

Note: Any resemblance to characters either dead or living is purely intentional. No names have been used in order to protect the hippies involved.

"Well, we won last night."

That's how one member of the Outlaw Marijuana League sums up why he takes off valuable time from studies to play in the Shmockey section of the league.

Our mystery member, known to his intimates as the Torch, plays for the Phantom Pig Truck, a team high in the standings of the three team loop. Other teams in the league include the Heavy Hits Flyers, who were thrashed 6-4 by the Pig Truck Sunday night, and the North Garneau Nookies.

As the name Outlaw implies, the OML is not recognized by the CAHA, who are probably not even aware of its existence. And, as the name Marijuana suggests, the league is a joint effort of many people, who work together to upgrade the quality of shmockey in Edmonton. The organisers have even secured a trophy, the Cannabis Cup, which will be presented to the surviving team in March.

Shmockey is played on a regulation ice surface, but the players do not wear skates. The conventional puck is replaced by a rubber ball, which complicates the game considerably and leads to numerous wipe-outs in the corners. Other than that, few rules exist. There is no time limit to the game, and consequently there is a great deal of clairvoyance and strategy required from the coaches, who must know exactly when to quit. The shrewd coaches usually determine this by looking out on the ice and determing who is a head.

'The League was organised by a group of guys with no ambition and nothing else to do, but who knew how to have fun,"continued Torch. "That wasn't too long ago, but no one can remember when the League started."

I asked Torch how he became involved in the OML. His answer was very logical and revealing.

"Last year, my pusher, who is a very sharp cookie, came up with the idea of entering a team, so he rounded up most of his best customers, and, presto, there was the Phantom Pig Truck. I guess his philosophy was that the team that plays together buys together."

HAMBURGER??

Q. What looks like a hamburger and feels like a hamburger, but isn't a hamburger?

A. The hands of about 100 curlers who participated in the second qualifying round of the Golden Bear curling playdowns.

Armed with brooms, bandages, and adhesive tape, about thirty teams took to the ice in SUB on the weekend to determine the final four rinks to qualify for the Golden Bear playdowns next weekend. The eventual winners head to Victoria for the WCIAA finals Feb. 24-26.

Sitting on the sidelines, having already qualified in the first bonspiel Dec. 11, were the rinks of Larry Hunka, Rick Riggins, Bill McCallum, and Jim Fuller.

The playdowns are a severe test of stamina as well as curling skill, as a team could end up playing as many as seven or eight games in two days. Those that got off easy only had to play four, but that's still a lot of curling.

Anyway, when the smoke had cleared, Neil Fleming, Peter Lobb, Ed Hancheruk and the darkhorse Doug LaValley rink had come through the double-knockout competition to qualify. The boys take to the ice again this weekend to determine the one rink that will make the trip to Victoria.

Anyway, here are the teams to beat:

1) Rick Riggins-an excellent curler with a dandy rink. Has come close on a couple of occasions but has never quite made it.

2) Bill McCallum-another perennial contender.

8) Doug LaValley-skipped by Brian Heller. Probably a long shot but could surprise a few people. Their third is a little erratic, but if he settles down they could win a few.

Morrisless, listless Bruins manage split with Dinosaurs

by Ron MacTavish

Calgary 76, Bears 73(OT) Calgary 51, Bears 57

Nobody expected the Bears to walk away from the Dinnies, for the traditional U of A- U of C rivalry always produces heated contests. But for the Golden ones to blow a game and almost lose another was unthinkable because, the Bears are league championship material, or so the speculation ran on Friday evening.

The script was proceeding as expected with the Bears holding 40-28 half- time lead in Friday's opening contest when an ankle injury to Bob Morris seemed to turn the game around. Morris, who had netted 13 points in the first half, was out for the weekend and without his steadying influence, the bears play could be described at best, as ragged.

The Bears quickly lost their lead, but Calgary, a dull methodical team could never pull away...The Bears, in fact were ahead in the last minute of regulation play but a long jump shot by Garry Elliott knotted the count at 69-69 and sent the game into overtime.

In the overtime contest, the Dinosaurs grabbed an early four' point lead but it took a three step lay-up by Dan quance (his only field goal of the game) to clinch a victory.

Expected battle

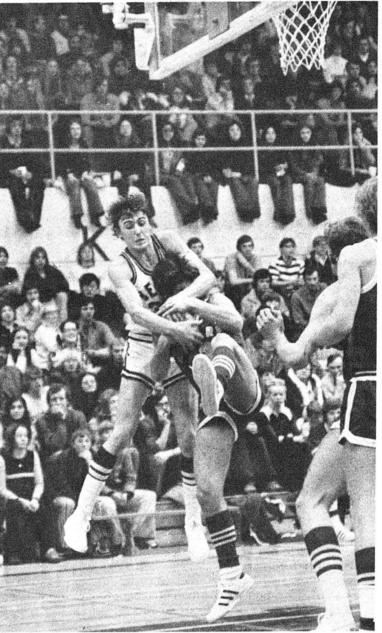
The expected battle between Quance and Mike Frisby never materialized as neither centre played up to potential. As a result, Gary Campbell saw plenty of action service for the Bears, and with ten points and a strong defensive effort, turned in his best performance of the season. Marty Lyons with 16 points paced the Bears who as a team turned in one of their most inept outings of the season.

The strong outside shooting of Garry Elliott, Bill Lathrup and John Powell was Calgary's main offensive threat, as between them this trio netted 55 points with Elliott's 20 point

outburst being a game high. The Bears turned things around on Saturday emerging from the fray with a 57-51 victory, but again their play was sub-standard as their 27 per cent field-goal average would attest.

The game was a competetive affair in a negative context as neither team managed to produce a consistent attack. From Calgary's stand point the game began to sour when Dan Quance fouled out with over twelve minutes remaining. At the time the Dinnies held a five point lead which they soon relinquished, mainly through the alert play of the Bears who capitalized on turnovers.

These turnovers resulted from the implementation of an aggressive half- court press, which caused the Dinnies to resort to undisciplined basketball. With less than a minute to play the Bears held a four point lead and with this



IF THE PRESS DOESN'T WORK

....try the squeeze play

margin ensuring victory, they stalled for time, using a half-court passing routine which proved successful due to the Bears superior height. Wallace Tollestrup's basket in the last second closed off an exciting but poorly played weekend of basketball.

Mike Frisby, regaining some of the form he showed against UBC, hooped 18 points to lead the Bears while Greg Stewart and Tom Solyom contributed IO each. Garry Elliott with 14 points was high man for the Dinnies, who were more than happy to leave Ednonton with a split.

Save for the spirited play of Garry Campbell on Friday and the alert defensive play of Bob Dawson Saturday, it must be considered as a dismal weekend for the Bears, who are not expected to win every game, but can perform far better than they showed against the Dinosaurs.

Shutouts galore

Shutouts are uncommon in almost any sport.

And when a team rattles off three of them in a row, that's really an accomplishment.

The Alberta Golden Bear judo squad did just that in the five-man team competition at their own invitational tournament on the weekend. The team of Ron Lappage, Casey van Kooten, Richard Seibel, Frank van Ginhoven and Russ Powell crushed Lethbridge 50-0, the Edmonton YMCA 40-0 and Vauxhall 23-0 to capture the team title. Points in the competition are awarded as follows: 10 points for a full-point win, 5 points for a half-point win, 3 points for a decision and no points for a

In the individual events, the Bears managed only two titles with Lappage capturing the brown and black belt heavyweight division and Ron Powell, the Alberta coach, winning the middleweight title in the same class. Two Japanese members of the Vauxhall team fought it out in the lightweight division, with T. Gibo tossing teammate Y. Sugama for the

In the blue belt and under class, only one Bear made it to the finals. Al Schaefer tackled Don Szymiec of the Londonderry Judo club, but lost as Szymiec threw him for a full-point win.