

Bears run over opponents

by Karl Wilberg

It is not widely known or appreciated that the U of A Track and Field Team, guided by Gabor Simonyi, is the best in Western Canada.

In addition, the absence of a national collegiate championship has probably prevented the U of A from winning a national title. The team's success in winning the Men's Canada West title two years in a row, and the Women's conference last year, is the result of a skillfully organized program. Simonyi's knowledge of training technique reaches any international standards of expertise.

Simonyi credits the U of A's "good facilities and program" in accounting for U of A competitors' success. More specifically, the Kinsmen fieldhouse (not a U of A-owned facility) is used extensively in addition to the various types of training equipment in the Physical Education buildings. The university track, too, has been improved. The running surface was up-graded for use as a Commonwealth Games practice track.

More important, though, is the cooperation between Edmonton track clubs and the U of A. For example, Simonyi and U of A colleague Ken Porter are involved with the coaching staff

and competitors of local clubs. In fact, Porter is coach of the Edmonton Olympic Club and was the first professional club coach in Canada.

According to Simonyi, the U of A puts competitors "on the track together." In doing so, the U of A "acts as a catalyst" and this relationship "helps morale."

It is surprising, and promising, that cooperation exists between different amateur track groups. The benefits of this attitude are already apparent. U of A students can run with local clubs as well as in intercollegiate competition. There are shared coaching skills and better uses of facilities.

Results of this program are apparent in two ways. First is the U of A's Western track domination over the last two years. Second is the quality and number of top class athletes attracted to the school. This is a contrast to Eastern Canada, where the best athletes often end up in the U.S. or, more recently, in Edmonton.

The more prominent athletes attracted to the U of A have been Diane Jones-Konihowski and her husband John Konihowski. Both served as coaches and administrators. Simonyi spoke of John Konihowski as a first rate administrator and organizer. Both

were also active with the local track clubs.

In addition, Frank van Doorn, from Calgary, and Dan Biocchi, from Montreal, have also been lured to the U of A. On the women's team, Margo Howe, from Vancouver, and Birget Otto, from the interior of B.C., have been attracted to Simonyi's squad.

The quality of these athletes is apparent. Otto is a national team competitor in the 1500 m and Howe is a 100 and 200 m competitor. Van Doorn is a National team 200 m competitor and team member Biocchi competes in the 100 and 200 m events.

Jack Sugget, a top junior sprinter, and Gord Fuller, an indoor record holder for the 50 m hurdles, have also been involved with the national team as well as the U of A. In all, Simonyi states that eight U of A runners have been or still are involved with the national team.

In spite of the program's success and promise for the future, Simonyi and Porter maintain that funding is inadequate. For example, Simonyi states that only half of the team's 70-80 members can be funded for meets out of Edmonton. Also, the usual travelling team of 24 men and 16 women may be reduced further towards the year's end. In addition, Porter

cites the UAB's refusal to fund the U of A's Ian Newhouse, record holder for the 400 m hurdles, to go to the Mexico student games.

For the near future, the U of A's dominance in the West is assured. So too is its reputation and appeal to world class athletes.

In addition, the U of A team benefits local clubs and is a valuable source of coaching and organization. However, policy decisions from the UAB, and more importantly, the federal government, may hinder the track program. The UAB in tight money situations has usually covered the needs of high profile sports first, and often to the expense of other programs. Perhaps the track team, because of its success, can escape this fate often shared by sports clubs and intramurals.

More damaging is the likelihood that the financial base for the national track administration body will be diminished if the Conservative government plans for Loto Canada go into effect. In this move for decentralization, rights to lottery money will go to the provinces.

For Ken Porter the results



Gabor Simonyi

are easy to see: reduced coordination between provincial programs and disparate standards for officials and coaches.

This, according to Porter, is most damaging and will "compromise Olympic preparation." This regressive treatment of Canadian sport is beginning to appear as the Tory government makes its policies known. Enough information is emerging to make a possible future clear.



Rugby emphasizes the social graces and good human relationships.

photo Bill Ruzycski

Rugby: Alive and kicking

by Rob Poole

You won't have to go downtown to patronize the oldest profession when the best hookers on campus can be found on the playing fields outside the physical education building. Those hookers will be engaged in one of the university's fastest growing sports, rugby.

Rugby originated over a century ago the day William Webb Ellis of Rugby School, during a soccer match, picked up and ran with the ball.

On campus, university rugby had many successful years in the early 1970s in the Edmonton First Division League. After a short extinction, the present

Golden Bears Rugby Club was resurrected in 1975 by a group of enthusiastic but inexperienced students. After many early disappointments these players quickly learned from their mistakes to become one of the most successful teams in the U of A's history.

Much of their success was attributed to coach Tony Bauer, who is a member of Canada's National Team. The team reached the Alberta final in two consecutive years and captured the Alberta Championship in 1977.

In addition to their success on the field they have received the league's Most Sportsmanlike trophy the past two seasons. The

Bears currently are among the top Second Division Edmonton League teams. Players who joined the club when it formed in 1975 now play for many of the league's top first division teams. Current members of this year's team, Robert Poole and Perry McLean, have also been selected to represent Edmonton against touring international teams.

The Bears Rugby Club is looking forward to hearing from any students who wish to become members. Experience is not a prerequisite, just enthusiasm. Any interested parties are welcome to contact either Bill Ruzycski (President) at 439-2435 or Robert Poole (Captain) at 465-4579.

Drake leaves:

Moores takes over

by Bob Kilgannon

This season promises to be different as the Golden Bear hockey team prepares to open their 1979-80 training camp. With a new coach and many new players the hockey squad will change immensely this year. Competition for spots on the team should be intense, with at least ten openings for rookies.

The Bears were hit hard by a combination of a coach and players leaving for the Olympics. In addition, graduating players created more space in the lineup. New head coach Bill Moores elaborated, saying "We've lost some quality hockey players and this will definitely be a rebuilding year. We should have a young team and right now we're looking towards making the playoffs, although that goal may be changed during the season. The players will make their own goals."

Among those missing from last year's squad are goaltender Nick Sanza, defenseman Stan Swales, Randy Gregg, Mike Bachinski, and Don Spring, and forwards John Devaney, Dave Hindmarch, Dave Breakwell, Ted Olson, Jim Causgrove, and Daryl Zaparniuk.

The nine returnees from last year's national champs are goalie Ted Poplawski, defenseman Larry Riggin and Bruce Robin, and forwards Jim Lomas, Chris Steland, Dale Ross, Greg Skoreyko, Barry Stafford, and Mike Broadfoot.

New coach Bill Moores will not be a complete newcomer in

this year of newcomers. For the last three seasons he has been Clare Drake's assistant with the Green and Gold. Prior to that Moores accumulated a wealth of playing and coaching experience. He played for the Edmonton Oil Kings in their glory years from 1966-70 and also served as team captain in his final season. Moores then played a year with the senior Edmonton Monarchs before playing for the Bears in 1971-72.

With the Bears, Moores became the team's leading scorer. After his playing career ended, Moores coached Juvenile AA for Brinkerhoff and Edmonton Motors before coming to the university hockey scene.

Judging by the returning veterans, it seems that the Bears will be solid in goal, but looking for a backup netminder. On defense they need lots of help because Larry Riggin is the only returning regular. The forwards will have a base of veterans but they too will need some help from all the newcomers.

BEAR FACTS

Three members of last year's team didn't graduate or opt for the Olympic team. Defenseman Stan Swales is playing hockey in Germany for a year. Goaltender Nick Sanza is trying out for the Winnipeg Jets and forward Ted Olson is trying out with the Minnesota North Stars.