

Overtime

By JoAnn Sherwood

WWs should come out of hiding

WELCOME BACK EVERYONE! I hope that all of you enjoyed the holidays and are ready for second term. The "worst" of the school year is yet to come, along with the worst of the weather. It's only January! We still have three months (give or take a few weeks) of winter left!

Something that has always baffled me is why people, especially fitness fanatics, have an aversion to winter. These people are affectionately called WWs or 'Weather Wimps'. I must admit, I am one of them. I do have a dislike for those days with a wind chill factor of minus 35 degrees. They're about as pleasant as hurricanes in July.

Why do people wrinkle their noses at the prospect of some winter-time outdoor activity? They must be WWs. They just don't exercise when the weather turns cold or the snow begins to fall. WWs can offer you dozens of logical reasons why they don't get into winter sports. We've all either heard of or used the "it's too cold" or "I'm waiting for the spring" type of excuses more than we can remember. I have a theory.

Sports in the winter is an inconvenience. For some reason, we play certain sports in the spring and summer and then we play different sports in the fall and winter. The sports that we play at different times of the year are determined by the weather. A lot of people who are active during the warm weather months become pretty low key during the fall and winter. You can, of course, still play tennis or soccer when there is snow on the ground but you probably have to stand in line waiting for indoor playing space. This is an inconvenience.

It's impossible to bat a tennis ball against a garage door in the winter. Actually, it's no problem to hit the door once but don't expect to get much of a rally going. Unfortunately, snow does not provide the ball with any bounce at all. The

tennis ball is now buried in a mound of snow until the snow melts. Don't bet on it being yellow and fuzzy when it appears in the spring either. Baseball is a bit more likely, under the right conditions. The "field" must be shovelled and then if you're not too tired or too cold, you can play ball. If you decide to skip the groundkeeping duties, hope the ball comes straight to your glove or you may break your neck rushing through knee-deep snow.

It's an inconvenience to keep track of your equipment for cold weather sports. In the summer, just

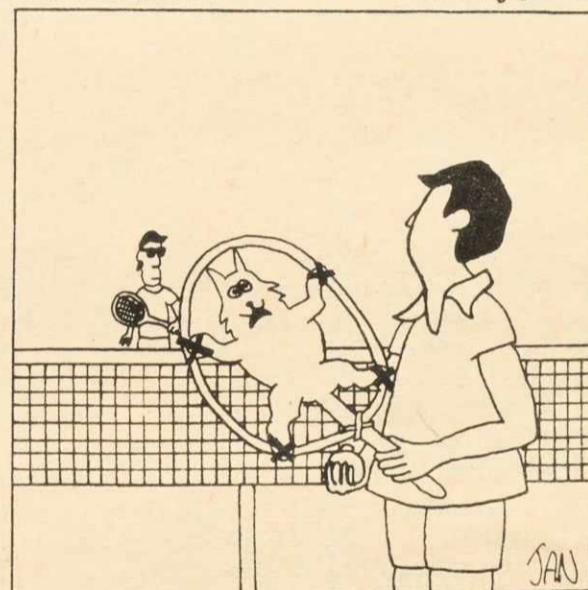
Many of us are guilty of the WW syndrome. We just haven't learned to make the best of what we have. Putting up with winter sports inconveniences is the only way to keep sane during the cold weather. We should appreciate those patient, persevering cold weather athletes.

Still, I can't wait for the Grapefruit Leagues to start up!

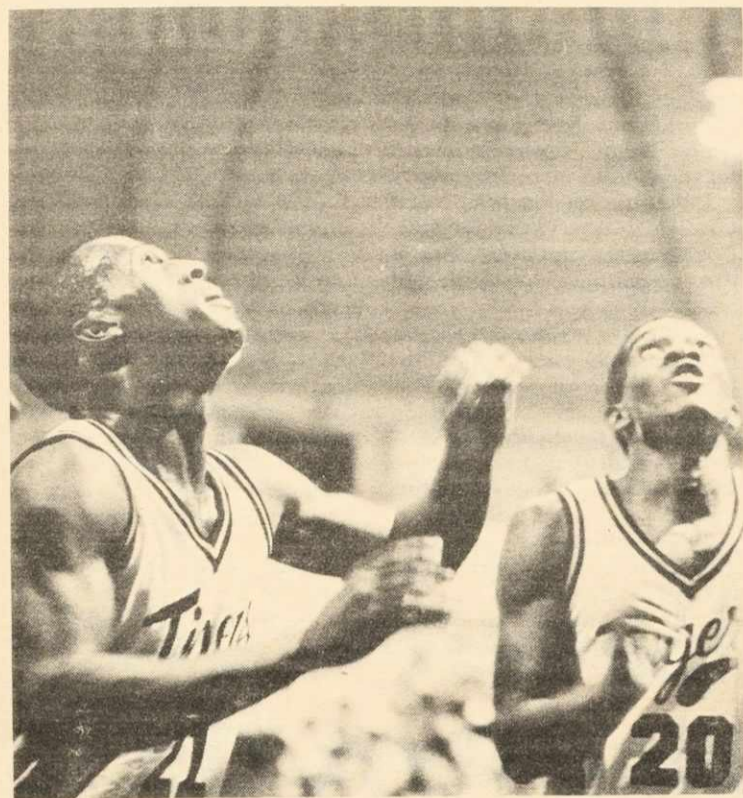
on the racket, ball, or bat and you're ready to play. There is no tedious equipment to strap yourself into. I still haven't figured out what some of those pieces of hockey and football equipment are protecting. Painful is the word to describe putting your equipment on wrong. You know that something isn't quite right — after you have everything on. That's also the time you have to go to the bathroom. How would I know about this? I've tried on my brother's football and hockey equipment. I managed to get my ears twisted inside the helmet and I also put the hip protector and the shoulder pads on backwards (I couldn't find any tag!). I then did the exact same thing with the hockey armour. Professional athletes who play in the winter must be pretty smart (contrary to some opinions!) You have to attend university to learn to dress yourself in time for the game.

OFF THE WALL

Jan Sykora



If you're rich, why settle for an ordinary cat gut racquet?



It's a bird . . . Dalhousie Tiger's Paul Riley (21) and Andrew Merritt (20) wait for the rebound. Photo by Rochelle Owen/Dalphoto.

Tigers Shot Down

By DEAN GOODMAN

THE TIGERS MADE IT TO the final of the East Coast Shoot Out Tournament over the weekend but could not handle the Brandon Bobcats, being forced to settle for second place in the four team tournament. Feeling his team had been "a little complacent" in the semi-final match, Brandon coach Jerry Hemmings was very animated in the early going, sparking his team to an early lead which the Bobcats never relinquished.

In the closest and most exciting game of the tournament, the Brandon Bobcats reached the semi-final by squeaking past the St. Mary's Huskies 90-88. Despite David Smith's 40 points, the Huskies came up short, missing a last second desperation shot, losing to the Bobcats, who were paced by perennial All-Canadian John Carson with 29 points. In the other semi-final, the Tigers, led by Andrew Merritt with 23 points, and Mike Gillett with 19 points, jumped into an early lead which they never lost, beating the York Yeomen 78-72 to advance to the final against the Bobcats.

In the consolation final, St. Mary's had little trouble with the Yeomen who were never in the game. Led by Mike Williams with 29 points, and David McIntosh with 16, the Huskies romped over York, winning easily, 101-70. Mike Sherwood led the York attack with 23 points.

In the tournament final, the Tigers were jumped on early and never fully recovered. With cold shooting and almost no inside game, the Tigers had trouble getting out of the blocks. Meanwhile, John Carson and the rest of the Bobcats poured in the points, jumping into an early lead. Strong defense was the dif-

ference in the game as Brandon rattled the Tigers, forcing two successive 5-second violations and often stopping the Dalhousie offence, making them put up a desperation shot with time running out on the thirty-second clock. Willem Verbeek, a tournament all-star, and George Leacock kept the game close with good hustle and tenacious rebounding, but Brandon's outside shooting and better execution on the fast break gave them a 49-37 lead going into halftime.

Brandon put the game away in the second half. Verbeek's hustle on the boards and outstanding individual effort as well as Al Abass' solid defense, kept the Tigers close for the first ten minutes but lapses on defense and sloppy play allowed a number of easy layups for the Bobcats who capitalized on all their breaks. The last ten minutes was all Brandon, as the Bobcats pulled away, winning the game 98-67. Brandon was led by Brian Jebbison who netted 28 points and John Carson who added 26. Willem Verbeek responded with 23 points for the Tigers.

Tournament all-stars were Mike Sherwood from York, who tallied 34 points in two games to lead the Yeoman; AUAA All-Star Mike Williams and solid point guard David McIntosh from St. Mary's; outstanding rookie forward Willem Verbeek for the Tigers; and John Carson for the Brandon Bobcats. Patrick Jebbison, who tallied 49 points in the two games and provided a number of spectacular plays, was named the tournament MVP.

The Tigers' next game is Saturday at the Metro Centre. The Tigers play Acadia in the first game of a double-header, with St. Mary's facing St. Francis Xavier in the second game.

Start Your New Year Off Right
with

BACK TO SCHOOL BLUES DAY

Saturday, Jan. 10th

Men's Basketball, Doubleheader
Halifax Metro Centre

1 pm Dalhousie vs Acadia

3 pm St. F.X. vs St. Mary's

Advanced Tickets at Metro Centre: \$3 students
\$5 adults

Dal Student Tickets — \$2 at Dalplex Information Desk

POST GAME PARTY AT CHEERS
FREE HORS D'OEUVRES