

SPORTS

Hockey stagnating

Will Canadians REMAIN on top?

by Darrell Semenuk

After Sunday afternoon's "world championship" contest in Philadelphia against the Flyers (defending Stanley Cup Champions) and Soviet Red Army (winners of 19 of the 29 USSR championships), many Canadians have taken a smug attitude after witnessing the Russian's inept performance.

So what if two "stacked" teams easily waltzed past five other NHL teams. The Soviets were badly outclassed against the top 3 NHL clubs and were lucky to come away with a tie against the flying frenchmen.

These are the same people who tend to forget that the Russians improve every time we see them. Areas which we thought were exploitable are suddenly as strong as our own and often times even stronger.

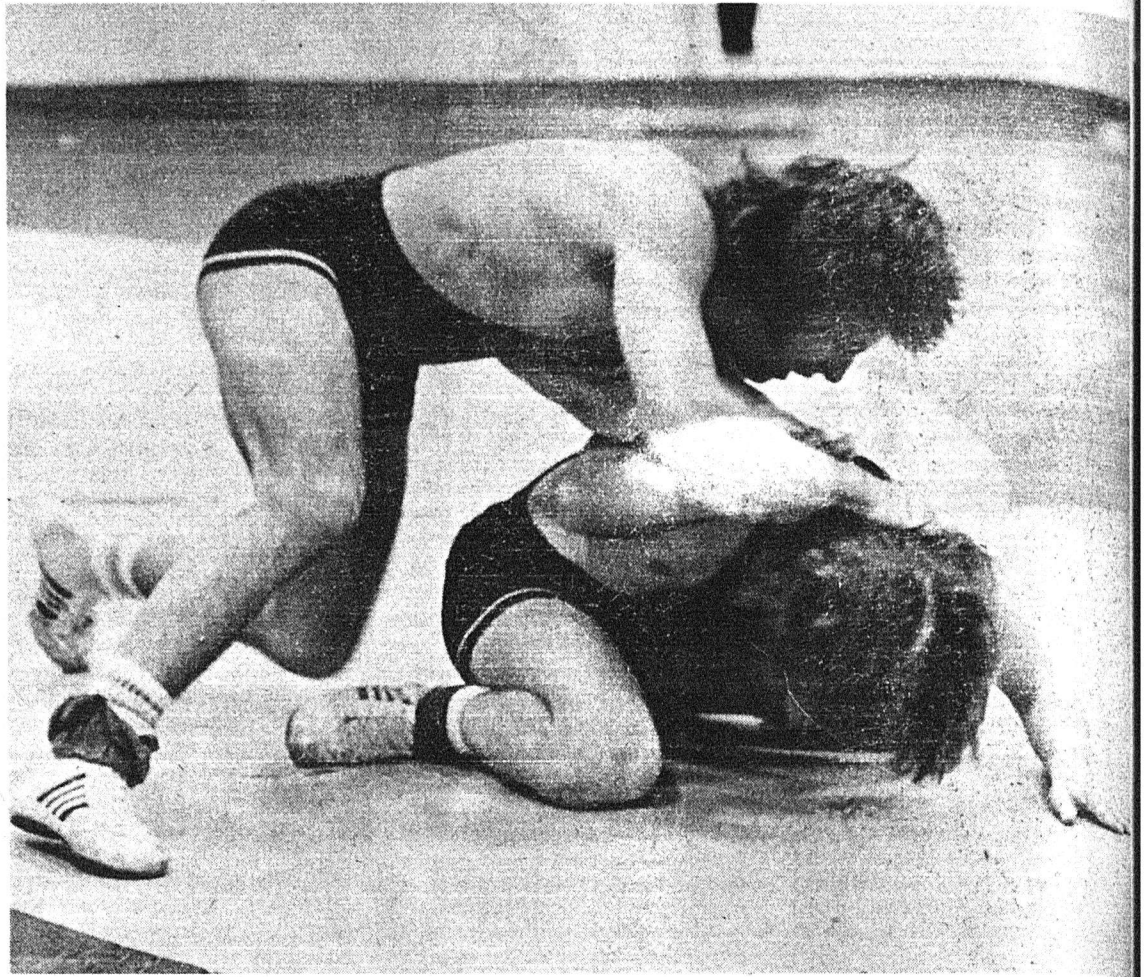
Remember when the NHL sent over scouts to Moscow in 1972? They returned telling us how weak the goaltending was, envisioning scores of yesteryear when Canadians were winning by scores of 22-0. No doubt that dynamic duo were busy sampling Russia's famous beverage during their stay in Moscow.

Even after watching the miracles that Tretiak performed in 1972 and '74 some people still won't acknowledge his skills, saying his play is aided by drugs or hypnotism. Another popular myth is that the Soviets can't take the rough stuff or dish it out. Anyone who saw Vladimir Vasiliev's crunching body checks in 1974 will have to concur that he is the premier body checker in the world today.

The three teams who were successful against the Soviets can attribute their good showing in their ability to adapt to the Russian's conflicting style of play. Whereas the Canadians changed their style to thwart the Soviets' playmaking ability the Soviets stuck with their set patterns and as a result often looked inept.

But what if Coach Kulagin or Loktev suddenly had a capitalistic brainstorm and decided to play a more individual accented game? That possibility may not seem as far fetched as it seems. Riga Dynamo is one top Soviet league team that plays a more North American style game, positioning their centre in the slot a la Phil Esposito.

There is one thing you can count on, the Russians will have a better team in September when they re-visit Canada for the proposed International tournament. Can we expect the same improvement from our Canadian team in 1976?



Bears will have their hands full this weekend.

U hosts weekend Classic

With most everyone on campus back in the regular routine of books and classes, the U of A wrestling team is back on the mats facing a rather large obstacle. This coming weekend has the Bears hosting two tournaments, the first, a trimeet on Friday involving Saskatoon and Lakehead Universities and the second a 12 team tournament as the university hosts the 9th Annual Golden Bear Freestyle Wrestling Classic.

The Bears have one of their strongest teams in recent years this season, as evidenced by their past performances in the UBC invitational, against

Calgary and the Athletes in Action team. At UBC they finished a very respectable fifth in an eighteen team field which included a number of American colleges. They also defeated Calgary in a dual meet and held their own against a very strong A/A team, winning four of nine matches.

Included among the U of A wrestlers will be Glenn Purych (118 lbs) who won the first ever

Golden Bear gold medal at the UBC meet, and Russ Pawlyk who placed second in the same meet, losing to a two-time Japanese champion. Other Alberta wrestlers to watch for include Tom Mayson (126 lbs), Andi Macri (142 lbs), Steve Tisberger (150 lbs) and Pierre Pomerlea (150 lbs).

The primary competition will come from Lakehead, where wrestling has become an institution. Included among their wrestlers are three junior Canadian champions, Longpre,

Cipriano and Connel. Saskatoon will also be fielding a strong contingent led by Wist and Fennel. Calgary will be sending three excellent wrestlers in Farkas, Brinker and

Penny in addition to the remainder of the team. All in all, the number of wrestlers will surpass 120.

So, for some great wrestling action, support your Bear team. Friday night from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. and all day Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

INTRAMURALS



The intramural program at the U of A is geared to student participation in a variety of sporting activities. The emphasis of the program is fun. To achieve this the various sports are divided into divisions to allow participation according to the student's individual skills:

The intramural program is structured into 36 separate units. Every individual is allowed to participate for only one unit. Through participation the individual earns "achievement points" and "participation points" for his unit.

To play for a unit the individual merely signs up for an event with the unit for his choice. Once he plays for a unit, the individual must remain with that unit for the year.

Activities range from hockey and snooker to skiing and badminton. To sign up for an event contact the intramural office or the unit manager of the team. To find out who your unit manager is, contact the intramural office, Room 24, Physical Education Building, ph. 432-3614.

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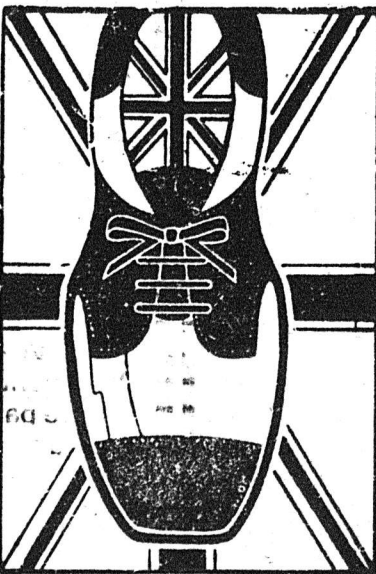
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