

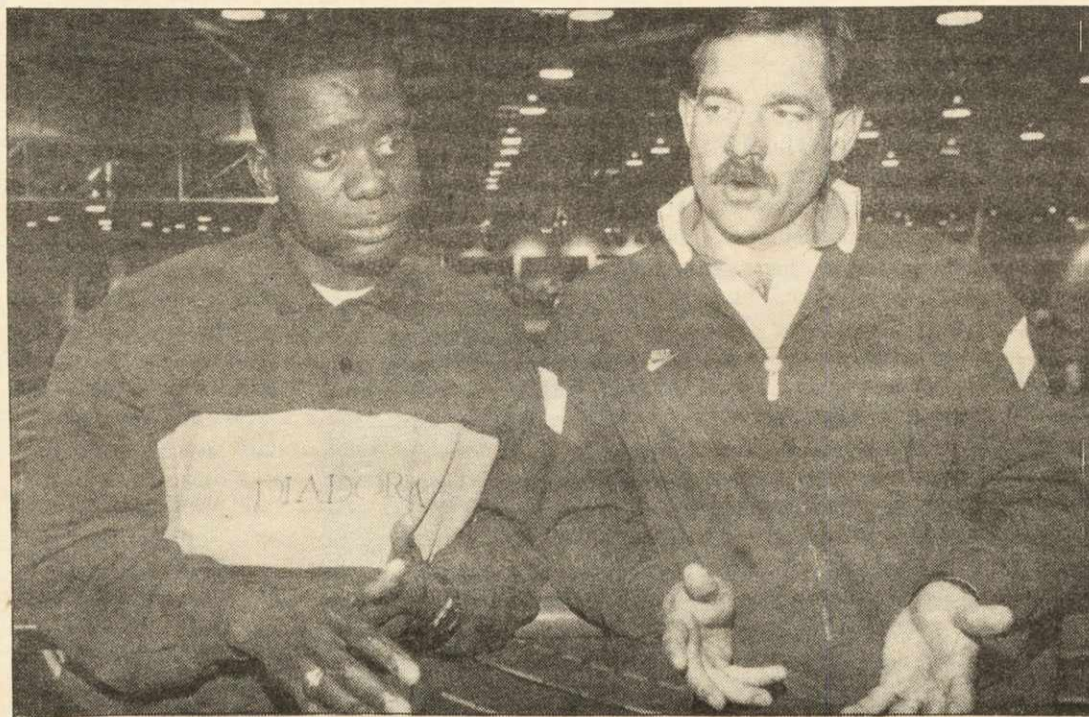
Hey, drugs in sports are o.k. . .

Ben Johnson — a big excuse

BEN JOHNSON is back on the winner's podium. Two years after his scandal at the Seoul Olympics when he was sentenced under a "lifetime ban", he has returned to the world of competitive running. With him, he brings a new message to those he has the undue honour of being a role model: "drugs in sports are o.k."

The world awaited his comeback, and for the first two races we all held our breath. Finally, after winning his first legitimate race, the Canadian Sport Federation can smile again and resume their boastful attitude: 'Hey, we've got the fastest man in the world, so there.'

There is something wrong here. When a national federation lifts a lifetime ban on an athlete they had only just furiously condemned, there must have been a really sneaky motive to do so. Clearly, although Canada's national athletic body refuses to hold actual sponsorship status, they are



Ben Johnson and ex-coach Seagrave chat about his new legitimate career.

more than happy to make it clear to the rest of the world that this guy is Canadian, and part of Canada's athletic program. But by arrogantly acting on nationalistic motives,

they have compromised the morale and integrity of the thousands of serious amateur athletes across the country. Which ironically, they have the responsibility to serve.

The very fact that Johnson has been allowed to compete after committing the gravest athletic sin (i.e. cheating), proves to those who would be his followers that drugs are alright; that if you get caught, no penalty will ever be severe enough to prevent you from returning to competition some day. This is a godsend to all the athletes who are determined to excel by any means, moral or amoral. No longer will they think twice about drugs.

'If Johnson can get away with it, then so will I.'

This is not to say that all athletes will now jump at the opportunity to use performance-enhancing substances. But at a time when competition gets fiercer and fiercer, there will be some who may be pressured or tempted to use drugs, when before they wouldn't have. For them, Johnson's excuse may be all it takes to defy sport ethics and ruin their athletic integrity for the sake of personal advancement. (What happened to competing for the sense of satisfaction and excitement?)

Simply put, Johnson should never be allowed to compete again. He used drugs to beat those who were clean, both at the national and international level, and that is totally inexcusable. Johnson's selfish behaviour shamed Canada in the eyes of the world. He lied, and so betrayed all his fans. Worse, he betrayed all the young Canadian athletes who revered him as their role model.

By allowing Johnson to run, Canada's national sports body has stripped the deterrent that all young athletes should be aware of: if you use drugs, you're cheating, and if you're cheating you will be penalised severely. And perhaps forever.

Angel Figueroa

Hull joins 50/50 Club

by Suzy Kovinsky

This past week was both thrilling and fulfilling for three of hockey's greatest superstars as they experienced three very different kinds of achievement.

During Friday night's 9-3 win over the Detroit Red Wings, the St. Louis Blues' Brett Hull became the fifth player in NHL history to score 50 goals in the first 50 games of the season. Hull joins very respectable company, as the 50/50 club consists mainly of NHL legends.

Not surprisingly, Wayne Gretzky has done it three times, while Mario Lemieux, Mike Bossy and Maurice Richard have each accomplished the record once.

On the pressure of not scoring the goal until his 49th game Hull remarked, "It was a huge weight off my shoulders." He must have been right because the next night in St. Louis, Hull netted two more goals to make his total 52 goals in 50 games.

A very different kind of celebration occurred 2000 miles away in Inglewood, California, as birthday-boy Wayne Gretzky gave himself a present with a message attached to it. By scoring three goals and assisting on two others, in a Kings' 5-4 win over the Canucks, the Great One proved to the world that turning thirty does not mean that the King will soon be abdicating his throne.

Gretzky has reigned over the NHL for each of the eleven seasons in which he has played and is currently on the road to winning the 1991 Art Ross trophy, which is awarded annually to the league's top point getter.

On the eve of his 48th career three-goal game, Gretzky was swamped by fans wondering if he felt any different now that he has entered his 4th decade. In classic Gretzky modesty he replied, "I haven't really thought about it, except when people have asked me. The truth is, I feel really good."

Meanwhile, in front of his friends and family in Quebec City, Pittsburgh Penguins' star Mario Lemieux played in his second NHL game since February 14, 1990.

Last Valentine's day, Lemieux injured his back, and at the end of last season an attempt to rejoin his team-mates in action resulted in further injury and a long stay on the Pittsburgh sidelines. His much awaited comeback was not in vain as Lemieux snatched three assists - thrusting the Penguins to a 6-5 win over the hapless Nordiques.

Lemieux, who two seasons ago led the league with 85 goals and 199 points, assessed his return performance by saying, "I think that I looked pretty bad in the first, but in the second and third I felt a lot better and made better plays."

These three events, combined

with Boston's Raymond Bourque passing Bobby Orr on the all-time scoring list for defencemen, and the Toronto Maple Leafs' momentous unloading of superstar forward John Kordic (ha,ha), are sure signs that the remainder of the NHL season will provide its usual amount of intensity and excitement.

by Rob Corkum

The Dalhousie Woman's basketball team grabbed a share of first place with wins over SMU last Wednesday, and UCCB on Saturday.

The Lady Tigers, at 6-2-0, are tied with the Memorial Sea Hawks with 12 points, on top of the AUSA standings, two point ahead of the UNB Red Bloomers. Memorial who was idle last week has two games in hand, and are undefeated with a record of 6-0-0.

Last Wednesday night at Dalplex the woman opened up a men's woman's double header with their neighborhood arch rivals the St. Mary's Huskies. The Tigers took a nine point lead in to the locker room, at half and although SMU played a strong game in the second half, Dal hung on to win the low scoring contest 55-52. Cindy Flinn, the AUSA's leading

**HEY DUDE —
FEEL LIKE CONFABULATING A WONDEROUSLY
GRAPHIC SPORTS ARTICLE FOR THE GAZETTE?
COME UP TO ROOM 302 OF THE SUB AND
WE'LL CHAT.**

Women tied for first place

scorer, lead SMU's second half attack with 21 of her total 26 points coming in that half. High scorers for the Tigers were Angie McLeod (who leads the team with a points per game average of 13.4) with 13, and Kelly Copeland with 11.

In Saturday's matchup also at Dal the Boston Celtics pounded Fariview Junior High 134-11, actually the Tigers beat the Cape Breton Capers 84-33, in a game that, as indicated by the score was totally dominated by Dal in every aspect. Four players lead the Ti-

gers in scoring; McLeod, Abigail Tramble, Libby Curry and Jackie Herbert, all with 12. While Lee-Ann MacDonald lead the Capers with nine points. Although the UCCB men's team has shown they really belong in the AUSA this year, the 0-7 woman's team needs to improve if they want to remain, in their last three games they have been out scored 242-126.

The Lady Tigers next hit the hardwood this Saturday in New Brunswick for an important matchup against UNB.

Women's Basketball AUSA						
	W	L	T	F	A	P
MUN	6	0	0	419	302	12
DAL	6	2	0	488	400	12
PEI	5	2	0	452	401	10
UNB	4	3	0	426	409	8
ACA	4	3	0	403	378	8
SFX	2	6	0	421	465	4
SMU	1	5	0	336	359	2
UCB	0	7	0	335	566	0

Schedule			
Feb 2	DAL @ UNB	noon	
Feb 9	DAL @ SFX	6 pm	
Feb 10	DAL @ UCCB	1 pm	
Feb 17	PEI @ DAL	1 pm	
Feb 23	MUN @ DAL	8 pm	
Feb 24	MUN @ DAL	1 pm	
Mar 1-3	AUSA @ 1st place		
Mar 7-9	CIAU @ Laval		