

Speaking on Sports

By DON MOREN

Saskatchewan Huskies may finish in second place in the league but their arena won't. Rutherford Rink in Saskatoon is not much different from the typical small-town covered arena built in the 1920's.

The structure is entirely wooden with the exception of the steel girders that hold up the roof.

Nine pillars on one side of the arena block the view (there is spectator seating on only one side of the rink.)

Don Burgess, the athletic director at the University of Saskatchewan, says the roof leaks in the spring and bumps form on the ice. The ancient boards look like a patchwork quilt. Small pieces of plywood cover holes. Sometimes a shot will strike a jutting piece of wood and is deflected high into the air.

The arena is poorly lit. I always wondered why hockey pictures in the University of Saskatchewan newspaper, the Sheaf, were always so dark. The poor lighting bothers particularly the defencemen and goalies.

According to Don Cayo, sports editor of the Sheaf, the arena was a fire trap until the Sheaf ran pictures of the locked fire exits.

These arenas have their advantages, few though they be. Rutherford Rink is loaded with hockey atmosphere. The wooden stands bring back fond memories of when I used to crawl around and under the wood of the old arena back home in Vermilion.

Cold and hockey have always gone hand in hand and believe me, Rutherford Rink is cold; it seems to be twenty degrees lower than the zero temperature outside.

Good ice makes fast hockey

Coldness makes for good ice. Spectators may complain about frostbite but the players are perfectly happy with the ice surface.

Both weekend games were fact.

No rural arena is complete without the frosty walls. The whiteness on the walls inside Rutherford lights up the darkness.

The old radiator heaters work up in the, believe it or not, press box. No pot-belly stoves, but even so I felt almost like some of those wise, old experts who used to talk between periods on those long since past hockey broadcasts.

Newer installations to destroy part of that old-time hockey feeling are the sound-system and an electric bell to signal the end of the period. I'll never forget that old gong they used to have at Vermilion. Everybody would look over to the timer's bench when it was nearing twenty minutes to see if he was raising the steel.

It was chilly in Rutherford Rink, but those old rinks sure seem to breed good hockey games.

There doesn't appear to be much sentimental value to the arena when you talk to Burgess. He's not in favor of renovation: "The first thing that would have to go would be those pillars, and that would be the end of the arena right there."

Mr. Burgess said he would know by July whether the administration will grant him a new arena.

This is one area of sports where Saskatchewan does finish last.

Bears were sharper

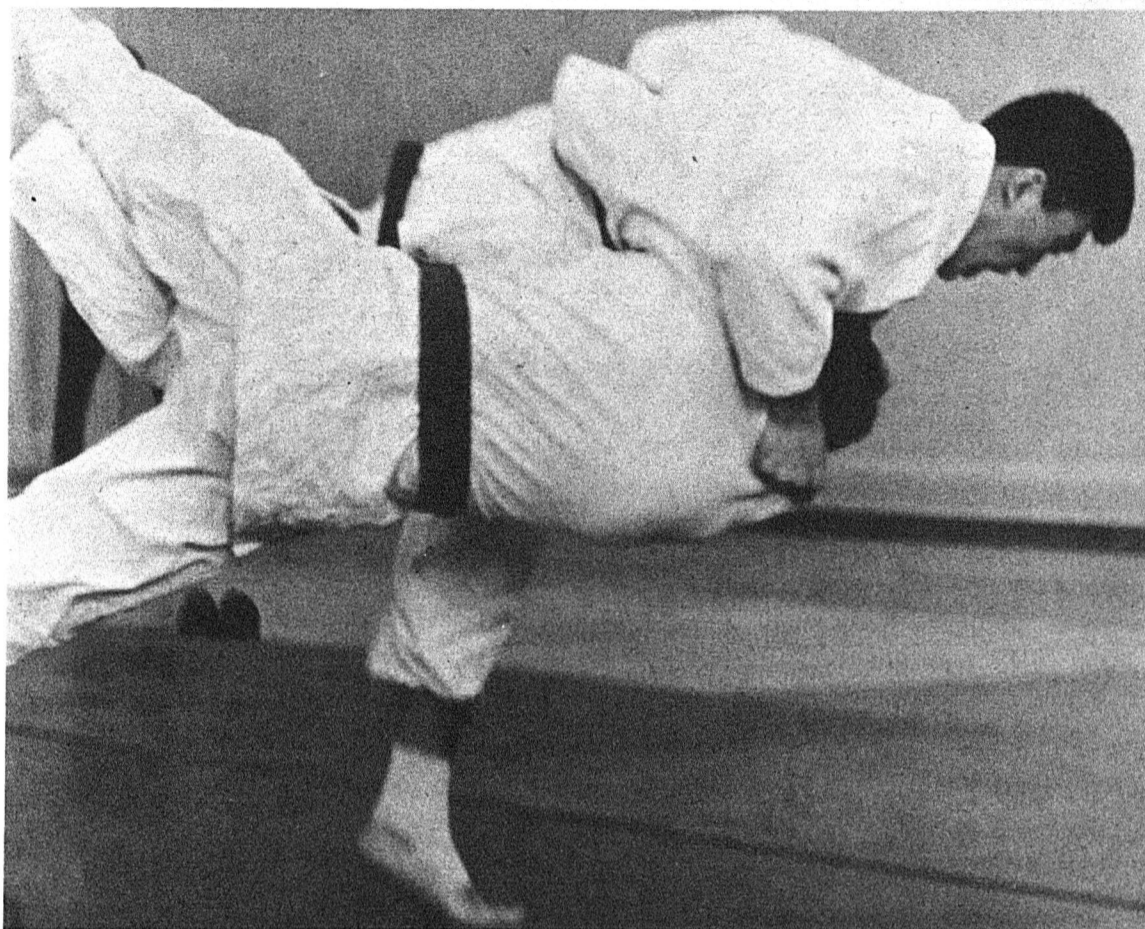
Saskatchewan coach Ed Lepp felt Friday night's loss was the breaks, but as far as your reporter was concerned, the Bears were at their best and noticeably outclassed the Huskies. All three lines came through with fine shooting, and checking and they earned every goal they got.

The Bears were a team throughout the series, whether they were good or bad. Lepp's squad has as much raw talent as the Bears but there is too much individualism.

The Bears are a sounder club over the long haul and look for them to win the Winter Games in Quebec by defeating Saskatchewan in the final.

* * *

The weekend games were the greenest I have ever seen. The Bears were sporting their green and white suits with the gold trim, while the Huskies could be called the Jolly Green Midgets with their almost completely green costumes . . . Steve Kozicki, one of last year's Bears, was a noted visitor to the Bear dressing room after Friday night's contest . . . "Kozicki, where's that badminton racquet you borrowed from me?" yelled a jubilant Bob Wolfe . . . Dale Rippel, who scored two goals Friday night, cracked, "I wonder what happened to that good goaltending they were supposed to have" . . . they found out the next afternoon.



—photo courtesy the sheaf

MANITOBA'S BRIAN MITANI SHOWS MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP FORM . . . but Bears took the other four WCIAA crowns

Bear judo team dominates WCIAA championship meet

SASKATOON—Alberta reigns supreme again!

The Bears' Judo team walked away from Saskatoon, scene of the second annual WCIAA Judo Championships, with four of a possible five crowns.

The winners of this meet have the honor of representing the WCIAA in the CIAU finals to be held at The University of Alberta during Second Century Week.

Winners for the Bears were Lee Mah (light weight), Don Hames (heavy weight), and Ron Lappage (open weight).

The five-man team consisting of Ken Shannon, Dick Rideout, Lappage, Hames and Mah swept the team competition.

Brian Mitani, from the University of Manitoba, won the middle weight title and in doing so was the only winner aside from the Alberta team.

There was no contest in the team competition as the Alberta squad defeated University of Saskatchewan 30-10 in the semifinals and then swamped Manitoba by the same score in the finals.

Team members included Don Davis, Bob McCauley, Allen Murray along with Hames, Mah, Lappage, Shannon, and Rideout.

Alberta's strong contingent lost only 6 of the 43 matches they fought.

Girls

from page 8

scorer as she hooped 11 in a losing cause, while Gloria Davidson potted 19 points for the Manitoba team.

Saturday afternoon, the Pandas got started on the wrong foot as they fell back 14 points in the second quarter.

The team soon found the range, led by Bev Richards, and were only behind two points as the half ended 34-32 for the Bisonettes.

Irene MacKay was the Alberta top scorer with 18 points followed by Bev Richards with 15 and Cathy Galusha and Sandra Young with eight a piece. Moe Dowds hooped 15 for the losers.

Bears triumph in tri-meet

SASKATOON—Saturday afternoon, the swimming Bears won a dual tri-meet against the University of Saskatchewan Huskies and University of Manitoba Bisons.

The three teams swam one meet which was scored as three separate contests.

The Bears beat the Huskies 51-44 and thrashed the two year old Bison team 75-15 while the Huskies also humiliated the Bisons 60-29.

Bruce Stroud and Jim Barton placed first and second for U of A in the 50 yard freestyle.

In the 100 yard freestyle, Barton and Stroud finished first and third respectively against the Huskies but only second and third against the Bisons.

Angus Edghill from Manitoba won the race with a time of 52.1 seconds.

In the 200 yard freestyle, Edhill again grabbed the honours, followed by Tom Baillie of Saskatchewan.

Alberta placed a poor third and fourth with Murray McFadden and Mike Coleman.

The tables were turned, however, in the 500 freestyle, as Alberta swam first and second with McFadden and Coleman.

Ken Halliday, of the Huskies won both the 200 yard individual medley and 200 yard butterfly, while John Pollock, also of the Huskies won the 200 yard backstroke.

Chris Ouellette was Alberta's strongest swimmer in these events, finishing second in both the backstroke and medley races.

Eric Thomson, Alberta's WCIAA 100 and 200 yard breast stroke champion, was back to last year's form as he swam away with the 200 yard breast stroke in 2:32.6. Rennie Robertson (U of A) was his closest opposition, 3.2 seconds later.

The Bears won the 400 yard freestyle relay with their best time of 3:39.7. The Bison team finished second, a full 20 seconds later.

One of the U of A's physical education graduates, Kevin Collins, is coaching the Bisons' two year old swim team.

The Bear's next meet is at the Varsity Pool on February 18 against the Alberta All-Stars.

They then travel to Winnipeg for the WCIAA finals on February 24 and 25.

Newcomers To Edmonton

Are you a swinger without a date?

DATA-DATE computer-matching can let you get into action again!

AVAILABLE AT ALL NEWSSTANDS