

'75 Sports Forecast

by Joel Fournier

At this time of year the more intrepid among the sports writing fraternity like to display their erudition by forecasting the results of contests and championships that are to occur in the coming year. While not being especially courageous, nor the possessor of any "hot scoops", nonetheless, I must venture a few predictions of my own, if for no other reason than I've always wanted to. While I certainly won't hit all the major events, I'll try to get a few of the more noteworthy on my big list. A word of warning to you speculators out there, don't wager your second term tuition on the strength of any of these prognostications.

I'll lead off with the event that will be decided first, thereby enabling the discriminating reader to decide just how accurate my prophecies for the remainder of the year will be.

THE SUPER BOWL - The Steelers by 10 points - Reason - Minnesota looked so bad against the Rams in their play-off game that even Viking coach Bud Grant is rumoured to have a little cash going the other way. As a matter of fact, some wags, who claim to have secret inside dope, flatly state that Fran Tarkenton has just made out his will leaving whatever is left of his body after the game to any Medical School that will take it. Meanwhile, "Mean Joe Green" feels that he should have first claim on the remains, he seems to be of the opinion that he might have something to do with Francis' sudden demise.

THE STANLEY CUP - Philadelphia Flyers - Reason - With Coach Freddy Shero making all those trips to Russia he has probably come up with a secret weapon that he will unveil at the appropriate time. The way I see it, he's been surreptitiously teaching his "Broad Street Animal Act" how to play hockey instead of

lumberjacking. Of course the "bully boys" know how to keep a secret, they haven't let any of this newly acquired skill show through yet, even to the most sophisticated observer. But wait until the finals, the team will display such a complete reversal of form that their opponents, the "Busted Bruins", will fall completely to pieces (again)! That's not all, this sudden metamorphosis will so move Clarence Campbell that he will personally present the Lady Byng Trophy to co-winner Bobby Clark and Dave Schultz with honourable mention going to the remainder of the menagerie.

THE GREY CUP - Toronto Argos - Reason - Russell Jackson the new head coach. Not everybody knows this, but Russ' whole life has been scripted for a Hollywood Spectacular! Would you believe a T.V. Special? How about a one act play at Neptune's Second Stage? In any case, keeping what you have just learned in mind, it simply wouldn't fit the master plan if that 'smiling countenance' was blessed with anything less than Canadian Football's greatest honour. Besides if he doesn't do well in his new job, he might end up broadcasting the games again. Even Montreal fans wouldn't mind giving up the trophy for a few years to thwart that possibility.

THE AVCO CUP - Toronto Toros - Reason - That's the only team name that I can think of right now. No doubt I could find some others if I took the time to look in the paper, but what the hell, who cares anyway. The Avco Cup, bet you didn't even know there was one; which just goes to show you how "in the know" sports scribes really are. The Avco Cup, an exceptionally fitting name for a trophy emblematic of WHA supremacy.

THE WORLD SERIES - New York Yankees - Reason Jim Augustus "Catfish"

Hunter. At the price the Yankees paid for this 'simple country boy' he should win at least forty games, the final four naturally coming in the World Series itself. Catfish, as you probably know, was formerly the property of that great benefactor of modern sport, Charles Findlay. Charlie has a personality that qualifies him to play Cheetah's mate in the Old Tarzan flicks. He also has the knack of transforming his relationships with his professional hirelings into one of the more malleable substances known to the creatures of the earth, a substance commonly held to enhance the growing capacities of gardens.

Enough talk of the professionals, let's take a look at those teams closest to our hearts and see what's in store for the Tigers in 1975. Here I abandon my pursuit of drollery, a move you will no doubt appreciate, and get right down to some hard-nosed forecasting.

HOCKEY TIGERS - Still of virtually unknown quality but they have showed enough to rate them a third place finish behind Université de Moncton and St. Mary's. With a few breaks in the play-offs they could take it all.

BASKETBALL TIGERS - In their last game with SMU they showed enough potential to be champions. But inconsistency seems to be their downfall. The potential is certainly there, however it is my feeling that the performance won't be. In this case I hope I am wrong. In any event they won't be worse than third.

VOLLEYBALL TIGERS - This team will win the AUA Crown in fine fashion. The Jan Prsala coached team is the class of the conference and a pleasure to watch.

SKIING TIGERS - They always win, so it is no great challenge to predict a repeat this year.

SWIMMING TIGERS -

Even without John March and Peter Guildford this team should place a strong second. A tribute to their excellent coach.

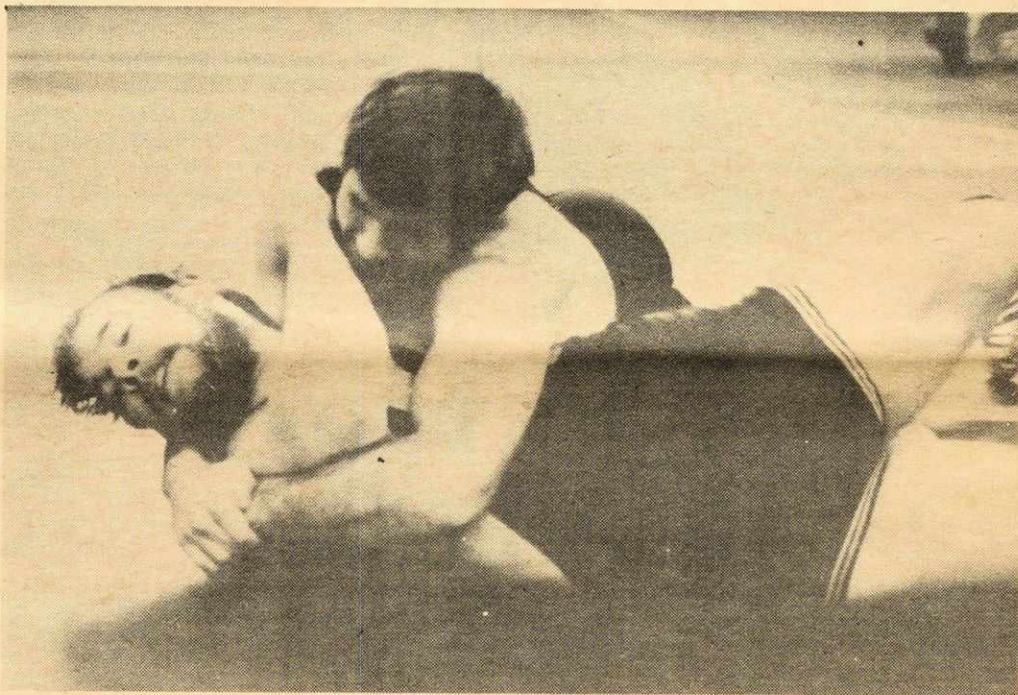
GYMNASTIC TIGERS - Jim Hoyle has his charges in great form, they should be repeat champions with little difficulty.

WRESTLING TIGERS - Even with all the work that the boys are putting into it, it is not likely that they can overcome the experience of UNB and Memorial.

SOCCER TIGERS - Tony Richards has put together a great team. They will repeat as conference champions and go on to win the Nationals.

FOOTBALL TIGERS - I pick the Tigers to finish third behind SMU and St. F.X. Acadia, without Charuk will be just another team.

Well that's it folks, Fournier's First Fearless Forecast, written without fear or favour, an unbiased look at the forthcoming fortunes of favourite and foe alike.



KILLER SPORT

MIKE SOARES

Mike is a native Nova Scotian who attended Halifax West High School. Mike is a third year Arts and Education student. This is Mike's second year of wrestling for Dal. At the present time Mike is undefeated this season. Mike, aside from being a very skilled wrestler, is also extremely competent at Judo. Mike will be wrestling in the 177 or 167 lb. class in the Atlantic Intercollegiate Championships. Mike is a member of the Nova Scotia wrestling team that will represent Nova Scotia in the Canada Games in Lethbridge, Alberta in February.

JOHN MILLIGAN

John is a native Nova Scotian attending Q.E. High School where he began wrestling. He is a third year Engineering student. John is in his second year of wrestling at Dal. John is also undefeated this season. However, due to a shoulder separation, has not competed

too often this season. John will represent Dal in the heavyweight division in both the Atlantic Championships and as a member of the Nova Scotia team in Alberta. John, like Mike, is also very competent in Judo. John is in the unique position of being able to represent Nova Scotia in both Judo and Wrestling at Lethbridge.

Dalhousie Hosts Wrestling Tourney

On Saturday, January 11, 1975 university wrestlers from all areas of the Maritimes will converge on Halifax to compete in the Dal Open Wrestling Tournament. Wrestling will begin at 10:00 a.m. and continue throughout the day. The universities which will be represented at the meet are UNB, Moncton, St. Francis Xavier, St. Mary's, Acadia and the host, Dalhousie.

The University of New Brunswick appears to be the strongest team led by the

former two time Quebec High School champion, Phil Knox. They also possess several other fine wrestlers from the province of Quebec. Acadia's Derek Eason a former Quebec champion who represented the Maritimes in the Intercollegiate championships will be tough to defeat in his weight division. St. Francis Xavier will be well represented in the tournament by a large contingent many of whom played for the powerful "X" football team. Larry Brinen, John Brady and Mike Soares of Dalhousie will be grappling for victories in their respective weight divisions.

This tournament assumes special significance as many of the wrestlers who will be representing Nova Scotia in the forthcoming Canada Games will be competing. John Milligan, Garth Horne, Mike Soares and John Brady all Dalhousie wrestlers will be competing in the Canada Games in Lethbridge.



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