



—Ken Hutchinson photo

OVER AND UNDER—The U of A gymnasts changed their schedule and didn't tell us they were going to be in Halifax for a national meet. They did get back into town, but they haven't told us what happened. So you're out in the cold too.

Local boxing match stepping-stone

Every athlete's dream and every country's wish . . . a gold medal at the Olympic Games.

Edmonton will be a stepping stone for some such athletes when the national boxing championships and Olympic Trials Tournament will be held here May 17 and 18.

More than 100 boxers from across the nation will be competing in the tournament to be staged at the U of A.

The boxers will make complete use of the university facilities as

they will also live, eat and train here.

Champions will be declared in 11 weight divisions but only four will go on to compete in the Olympic Games at Mexico City.

The fights themselves will be held in the ice arena. Its capacity will be enlarged from 2800 to nearly 3500 seats to hold the large number of fans expected.

The Kingsway Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion will be sponsoring the trials.

Alberta boxers with Olympic as-

pirations will begin the long climb toward national recognition by competing in the Golden Gloves tournament this weekend in Edmonton. The event will be held Friday and Saturday at the Sales Pavilion at 8 p.m. both nights.

Outstanding boxers from outside the province will also be coming into compete in the prestige event.

Prince George, long a hot-bed of amateur boxing activity, will be sending down six fighters for the card.

Speaking on Sports

By STEVE RYBAK

An even break for Canadians?

Is the Canadian football player in the CFL really a second class citizen? If so, why?

I talked to two Canadians who had try-outs with CFL teams—one made it one didn't. The successful one was Mike Law, a defensive halfback with the Edmonton Eskimos; the unsuccessful one was Val Schneider, who had tryouts with Saskatchewan and the Eskimos. Both are grad students in phys ed.

"There is the idea that Canadians are not good football players just because they are Canadian," said Law.

"This idea exists in the minds of the coaches, who are mostly American, and the players. You have to work harder to prove yourself," he said, "but if you have the ability you can make it."

Schneider was invited to the Eskimo's camp as a punter but instead was worked as a corner-linebacker.

"What do you expect," he said, "with proven punters like Randy Kerbow and an NFL punter in camp. I worked for three months punting. Sure I was disappointed, but I can't complain.

"Armstrong gave me a real good shot at the corner-linebacking spot—a real good one. But I was too slow. I was cut."

Shortly after being dropped from the Eskimo roster Schneider was asked to come to the Roughriders camp by Eagle Keys. When Schneider arrived in Regina the Riders had two cuts remaining before reaching their quota of Canadians on the roster. This time Schneider was given a crack at the punting chores. Al Ford was the Roughriders punter as well as a starting back. The Riders couldn't afford to keep Schneider around.

Americans have more talent

Of 24 men starting every game, 14 of them will probably be Americans. Why, because they have the talent and they are better trained than Canadian football players. As a result they do get a higher salary than the Canadians on the roster.

"If a Canadian does get a starting role, his salary will increase at lot more than any American's", said Schneider. "But he has to prove himself first."

"There is a myth that Canadians make a pittance in the CFL," said Law. "If he is not as good as an American, he won't make as much; if he's as good as an import he will make almost as much; if he's better he gets a lot more."

The disparity between American and Canadian salaries for the same amount of proven ability and worth arises from the necessity of attracting the imports to Canada.

"Americans get a bonus because you have to get them up here somehow," said Schneider. "It's just hard cold business."

Law wasn't sure whether all imports did get a bonus for coming north. "The clubs," he said, "have to gamble and take the chance that one in every 10 will pan out. You don't have to with Canadians."

"We don't get a bonus," said Schneider, "but we are amply compensated, at least I was. Canadians can only get a chance in Canada, not down in the States. You don't have to give them a bonus."

He received a salary

Schneider told the Eskimos he was planning to return to university and couldn't afford to quit his job and attend the training camp. The Eskimos matched his \$400 a month salary for the two months he spent at the camp. It was written into his contract.

There are a few football players in Canada who can demand things from a club. One such player is Mike Eben.

"Eben is a special case. Mike has so much talent he can throw it right back at them," said Law. "Not too many others can do that. They have to prove themselves first. Eben is right to make demands, he's a fool to put football first."

The last Canadian who was in Eben's position was Jim Young, now with B.C. The Argos lost Young because they had their heads in the sand and refused to look at his talent. They offered him a salary based on his nationality, not his ability.

It can work both ways; it's a business and has to be run on that basis. Football players are paid according to their availability, not according to their nationality.

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