



SPORTS



sports

I have finally discovered why the *Journal* allows Terry Jones to spew forth the silage he refers to as his column. Specifically concerning Wayne Gretzky of course.

For the past two years, I have constantly wondered how a writer like Jones could maintain his job at a big city daily. With all the pedantic drivel he spits out about 'The Great One' it amazed me that he remained on staff. Why? Why does *Journal* sports editor Marc Horton keep him around?

The February 22 edition of the *Journal* finally cleared up my confusion.

The reason Horton allows Jones to continue is because he is of the same ilk about His Majesky as is Jones. He loves him too.

I am referring to the story in that edition of the *Journal* entitled, "What Toronto is saying about Gretzky."

The story consisted of a bunch of letters knocking the kid and Horton's subsequent responses, or should I say rebuttals. Rebuttals would be the better word. Although they were pretty piss poor attempts.

A couple of the letters questioned other team's ability to hit Gretzky. I think everyone has asked that question and the answer is perfectly obvious. Gretzky is an amazing player and opposing teams get psyched out when he crosses the blueline. If you ever watch the Oiler games then you should take a look at the defencemen when Gretzky crosses the blueline with the puck. They back up.

They don't want to try and attack the guy because he could probably make them look silly. But defencemen have done that with all the greats of the NHL. This phenomenon is not unique to Wayne Gretzky. They did it with Lafleur when he was in his prime, they did the same thing with Dionne. They do the same thing with Kent Nilsson of the Flames. Gretzky is not the first player to evoke his kind of treatment.

The way Marc Horton wrote it, you would have thought that this was the case.

I don't mind a logical rebuttal but when Horton answers "how do you catch a wisp of smoke," that is simply ridiculous. The comparison in itself is stupid. But I guess it confirms the opinion of 'the kid' that a great many people hold, the guy is nothing but a bag of hot air. You've seen him complain and whine when he feels he's been wronged. He is the most vocal in the league. As for a solution to the problem posed by Mister Horton? The way to catch, or get rid of a wisp of smoke, is simply to blow it away. No problem.

There was another rebuttal which particularly infuriated me. One person expressed a very valid opinion that the only reason the Oilers were doing so well is because they are in a very weak division. The writer of this letter went on to say that he felt that the Oilers would not be doing so well if they were in a division as tough as Montreal, Boston, Buffalo and Quebec. This argument has some merit. I would like to see how the Oilers would fare in such a competitive division. Instead of acknowledging the argument Horton dismissed it without a second glance.

"Not only can't I agree with you," said Horton, "but one of the teams you mentioned, the Canadiens, did not only do poorly in the first round of the playoffs last year but they were blown out by the Oilers."

Horton went on to dismiss the 6-3 drubbing the Canadiens handed the Oilers, as the Canadiens attempt to "regain some self-esteem." They played it "like a Stanley Cup game."

Well Marc, if the Canadiens play a regular season game against the Oilers like a Stanley Cup contest and play it so well, then it stands to reason that in the real Stanley Cup finals, if these two teams meet, Montreal will play like a bunch of supermen and nothing the Oilers do will have any real affect.

As for re-gaining some self-esteem, well what kind of team are the Oilers if they let another team walk into their own building and blow them out? I guess the Oilers decided to be really charitable and they really let the Canadiens win, right Marc? Bullshit. The Oilers were caught off guard by some excellent and tenacious forechecking and just could not cope.

How can the *Edmonton Journal* continue to throw up this kind of garbage and call themselves a viable newspaper? With a sports editor like Horton, its no wonder that what they print about 'Mister Waynderful' is nothing but a load of idolizing, ass-kissing crap that is not worth toilet paper, which is precisely what my hamster would use it for if the ink wouldn't kill him.

Andrew Watts

Panda volleyball team

"We feel that we have made step one in the direction of the '83-'84 season."

Those were the words of Pandas coach Hugh Hoyles after the Pandas finished off their CWUAA regular season in UBC this past weekend. The women went 1-4 in the tourney and finished 5-20 for the season.

"We improved our record over last year and I think you'll see even more improvement next year," said Hoyles.

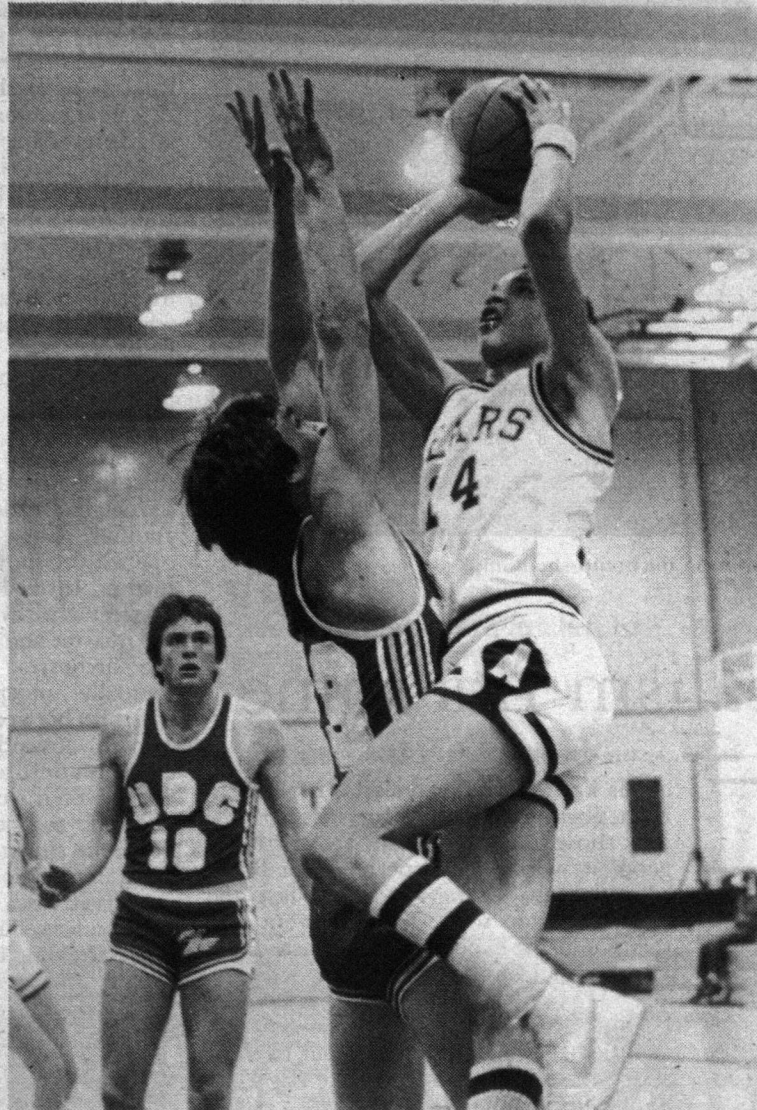
One of the reasons for that expected improvement is the assumption of the head coaching duties by former national team member Terese Quigley. Hoyles says that Quigley is knowledgeable and is excellent in player coach relations.

"The women really like to play for Terese and they really want to win for her, and that is very important," Hoyles said.

The Pandas placed one of

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Bears end in split



Leon Bynoe goes up for jump shot.

The U of A Golden Bear's basketball team finished off their regular season this past weekend with a split against the UBC Thunderbirds.

On Friday night the Bears came up with strong performances winning the contest 78-66.

On Saturday night the Bears lost a cliff-hanger 78-76. In this game Leon Bynoe hit for a fantastic 32 points with Shawn Izzard contributing 16 and Willie Delas netting 12.

This type of basketball has become a trademark for the Bears, especially when they play at home. Next year's squad should be very much improved.

Photo: Martin Beales

Swimmers send 15

Gateway News Services

The U of A Bears will be sending 10 swimmers and the Pandas will send 5 to the Nationals in Vancouver this coming weekend.

The large contingent is the direct result of the Western championships held a week and a half ago. In that meet the Bears placed second behind Calgary and the Pandas placed third.

These placings were exactly what coach John Hogg had hoped for before the meet.

The coach commented that there were alot of personal best

times recorded.

The top three men were Brian Carleton, Jeff Riddle, and Brent DesBrisay. Brian placed second in the 100 butterfly, second in the 200 breaststroke and he got a third in the 200 IM. Brent placed a second in the 100 free and Jeff was first in the 100 butterfly, second in the 200 butterfly and second in the 400 IM.

The women also swam well with Barb Hemphill, Pam Montgomery and Sheila Hourneybourne the leaders.

Barb was third in the 50 freestyle and third in the 100 free.

Pam was second in the 200 freestyle and second in the 800 free. Sheila placed third in the 100 butterfly.

John Hogg described the teams effort as stalwort saying

that this is the largest amount of swimmers the Bears have ever sent to the Nationals and he hopes that they can come up with a strong meet and finish better than last years sixth. The lomen. he hopes, will crack the top ten.

A post-mortem

Bears out of playoffs

The Golden Bears hockey team bowed out of the playoffs for the second straight year on Sunday February 21 in a 6-3 loss to the Calgary Dinosaurs here at Varsity Arena.

The next night down in Calgary the Bears came up with a 3-2 win but the result was meaningful only in terms of pride.

Over this past weekend the team travelled to UBC and split the weekend contests, winning 6-3 and then losing 2-1.

It has been a characteristic of the Bears this year to not win the first game of a weekend series. This has been especially prevalent in post Christmas play. The team did have a lot of bad breaks this season but that can only be used as an excuse so far. A really good team makes their own breaks.

But the Bears did have the talent to at least finish second. They simply could not put together a string of games where they played consistent hockey. They did have a chance to get into

the playoffs as late as the second to last weekend of the season against Calgary but instead of coming out fired up, they went down 6-3.

Both Clare Drake and Bill Moores must be wondering what they could have done better. This is the second year in a row that Drake's team has finished with a losing record and that is something just not characteristic of this coach.

Goal tending this year was sporadic at times but the more important factor was the defence itself. They wilted several times under pressure from opposing teams and could not move the puck up under pressure.

The forwards were fast and tenacious in their checking but they could not find the handle when around the other team's net. They did not have one man among who could put a goal in when it was most needed but there are players coming back next year who could develop into just such a player.

Next year's team will be

better. The rookies will have that year's experience behind them and many of the other players should mature.

Sport shorts

Okay, lots of activity and not much space to put it in so the results must be brief.

The wrestling team went to the C.I.A.U. championships and placed fifth. Mark Yurick finished second in the 76 kilo class while Scott Tate and Blake Dermott finished third with Mike Payette finishing fourth.

The Alberta divers again overwhelmed their opposition in a diving meet over the weekend. They positively blew away the team from UBC 500-200. Dan Flannigan was the leader with four gold and two silver medals.