

Speaking on Sports

with Don Moren

Songs, suds and Santa Clauses somewhat obscured a quiet announcement that the Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union plans on doing something with respect to the athletic scholarship problem.

An article in the December 17 issue of the Toronto Globe and Mail quotes Ivor Wynne as saying he will head a committee to study the adoption of athletic scholarships. Wynne is president of the CIAU.

Simon Fraser of Burnaby is the only university in Canada that permits athletes to receive financial help in the form of bursaries and scholarships for abilities in sports.

The CIAU committee will make a decision either for or against which will be announced at the CIAU's annual meeting this June. If they decide "for", the decision would require the approval of the Association of Universities and Colleges in Canada.

So football fans, take heart. Provided both bodies give athletic scholarships their sanction and provided available scholarships are administered wisely by this university, we could be attracting future Russ Jacksons and George Reeds.

Academics, athletics can mix

Wynne said there had been pressure on the CIAU to study athletic scholarships. It's amazing the pressure hasn't come long ago.

For years, the better Canadian high school players have been lured to the American colleges. Perhaps Canadian universities are beginning to realize that athletic excellence is an admirable achievement.

In many cases athletic excellence coincides with academic excellence. Universities such as Harvard and Notre Dame in the U.S. are fine academic institutions with an added reputation for good football teams.

Rev. Thomas Aquinas, president of Notre Dame University of Nelson, B.C., where members of Canada's ski team train and study, and was the first Canadian university to establish hockey scholarships, says there is a definite relationship between athletic prowess and educational aptitude. He says: "As the proficiency in a given sport increases, there is usually a rise in marks."

Father Aquinas said the 25 members of the ski team passed 91 per cent of their exams. The average mark was 76 per cent. Last year the average mark was 70 per cent.

Maybe athletic scholarships will give college football the shot it needs. Crowds at Alberta's football games are sparse. Reports in the Football News that crowds average between three and five thousand is an outright lie. The last football game against the Huskies drew no more than 200 and most of these were on complimentary passes.

Spectator sports events make an important cultural contribution to the campus provided there are people in the stands. It's no secret that the publicity-public relations aspects of "A" team athletics is seriously lacking and this keeps the people away in droves.

We'll have to look to scholarships as a means of creating student interest in football. Perhaps students will appreciate a move towards greater athletic excellence. Let's keep our fingers crossed until June.

Superlative in 66

Several Canadian universities were the greatest in 1966—in their own way of course.

The most schizophrenic athletic organization: the UBC played only a partial interlocking schedule with other WCIAA teams so they could play supposedly tougher American competition. Their visions of grandeur were rudely clouded by a loss to Manitoba and a failure to really bomb any Canadian clubs.

The most improved football team belongs to the University of Calgary, whose Dinnies are still the weakest, but not the push-overs they used to be.

The most fickle football club: U of A's unanimously.

The most determined hockey club: Saskatchewan was walked on in the first period Dec. 9 but came on to split with the Bears. The most declined hockey club: the Manitoba Bisons; oh, how they miss Jim Irving!

Most obviously a factor to be reckoned with in the future: the X-men from St. Francis Xavier who proved in the College Bowl game that Maritime football is not bush.

The biggest crybaby: University of Toronto could not visualize a national bowl game without their beloved Blues. 13,000 fans could.



—Neil Driscoll photo

ALL-STARS ON THE MOVE—Nugget Ron Tookey (with puck) and Bear Brian Harper, both members of the Edmonton All-Stars, charge towards the Moscow Select goal. It was all in vain, however, as the top-notch Russian team steam-rolled to a 5 - 2 victory at Varsity Arena.

Bears to play in tournament

Calgarians will once again be treated to an exhibition of top calibre volleyball when the University of Calgary holds its international invitational tournament, Jan. 21 in the university gym.

Invitations have been sent to the Washington Athletic Club in Seattle, the Portland YMCA, Brigham Young University and last year's champions, the USAF Academy team in Colorado.

All of these teams have indicated they will be on hand to play against such top Alberta teams as the University of Alberta Golden Bears (Alberta Junior Champions), and the Calgary Premier Grads (Alberta Senior Champions). United College from Winnipeg also indicates its team will be in Calgary.

Replies have not been received as yet from Mexico, the University of Victoria, and the West Vancouver Y Spartans. However the BC teams are expected to attend. Should they come, the Canadian teams may upset their opponents from south of the border.

The Golden Bears and the Grads are much stronger than any previous Alberta teams. Reports from BC say that the Spartans and the University of Victoria are stronger than last year's UBC team that placed third in the Canadian Championships.

The teams will play in a qualifying round robin during the day starting at 9 a.m. The top teams will advance to the finals in the evening with the women's finals at 7 p.m. and the men's at 8 p.m.

ZORBA'S NIGHTIME

Friday, Jan 6—
—THE RETURNS

Saturday, Jan. 7—
—THE SHADES

Sunday, Jan. 8—
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(After Hour Jazz Friday and
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A new schedule will be negotiated for 1967-68.

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