

le's notes

W5 special hits hard

The W5 Inquiry into hockey, aired Sunday evening on CTV, although too short to tell the whole story, provided some keen insights to the sicknesses creeping into the game's structure from top to bottom.

The inquiry shows how corrupt the world of pro hockey is, how very stupid some of the men at the top can be, and how farcical many of the "institutions" of the hockey business are.

It leaves no doubt that hockey has indeed become almost exclusively a business, at the expense of its validity as a sport.

It makes it clear that Exploitation is the name of the game. The Big Buck is Boss, and nothing illustrates the point more poignantly than the legal tug-of-war over the services of a 14-year old marvel from Brantford named Wayne Gretsky.

The teenager sits and listens while a roomful of otherwise apparently sane men spend day after day shamelessly tossing his fate about - and neither the 14-year old nor his father has the power to change whatever decision is made in that room, as long as the boy wants to remain in the game .... Game?

The show looks at the pressures to excel that even the youngest hockey player must face, shows ten-year olds who can barely skate being taught how to hit.

Our system's only vindication seems to be that it is, at least, better than the force-fed sports programs that Russian youths are thrust into. Our kids, we argue, don't have to play hockey - they volunteer. But do they know what they are getting into?

The inquiry dwells on the dilution of the game caused by mindless expansion of the pro leagues. Now, they say, the game is barely recognizable from the product of ten years ago.

The best of the players in the WHA, they point out fairly accurately, I think) would probably be warming the bench in the old six-team NHL.

The owners, and expansion, and competition from the WHA, says the inquiry, have all helped to usher in the Age of the Agent, where checking is something players only do at the bank.

How phony it all has become. Ed Chynoweth, president of the WCHJL, admitting his league receives kickbacks from player agents in return for recommending a particular agent to players.

That the "CAHA Approved" sticker is just a profitable ploy for the national hockey body, a "franchise" which they lease to a hustler with little or no concern for the safety of the product the sticker appears on.

That CCM, who manufacture the only helmet the WHA will put its sticker on, "Should be commended" for pumping 1/2 of 1% of its annual take back into the WHA, the body whose sticker boosts their sales of hockey equipment by heaven knows how much.

For the first time we hear Dave Schultz of the Philadelphia Flyers, a brutal man by trade, openly state that brutality is his job, his meal ticket, the only way for him to survive in the Flyers' system.

The show lost some credibility, or perhaps the irony was intended, when Guru Fred Shero, the wise and wonderful mentor of the Flyers, the thinking-man's coach said, "Davey (Schultz) isn't violent. He's aggressive, but not violent."

Throughout the show, fans are interviewed. "What do you like best about hockey, son?" the interviewer asks. Almost without exception, the answer is, "The hitting, the fights, the blood."

This show ends on that note — violence pays, and fans pay because the fans are eating it up.

Pawlyk, Mayson anchor wrestlers

by Darrell Sawchuk

The Golden Bear Wrestling team is on the mats again, and have been busily preparing for an upcoming meet against the University of Calgary. "We will be very competitive this year. Our medal chances at the Canada West Championship will be greatly improved," says Coach John Barry.

He is basing his hopes on a relatively inexperienced team, with the exception of Canada West champions Russ Pawlyk and Tom Mayson. Also returning from last year's squad is Rookie of the Year winner Pierre Lemerleau.

Impressive new faces on the team include Steve Berger, the Junior Canadian Pro-Roman champ, Andy Macri, Ontario Winter Games champion, and Peter Park.

Glen Purych, a high school provincial champion who

toured Europe this summer with the Alberta team, will join the Bears, while Fred Martz is returning after a short layoff. Rounding out the squad are rookies Eric Lawther, Laurie Feldman, and Neil Berg.

While the team is sound in the lower weight classes, Barry feels the club will lack competitors in the heavier classes.

Unless assistant coach Dennis Hryciako, who worked with the football Bears, can persuade some of Jim Donlevy's bigger bodies to wrestle when the football season ends.

Bears mee the Dinosaurs on Thursday, November 6th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Gym. Students with ID cards admitted free.

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Where have all the Flowers gone?

by Keith Steinback

While watching a Bears Volleyball practice last week, it appeared that there were only nine sweating bodies on the floor instead of ten. Upon inquiry, your reporter was told that Ken Flowers was the missing commodity. The shocker, however, was that his absence will be permanent. Academic reasons are the cause of Ken's retirement.

Flowers' absence could be damaging to the team, since he was one of their best and most experienced players.

Without Flowers the Bears are barren of experience except for Russ Balmer who played only sporadically last year. There is no indication as to who will replace Flowers in the starting lineup since there is no set starting six.

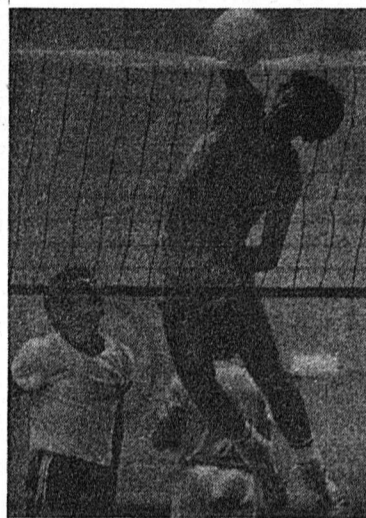
The news is not all bad, though. Bruce Wasylyk's injury is healing, and, although there is no definite date, his return should be soon. Bruce will add experience to the team but the problem of inexperience will be far from remedied.

Schnatz's eyesight snuffed out

GERMANY (ZNS-CUP) - In the latest sports news from Germany, Hermann Schnatz has claimed the world's championship record for snuff-taking. Herr Schnatz did it by sniffing one-sixth of an ounce of snuff in a record 53 seconds - two seconds better than the previous record.

However, following the event Herr Schnatz let out a championship sneeze that actually dislodged his glass eye and shot it across the room into the judges' box.

Said Herr Karsk, the championship organizer, "We are quite used to this sort of thing. Last year we had four lost dentures and a rupture."



Flowers will spike no more for the Golden Bears.

Another good piece of news is the progress of the rookies (the team if you prefer). Even the casual observer can see an improvement in the players over the month they have been working.

Of course, any team will improve over the first week of practice but the Bears aren't levelling off as expected during the training period. Their improvement can be seen daily along with their willingness to work.

November 14 will be the Bears' first test when they clash in Calgary with the Dinos. The first home game is the Sunday after, Nov. 16, with the Visitors being the Saskatchewan Huskies.

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