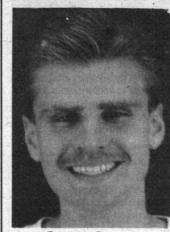




The Pandas won the team title at the University Cup in Calgary last weekend.

Photo Paul Menzies



Gord Stech

## Curling improvements?

How do you know when you have two exams tomorrow and an incomplete paper due last week? Well, have you toured your now spottless pad for the 20th time making sure all your neatly sorted piles of junk haven't changed from minutes ago? I'll bet your records and tapes are looking pretty orderly by now, huh.

Have you found yourself studying things like ads in TV Guide for the first time?

Ticked-off at yourself for breaking that date for an enchanting evening of lying on your bed and daydreaming about your life while your radio blares some obscure program on plant care?

Ever find yourself at your desk saying, "OK, I've done everything possible but study. Finally, here I go. What a relief." Then out comes the atlas and within minutes you're delighted that there's a place in Indonesia called Penat-angsiantar.

Ever read this column? Ever continue reading it after the half-way point when there hasn't been a hint of sports?

You know I was on my 30th tour of the TV channels on Sunday when my ultimate achievement in procrastination occurred. Yes, finishing a close first ahead of "Darts" on TSN, I finally settled on... The Brier!!! UGH! What slothness, how could I!

Well, I did, and now I have a column to show for it. Ladies and gentlemen, here are "Ways to Make Curling More Exciting":

1. **MORE HYPE** — First let's acquire some real nicknames for these dudes. Names like "Stone Slayer", "Broom-Butcher", "Ice-Pick", "Guard-Gasher", "Hogless", and "Bite Master".

Then, following the Pro-Wrestling example, interview the combatants before the games. Have them fire out coarse insults at each other while bragging about how they're going to pound each other's rocks into the next end.

2. **CATER MORE TO VIEWERS** — First of all, out with the archaic knits and in with the spandex to attract more viewers. For colours, the sky's the limit. Fluorescent lime green for "The Peeler Princes" and solid black for "The Rock Reapers".

The ice should be a designer's dream. Be it abstract or realistic, the ice should be something to gaze at. And fix up those staid rings, too. Put some sparkles or some creative advertising in them. Imagine the TV ratings!

Final matches should all be played in custom-made arenas with only one curling rink. Seating should be expanded vertically more than horizontally to keep everybody literally on top of the action. There should also be an organist and a hanging scoreboard with constantly changing stats and chant lyrics.

Get the concessions to sell curling-related items like "Hog-Dies", "Skip-Burgers", "Weight-Watcher Salads and 'Hit 'n' Rolls. Beer should be replaced with craftily named shooters like "Knock Your Rocks Off", and "Triple Killers".

3. **REDUCE PENALTIES TO ENCOURAGE CHEATING** — Much of the excitement in many major sports is generated from cheating.

In soccer, cheating leads to free-kicks and coloured cards; in basketball, foul shots; in football, altered field position; in hockey, powerplays.

And the opponents aren't the only beneficiaries. If you don't get caught, cheating can help your

## Bears 6th at mat tourney

by Alan Small

Bear gymnasts did not do quite as well as the Pandas as they finished sixth in the CIAU gymnastics team event on the men's side of the draw.

The Bears' sixth place finish is one lower than they placed last

year, but it's a far cry from the team's performance in the previous year. The team finished 15th in the individual all-around, while the other two Bears, Brad Law and Joe Freedman, finished 19th and 23rd respectively.

The University of Calgary won the team all-around, led by David Bardana and Tony Smith, who finished second and third in the individual competition. The University of Saskatchewan placed second as their top gymnast, James Rozon, won the individual all-around event. The difference between Calgary and Saskatchewan was only 15 of a point. York University finished a distant third.

Dunford was the only Bear to finish in the points in an individual event, as he placed sixth on the vault.

As if the members of one team couldn't ever distract their opponents enough to discretely nudg[e] one of the rocks a little closer to the four-foot. Why haven't any labs invented any "readily soluble stone-impeding powder" to be sprinkled in the path of a rock leaving the rings?

Furthermore, there's no reason why a player shouldn't be able to let rip a good solid mouth-hand noise or make an obscene gesture just as the opposing skip is releasing a crucial tenth end shot.

As far as penalties go, make them light enough that players will keep trying to repeat the infractions. Also, have them assessed by an on-ice referee. This way we'll develop some quality characters of the Hoxall-McEnroe mold in a sport that thrives for controversy. Admit it. You'd watch more curling if curling officials would just adopt some of these ideas.

## Pandas CIAU champs

by Alan Small

Although Panda gymnastics coach Stephanie Bishop is in her first year as coach, she can't be much more successful in future years than her Pandas were in their first year.

Her Pandas won the University Gymnastics Cup, the CIAU national gymnastics championship, last weekend when the U of A finished with 105.51 points, over two points ahead of second place Calgary, who hosted the meet. Another Canada West team, UBC, came in third, over four points back of Alberta.

"It was a really good meet," Panda coach Stephanie Bishop said. "The girls really deserved it."

In the individual all-around competition, Pandas Diane Patterson, Michelle Hannemann and Lisa Jefferies finished first, second, and fourth respectively.

Patterson, who scored 35.32 points to win the competition, also won the uneven parallel bars with an 18.60 score and finished third in the vault and third on the balance beam.

"She had a really good meet," Bishop said, "she was consistent in every event."

Hannemann, who won the Canada West individual all-around event, finished second at the CIAU's, partially due to a foot injury that has plagued her since the wests.

"She had a fall on the beam," Bishop said, "the beam is just a hard event. It'll make or break you."

Hannemann had to stop practic-

ing due to her injury, and the balance beam is the toughest one to do well in without a lot of practice. Even without the two weeks of training, Hannemann still finished second to Patterson in the uneven parallel bars, also second in the floor exercises and won the gold medal in the vault.

Other top finishers for the Pandas were Lisa Jefferies, who placed fifth in the bars and Monica Kmech, who placed sixth on the balance beam.

Bishop was not unnoticed for her efforts either, as she was selected as the CIAU's gymnastics coach of the year. Bishop felt it was the hard work the gymnasts put in that brought the Pandas the accolades.

"Gymnasts like Lisa Jefferies didn't even qualify last year for the finals," Bishop said of the CIAU fourth place gymnast, "they've all trained extremely hard this year."

Helping the Pandas along was the cheering section, led by U of A president Myer Horowitz.

"His support was great throughout the entire meet," Bishop said.

**MAT TALK:** Other Panda finishes: Monica Kmech finished 13th, Michelle Maltas finished 24th, and Michelle Graham finished 27th in the all-around... Calgary's Sheri Blunden won the floor exercises, while the other non-Alberta winner was Leanne Gallant of the U of Toronto... This is the third CIAU championship for the Panda gymnasts, as they previously won in 1979 and 1985.

year at the CIAU's, but like last year, veteran Malcolm Dunford led the team, as he finished 15th in the individual all-around, while the other two Bears, Brad Law and Joe Freedman, finished 19th and 23rd respectively.

The University of Calgary won the team all-around, led by David Bardana and Tony Smith, who finished second and third in the individual competition. The University of Saskatchewan placed second as their top gymnast, James Rozon, won the individual all-around event. The difference between Calgary and Saskatchewan was only 15 of a point. York University finished a distant third.

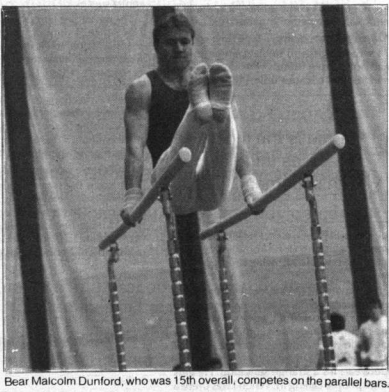
Dunford was the only Bear to finish in the points in an individual event, as he placed sixth on the vault.

The individual events were dominated by Bardana and Rozon: Bardana won the floor exercises and the parallel bars, while Rozon scored a 9.60 on the horizontal bar to win that event and also won the vault, with a score of 9.125.

## Gymnastics

Saskatchewan's Jim Govett won the pommel horse with a 9.35 score while UBC's Kevin Seburn won the rings with a 9.15.

The Bears were specialists in the vault, as Dunford, Freedman, and Law all scored their best marks in those events. Dunford scored a 9.20, while Freedman was given a 9.05 score, while Law came up with an 8.85 on the vault as well.



Bear Malcolm Dunford, who was 15th overall, competes on the parallel bars.