK

American is national wrestling coach

Canada has a national wrestling coach, finally.

But he's been hired only on a temporary basis. Just for ten months. The National Sports and Fitness Council hired Bill Smith, an American, primarily to conduct clinics across the country. He will spend most of his time with those who will eventually represent Canada at the Olympics.

Smith, an Olympic champion in 1952, has been wrestling and coaching for twenty-five years. He has coached at all levels, from the high school up to the Olympic and Pan-Am games level. Smith's first real good look at Canadian wrestlers came at the WCIAA championships last weekend in Calgary. For the next three weeks Smith will operate out of Edmonton.

"Canadian wrestlers have one big advantage over Americans," Smith said. "You wrestle freestyle up here. We have to take American wrestlers and re-teach them how to wrestle Olympic or freestyle."

Smith didn't want to pass any hard and fast judgments on the quality of wrestling or wrestlers he saw in action, but he did feel that very few of the WCIAA wrestlers could beat a good American high school wrestler.

"I've been spoiled," he said. "I've seen too much good international, college and high school wrestling, it wouldn't be fair to judge the boys accordingly. Everything is relative."

'It's a matter of competition and experience'

"But I'm sure that a good high school wrestler could beat any one of these boys. It's simply a matter of competition and experience."

American high school wrestlers will have up to 40 matches in a single season. A Canadian intercollegiate wrestler will be lucky if he can get more than 15.

"Competition is more important than good coaching. A kid gets better with competition. He has to, or else he won't be able to survive."

Another major factor that Smith has found among Canadians is that there is no intense desire to win. "You seem to treat wrestling just like an intramural sport, a loss really doesn't hurt that much."

Or as Rocky Graziano said on a nationally televised program, "There just ain't any hungry kids any more." Graziano is a former world's middleweight boxing champion. There aren't too many good boxers around because they just don't have the desire any more. The same thing may be said about wrestling, and a lot of other sports.

As many wrestlers in California as Canada

Another big factor in Canadian wrestling is space and the actual number of wrestlers. There are as many wrestlers in California as there are in Canada. To get matches you have to travel a lot. To travel you have to have money. Canadians have been notorious penny-pinchers when it comes to supporting amateur athletics.

If they do support a sport it's by long-range contributions to sooth their consciences. They just aren't interested. The interest must come from spectators, coaches, schools and the press. Somewhere someone must care. When the wrestlers can see that someone else does care, then they may start to care a little more. If you care a little more, you're going to want to win a little more.

The U of A is hosting the Canadian amateur wrestling championships March 24 and 25. I wonder how many university students and Edmontonians will give up a few moments of their precious time to support amateur sport?

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A SLASHING SWORD, A FLASHING FOIL

—Ken Voutier photo

... and a hearty "hi, ho, Silver"?

U of A fencers capture two trophies at Saskatoon league championship

The Golden Blades are aptly named.

The U of A fencing team returned from the WCIAA championships in Saskatoon last weekend with two trophies—the women's foil team trophy and the combined trophy.

Elisabeth Lewke won the individual foil honors losing only two of 15 bouts. Raymonde Maisonneuve, another U of A fencer, tied with Wickey Binter, U of S (R), for second. Valerie Nelson, U of C, was fourth.

The one-two finish was enough to give the U of A girls the team trophy. U of S (R) was second and the U of Winnipeg third.

Calgary took the first two places in the men's individual foil competition and the men's team title.

Tom Rosenal and George Simpson finished one-two for the Calgary squad. John McBain and Ken Wong wrapped up the next two spots for the U of A.

The U of A was second in the team competition followed by the U of S (R).

The women's first place finish and the men's second gave the Millman Trophy to the Golden Blades. The Regina campus of the U of S was second in the combined standings and the Saskatoon campus third.

Geoffrey Ewing, U of A, was third in the men's epee behind Simpson and Peter Hesketh, U of S (S). Calgary took the men's epee team title followed by the U of S (S) and U of M.

Simpson defeated Hesketh and

another Saskatoon fencer, Dennis Storer, for the individual sabre title. But the team championship went to the Saskatoon fencers. Calgary was second and Brandon third.

Epee and sabre competitions did not count towards the Millman Trophy.

Wrestlers advance to open finals

By BOB SCHMIDT

The Golden Bear Wrestling Team has won both the Northern Alberta championships and the WCIAA championships and next on the list are the Alberta Open championships.

The finals, which will have the best wrestlers in Alberta in attendance, are being held in Calgary this Saturday. The top three wrestlers in each weight class from the Northern Alberta Championships will be competing against the top three men in each weight class from Southern Alberta Championships.

AREN'T GOING

The Bears who can't afford the time to go because of exams and back-up work are Mas Kinshita, Dave Duniec, John Marchand, Bruce Switzer and Bob Ramsum. Kinshita and Duniec won their respective weight championships two weeks ago in the Northern Alberta Championships.

The next competition for the Golden Bear wrestlers will be the Canadian Open Championships in two weeks time. The Canadian Championships are being hosted this year by the U of A.

Alberta, UBC split honors

Bowlers from the U of A and UBC split top honors in the WCIAA bowling tournament held last weekend at the SUB lanes.

The UBC men rolled up a 12-game total of 13,729 pins to beat second place Alberta by more than 800 pins. Despite the loss Alberta's Dwight Anderson was the individual leader with a pinfall of 2,978 for a 12-game average of 248.

Alberta won the ladies' team event rolling up a 11,322 total as compared to UBC's 11,158.

Ilze Skujins sparked the Alberta cause by taking individual laurels with a 211 average.

Members of the winning Alberta squad were Skujins, Cheryle Dzus, Elsie Hawkins, Violet Lakusta, Susan Stride and Marcia McCallum.

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