



This year is a leap year, therefore it is an Olympic year. For the sports junkies like myself, the Olympics, especially the summer edition, are two weeks of living, sleeping, and breathing sports.

Sure, you get the great drama sports, like track and field and swimming, but the Summer Olympics gives the sports junkie more, all the fringe sports (to many narrow-minded "sports watchers") like cycling, volleyball, water polo, and canoeing.

Even some of the mainstream sports, like basketball and baseball, are made more interesting just for the fact that medals are on the line and that there isn't best of seven finals. Only one game is required to find the winner in the Olympics. Go directly to game 7. Do not pass go. Do not collect \$200.

For many of the fringe sports, they must wait four years to get into the spotlight of the media. Many sports watchers claim that these sports make boring television. Volleyball, in particular, has been singled out. This makes little sense. The games have been so exciting that even Ernie Afaganis is screaming. Imagine what Ernie will be like for the finals (which should be a five game marathon). Imagine what Ernie would be like if Canada had a volleyball team in the Olympics. Nevertheless, he may need a pace-maker once he gets back to Canada and covers the Calgary Stampede again.

Another part of the Olympics which is so appealing is that it makes Canadians be patriotic for at least two weeks this year. We can cheer for the Alex Baumanns, who won two gold medals at the '84 Olympics. We are also disappointed when Victor Davis comes up short, like he did Sunday night. Canadians also can be proud of all the "our" athletes, who go to the Olympics just for the glory of competition. For most of us couch potatoes, cheering them on and watching them do the best they can, better be enough, since 99% of Canadians will never take part in an Olympic event.

One more note before you flip the channel to the NBC coverage of the games. Avoid their gymnastics coverage if you had your fill of seeing Mary Lou Retton's face all over the tube after the '84 Olys. She does color for NBC now and is as irritating as ever. Be a patriot and flip it back to a more competent and calm CBC crew. Chris Cuthbert and Elfi Schlegel do a great job of covering gymnastics. Also, former Rider QB Ron Lancaster shows he knows about other games besides football. He is doing color for basketball and doesn't yak about hoop jargon like the Americans do. Knowing that some team plays a box-and-one doesn't help me much as a viewer.

Bears skate past Oilers

by Ajay Bhardwaj

It was the Edmonton Oilers future versus the U of A Golden Bears present playing before 1,620 onlookers. Oiler left winger Esa Tikkanen and Oiler bosses Peter Pocklington, Glen Sather, Barry Fraser, John Muckler, and Ted Green saw their charges lose a 5-2 decision to the U of A.

When the puck was dropped the Bears pressed the Oilers and forced netminder Darren Beals to make some difficult saves. Sid Cranston missed a tip-in pass from newcomer Serge Lajoie and Adam Morrison's shot was kicked out by Beals on a Bears power-play. Then the young Oilers came to life as the teams opened it up. John Krill, the Bears starting goalie, was forced to make a big save on Peter Soberlak as the Bears were caught on a two on one.

Stacey Wakabayashi finally broke the ice with 52 seconds remaining in the opening frame. Darwin Bozek spotted Wakabayashi behind the Oilers defence and made a perfect feed. Beals stopped him once but gave Wakabayashi a rebound and he made no mistake lifting it over Beals to give the Bears a 1-0 lead.

Sid Cranston picked up where he left off last year as he picked up a pass from Howie Draper and tucked it between reliever Gavin Armstrong's pads to give the Bears a two goal cushion. "It (the win) brings us together and brings the new guys in," said Cranston. "It makes them believe in our system and the way we play." But when asked how he felt after his first game back, the Bears' leading scorer from last season responded,



Bear Dave Hingley (right) gets hacked by Oiler draft Age Ellingsen.

"not as good as it did last year. I'm not in good enough shape yet."

The Oilers rookies who had played together for about two weeks mounted a bit of a comeback. Bears' defenceman Dennis Orison lost the puck at the Oilers blueline and Martin Gelinias and Petro Koivonen were off to the races on a two on one. Gelinias tantalized Bears reliever Blair MacGregor with the puck and then slid it over to Koivonen who had an empty net.

Defenceman Howie Draper made it 3-1 when he took a harmless looking shot from the blueline that hit defenceman Francois Leroux's skate and trickled in between Armstrong's legs.

Martin Gelinias replied for the Oilers just 47 seconds later to make it 3-2, but that was as close as the Oilers would get.

Cranston made it 4-2 later in the third period with his second goal of the game. Defenceman Guy Paradis who saw only spot duty last year scored the final goal of the game, blasting a hard slapshot from the top of the face off circle over Armstrong's glove on the short side.

"Wieber and Yewchuk were fighting in (the corner) and Gelinias, who was covering me went in to fish the puck out." The puck bounced out of the corner right to Paradis. "I had a clear shot, it was just the goalie and me. I was lucky enough that it went in,"

Paradis said.

For Paradis, the game was one that he really got up for. "These guys may be playing pro in a couple of years and maybe right away. It's a big lift when you go out there and you're playing on the same ice as them. When you come out winners it gives you that little extra uplift."

The Oilers chief scout, Barry Fraser, was quick to point out that the Bears were the more experienced of the two clubs. "They've played together longer than we have and it showed tonight." Indeed ten returning Bears played in this game last year while only six returning Oilers played in it.

Pandas looking to break frustration

by Alan Small

Will this year be the year?

For five consecutive years, the Panda soccer team has finished second to UBC in Canada West competition. Head coach Tracy David has optimistically answered the question the past couple of years, but this year she's changing her tune.

"Being the superstitious person that I am," David said, "I won't answer that question."

A combination of bad luck and bad timing have cost the Pandas the last two years. Last year, they won four of their final four conference games. Even that couldn't erase a poor first half, where the Pandas suffered their only loss, one that cost them a berth in the CIAU finals.

Last weekend, the Pandas travelled to Vancouver for a tournament against out-of-conference competition. After a pair of 1-1 ties to Simon Fraser University

and Simon Fraser's alumni, the Panda offence broke out and beat Burnaby-Edmonds 2-0 and Warner Pacific University from Portland, Oregon 6-0.

"I expected so much more from them," David said of Warner-Pacific, who play in the NAIA. "Their men's program is so good, but they were horrible."

Leading the Pandas in scoring this weekend was Janine Wood, who scored three times, while Glynis Logue scored two. Kelly Vander Grift, Diana Kondrosky, Sheryl Ferry, Yvonne Abriotti, and Cindy Viger all scored once.

David warns not to let the blowout fool you. More than half of the ten goals scored on the weekend were against an inferior club.

"The Pandas will be a strong unit as a whole," David says. "We've got talented players on the sidelines. We won't be in a

situation of hiding players on the field."

With 14 players returning from last year's team, and with five rookies coming off a summer with the provincial under 18 team, quality depth won't be a problem for the Pandas.

"The players can be proud of the fact they're on the squad," David says. "They're still an integral part of this team."

David also mentioned that they'll have the flexibility to take a player off and replace her with someone that will fill a role.

The Pandas first conference tournament is on September 30 - October 2 at the field at the Faculte St. Jean. Having the first of two tournaments may be a problem for the Pandas.

"On the road, when the team is tired, you go to the hotel and relax," says David, "but at home there are too many outside dis-

tractions. It gets tough to keep a handle on things."

The Pandas will have to worry about UBC in that tourney. The T-Birds have won Canada West for five years now, and last year, were the first winners of the CIAU women's soccer championship. David, however, thinks they may be psyched out by the Pandas. The T-Birds haven't beaten the U of A since 1985.

"They seem to have a psychological problem when they play us," David says, "but they could have a stronger team this year." Last year, the Pandas beat the T-Birds 1-0 and played the other to a scoreless tie.

The Pandas warm up for the tournament this weekend with a friendly on Friday at 3:00 at the Faculte St. Jean against the University of Lethbridge. They also play in a three team tourney in Calgary, against the U of C and the Calgary Selects.