



by TOM HENDERSON  
Brunswickan Staff

# Interview with Olympic Hockey coach - Dave King — Second of two parts

Bruns: Your team is based in Calgary's Olympic Saddledome, site of the '88 Games hockey tournament. What does this mean in terms of game performance for the upcoming Olympics?

DK: Well, I think it's a great advantage to us to be able to play and practice in the Saddledome because that's where the ultimate Olympic Games will be held and I think it'll make us a little stronger and the fact that it's our home arena we're going to be playing and practicing there an awful lot. So, it should be an advantage to us. I don't know exactly how much of an advantage but certainly there'll be no adjustment going into the Saddledome and that'll be good for us.

It'll be an international size surface for the Olympic games, the boards pushed back and you get a rink that is normally 85 X 200 becoming 100 wide by 200 feet long.

Bruns: Will you be able to

practice using the Olympic rink configuration?

DK: Not full-time. We do get occasions when the Flames are gone for periods of time where they will enlarge the ice surface but we don't get that opportunity very often.

Bruns: Your team is based in Calgary's Olympic Saddledome, site of the '88 Games hockey tournament. What does this mean in terms of game performance for the upcoming Olympics?

Bruns: Are you wary of the media hype affecting Team Canada in '88? Is there anything you can do about this?

DK: I think the most important thing we can do to prevent or to teach our players how to handle that is through the course of the next two and a half seasons is to get them exposed to as much media as possible and play in these pressure type tournaments where there's a lot of strain on them. By doing that you develop more mature athletes. We have a sports psychologist,

Dr. Cal Balderell from the U. of Winnipeg who works with our team and one of the things he worked on are coping strategies where athletes are taught the various ways of handling the media pressure and their own performance goal pressure and learn to relax and be able to handle that kind of pressure. I think having the team together like we are for the next couple of seasons I think they will allow us to bring our players to Calgary, hopefully poised and ready to handle that because you're correct, there will be a lot of media attention on the team and there will be a lot of people with very high expectations for the team. There will be a fair bit of pressure to do well.

Bruns: What are you looking for in the current tour against professional teams?

DK: We played eight games in Finland and in those eight games we faced an awful lot of speed. Now we're going to eight professional games, five against the NHL, three against the AHL and we think our players will now be exposed to the strength aspect of the

game. They should come out of these games being very aware that they must become stronger if they are going to play at that international level. We feel it's very important to have these eight games because these teams are very strong physically, very strong on the puck and a young player can really get a

good lesson from plating against experienced pro players.

Bruns: Sam Pollock is involved with the Hockey Canada Organization. What has his impact been?

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