

Sports

Sports medicine centre spreads itself around

Peter Puck donates for Glen Sather clinic

by Ashram Mustapha

Perhaps the only exposure you've had to a sportsmedicine clinic is seeing Ivan Drago knock machines out of order in the movie *Rocky IV*.

However, anyone involved with the department of medicine, surgery, physical education, physical therapy, occupational therapy, nutritional services, or bioengineering may soon be influenced by the construction of the Glen Sather Sport Medicine Centre.

Plans are under way for the development of a first-rate Sport Medicine and Sport Science Centre designed to serve a wide range of groups. These groups include research scientists, students, athletes, coaches, and medical practitioners as well as specialists in physiotherapy, biomedical, and physical education.

The Centre is to be built on the northwest corner of the University Pavillion, as this location is not only close to sport science labs and Phys Ed facilities, but borders on the proposed expansion area of the basketball courts just outside of the West pool.

Many of the Centre's objectives are research oriented, focusing on areas such as the diagnosis of sport-related injuries, injury prevention, and multi-disciplinary research. Multi-disciplinary research groups would have the capacity to study nutrition, drug-use/abuse, sport equipment, and exercise prescription, since all of these areas are related to physical activity.

Orthotics research will also be conducted at the centre. What, you might ask, is orthotics research? This type of research is centred around the design, creation, and testing of special types of prosthesis (artificial body parts for disabled people or protectional devices for reducing injuries.)

On an international scale, the Centre would serve a function similar to that of development in East-



(Above) Panda basketball player Debbie O'Byrne gets taped up for practice. (Right) The whirlpool bath speeds up healing in muscles.

ern Europe, where world class athletes in all sports are being produced on a continuous basis. Canada and the U.S. lag behind Russia and GDR in scientific approaches to amateur sport.

Another objective of the Centre is to structure a research unit which would be attractive to internationally recognized scholars who may be brought to the U of A as Alberta Heritage Foundation career scientists.

Even graduate students from the U of A would be affected by the Centre. Both graduate and undergraduate students in the fields of medicine, surgery, physio, occupational therapy and athletic training and conditioning could use the academic centre of the clinic as a learning laboratory.

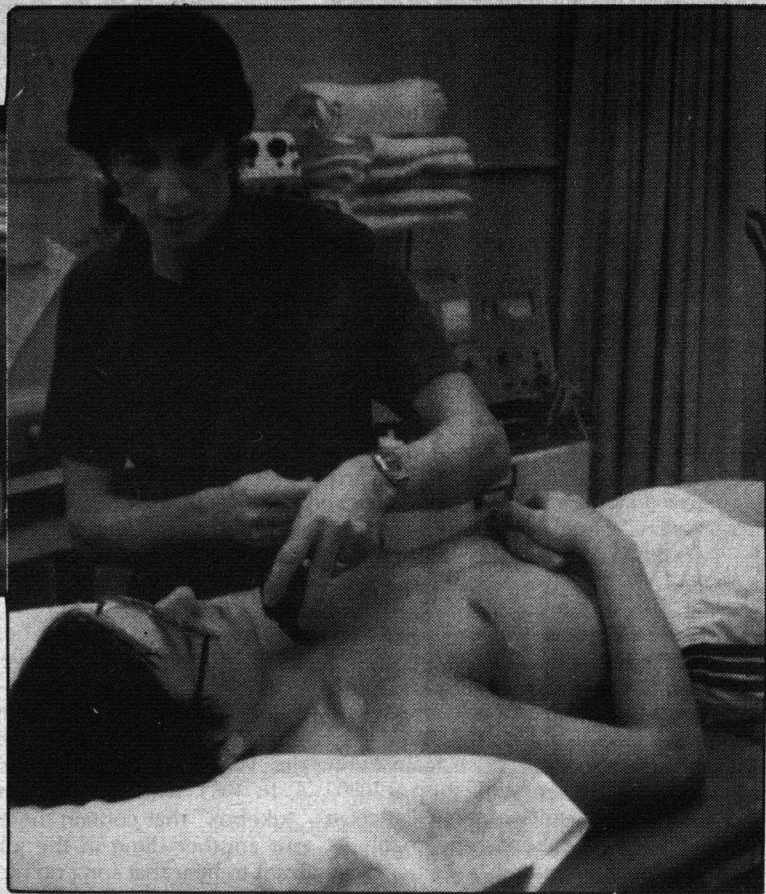
But most importantly, the Centre would have a direct influence on sports related injuries within and directly surrounding the University community. A high priority, however, will be given to the Edmonton Oilers.

Why name the Centre after the coach of the Oilers, Glen Sather? All of the funding is to be raised through donations matched by the Government of Alberta. So far, the

only donations received are from Peter Puck himself. Pocklington is donating \$60,000 a year, with his only request being that the Centre be named after Glen Sather. With the matchable grant from the government, it is hoped that \$350,000 can be raised to begin construction, which may be as soon as May or June. However, the Government will only match Pocklington's \$60,000 on a yearly basis. Organizers are currently attempting to procure the money in one lump sum so that they can begin construction immediately.

Dean Glassford, the Dean of Physical Education and Recreation says, "The U of A has the potential to be the best sportsmedicine clinic in North America. If we get the desired location, we can create a positive working environment between the faculties of Rehabilitation Medicine, Medicine, and Physical Education."

Presently, several universities have the capacity to develop a similar centre. The institution that is first to develop such a centre will make an enormous contribution in a wide variety of ways to the community, the province, and the nation.



Dean Glassford adds, "The Heritage Fund will be vital in providing access to funding. With the good environment and people here, though, we will be able to bring in outside experts."

One such expert scheduled to

lecture here this summer is Jim Riordan, a Soviet sport specialist from Bradford University. Riordan, who once lived in the USSR, will lecture on sportsmedicine in the Soviet Union.

Oilers know the ropes

by Mark Spector

Many critics say that the NHL's 80-game schedule is about 15 games too long. And with league president John Ziegler's watered down playoff system, one has to agree that 80 games to weed out only five teams is slightly ridiculous.

But on the other hand, nobody can say that they were shorted in their bid for a high spot in the standings come April.

For the Edmonton Oilers the situation is somewhat unique. Since the Smythe division crown is annually wrapped up and under the tree for Christmas, all that remains in the way of pre-playoff incentives is the top spot in the overall league standings.

Along with a nice cheque for each Oiler, top spot would earn them home-ice advantage throughout the Stanley Cup playoffs.

It's like the old Ant and the Grasshopper fable — work hard all year and collect the benefits in the form of home-ice advantage in the Cup.

But Edmonton is young, talented, and like their coach Glen Sather, a wee bit cocky.

"I don't give a bleep about Calgary," spat Sather of his closest Smythe division rivals. "It's Philly that we're worried about."

So the Oilers know what the proverbial carrot is. But no law says that they've got to bust their behinds to get it.

Case in point, Edmonton's last four games: 4-3 wins over Vancouver, Calgary, and Hartford, and a 6-3 Sunday night win over the Flames again. In each of these contests, Gretzky and Co. played only 40 minutes or so (out of 60) of genuine Oiler hockey.

The rest of the time the skaters joined the fans as spectators of outstanding goaltending by either Andy Moog or Grant Fuhr.

So, Marty McSorley, does it bother anyone that Stanley Cup form hasn't graced the Oiler dressing room as of yet?

"Yes and no. There's so many

competitors around this dressing room and they know when to make the big play."

"Maybe we didn't have quite the fire in our eyes when it was 4-1 (Sunday versus Calgary) as we did in the first period. Perhaps it's the score that determines the amount of intensity in a hockey game."

But the former Pittsburgh Penguin is quick to note that when his new club gets hungry they're not to be denied.

"Sometimes it's amazing when the guys pick up the pace a bit, then after a while they pick it up some more still."

It's not only the players, though, that realize that a smart team paces itself over 80 games. Said co-coach John Muckler on Saturday, "It's a well-known fact that good teams find a way to win...I guess that you just have to play good enough to win."

When asked what he expected of Sunday's match-up with the Flames, Muckler countered smugly, "I don't know if we'll have to play hard or not."

Ah, the euphoria of residing at the top of the heap.

But before we get carried away let us give credit to the opposing clubs for taking the play away from the Oilers sometimes. They're on the ice looking for two points as well.

And as this apparent dynasty rolls along, one sees a bit of a pattern developing. Their record after 40 games this year is 29-7-4. Last year at this point, Edmonton's record stood at 28-8-4.

One begins to realize that a record point year is not in the future nor on the minds of this team.

Basically what we have here is a bunch of young hockey players who have matured greatly in the last four years. They'll win when it counts and bring home the bacon.

But if it's a travelling road show complete with ten-goal games and double hat-tricks that you want, sorry, they've left town now.

Hoop Bears show promise

by Mark Spector

Despite winning only two of six games over the Christmas break, a general air of optimism presides over the camp of the Golden Bear basketball team. Alberta placed fifth in the Winnipeg Wesmen Classic and seventh in the National Classic in Calgary to round out their exhibition season.

The regular season opens up this weekend when UBC and UVic visit the Varsity gym on Friday and Saturday nights respectively.

In the opening game of the Wesmen Classic right after Christmas, the Bears drew the ninth ranked York Yeomen in their first game. "We played an excellent first half and (Mike) Kornak played just unbelievably," said assistant coach Steve Roth.

Although Alberta ended up losing the contest 88-77, the Bears held a halftime lead of 45-42.

"We got tight collars in the second half," commented Roth. "It was a three point game throughout the second half and then we lost it at the freethrow line."

Kornak was the Bears' top scorer with 26 points in the game which saw Alberta relegated to the consolation side of the tournament.

In their next game against UQTR (Trois Rivieres) Alberta came up with a lesser effort yet won the con-

test 73-70. The score at the half was 46-33 for the Bears but they slacked off somewhat in the second half.

"That was a team that we should have beaten by a lot more than just three points. We lead by 20 points at one point in the first half and just sort of turned off the jets."

Mike Kornak, Gerry Couzens, and Chris Toutant all had 12 points on the day.

Alberta ended the tourney on a losing note, however, dropping an 89-80 decision to the Calgary Dinosaurs to finish up in fifth place. "I think the score flattered us on that occasion," admitted Roth who saw his team play porous defense throughout the second half. "When we score 80 points we should win ballgames. Defense is just hard work, and we just didn't work hard enough."

So it was off to Calgary to participate in the National Classic along with seven other schools which included number one Victoria and the powerful Brandon Bobcats.

And it was Brandon that Alberta drew in their opening game.

The Bears lost a close 79-74 decision which once again was lost on the freethrow line at the end of the game. "We missed a layup with only 50 seconds left and then still had a chance to win it from the line but blew it," lamented Roth. "We

kept missing the front end of our freethrows and then you don't even have a chance at the second shot."

Brandon was completely suspended last year due to recruiting infractions and could not compete in post season play. This year they're still on probation, but it is of a rather ridiculous sort.

Brandon can only compete in playoff action if they win the Greater Plains Athletic Conference. They cannot claim a wildcard spot however. But they still have several Americans on their roster, mostly from North Carolina where coach Jerry Hemmings has his roots. With talent like that it's a pretty good bet that they'll win their conference. Nothing like a good slap on the wrists, hey guys.

Alberta finished off the tournament with an 81-75 loss to the Manitoba Bisons and a 98-86 win over Queens.

The Bears have looked good against some pretty tough teams (several in the top ten) in their exhibition season. This club lacks mainly in experience and although they will excite, they will probably see no playoff action this season. Being in the same conference as UVic and Saskatchewan will have something to do with that.

But watch out in years to come, because this team will be there.