

## SPORTS

## Phil ; Cinderella move over

Phil Spate must have a fairy godmother.

Like Cinderella, he too wanted to attend the ball. The ball being the 1985 CIAU National Wrestling Championships in Hamilton. Although Spate was not faced with nasty step-sisters, his dilemma was equally devastating. He had weight to lose and only one day to lose it in.

The night before the official weigh-in, Spate was 2.25 Kg. overweight. He ran eight miles, and sat in a sauna for two hours. The following morning Spate was still 225 grams over. An hour and a half of tearing up and down the hotel corridors brought him within 56.7 grams of 54 Kg.

Minutes before the weigh-in, John Barry, Bears' wrestling coach, stood by with a pair of scissors and a razor, prepared to shave Spate's head.

Enter fairy godmother. Spate registered 54.00 Kg. on a digital scale, including his hair.

The rapid weight loss however, affected his performance. Wrestling poorly in his first match, against Glen Booth of Brock University, put him in the crossovers. He managed to win against Garth Gettle of Saskatchewan. Spate's third bout pitted him against Chris Woodcroft (a member of the Canadian Wrestling team). Down by nine points and flying through the air, his efforts appeared to be in vain.

Another wave of the wand, Spate rerolled Woodcroft, pinned him and went on to the championship match. The officials do not stop a

Eva  
Bears All



match until the action ceases. Woodcroft's throw was worth three points but Spate continued the motion, by rerolling.

In the 54 Kg. final, the match was progressing in favor of Spate until his opponent, Merhemosh Pestonji of Mount Allison threw him. A wave and Spate rerolled Pestonji, pinned him and took the 1985 54 Kg. CIAU title.

A reroll rarely occurs in wrestling. After his triumphant success, feeling both ecstatic and sheepish, Spate turned to fellow wrestler Mike Payette, and said, "Hey Mike, lets get out of here quick. I feel like I've stolen this (the gold medal)!"

Payette was victorious in capturing his 57 Kg. weight division. Even though his route to victory was not as spectacular it was equally momentous.

Payette pinned his first opponent, and 12 pointed both of his following opponents, which set up his championship bout with Drew Hayett of McMaster. Hayett had dropped two weight classes.

At the end of the first round Payette was losing 5-0. The score was identical to last years when Payette lost his bid for a national title.

"When I looked at the clock I was thinking why couldn't I be down by four or six? Why five? I thought, oh, no, not a repeat of last year," said Payette.

Coach Barry just put his hands over his eyes.

"It was just like last year. Most people knew the situation and chuckled. I wasn't worried last year and Mike ended up losing. This year though, he looked so good wrestling I thought, there is just no way he can lose," said Barry.

It was not to be a repetition of the previous year as Payette came back to win 7-2 for his second national title in four years.

"I did not know who was in my weight class at all but I did expect to do well anyway," explained Payette. "In my match against Hayett, I controlled him throughout. I did not try for any spectacular moves but I beat him on points."

The U of A wrestling team did as well as could be expected at the nationals. Spate and Payette were the only wrestlers to travel to McMaster although four wrestlers had originally qualified. Both won gold medals and the "team" placed fifth among 17. Their western rivals, the Saskatchewan Huskies took fourth place, beating the Bears by one point. The Huskies had seven members competing for them.

Andy Macri (65 Kg.) and Ben Pettit (74 Kg.) both had won their respective weight classes in the CWUAA wrestling finals.

Macri was unable to compete in the nationals because of torn ligaments in his neck. He was injured

during practice when he was picked up in a double leg take-down and driven into the wall. Macri is still in a neck collar.

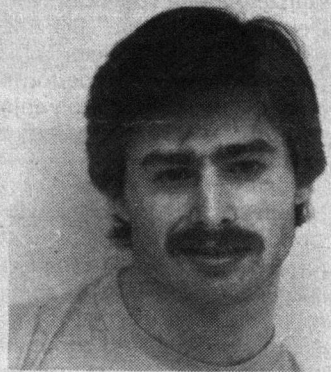
Most people find it surprising Macri is still in one piece.

"Carl (Carl Soderstrom also a Bear wrestler) and I tried to think which part of Andy's body has not been injured and we could not come up with a piece," said Payette.

Pettit pulled out due to ethical reasons. After viewing films on his match with Brock Turner of the Huskies in the CWUAA finals, Pettit felt the referee had made a poor call. A call that saw Turner thrown out for stalling.

"It was a noble gesture on Ben's part. It is something most athletes would not do, given the option to attend the nationals or turn it down. He felt guilty deep down and felt Turner should have won. (Turner went in Pettit's place)," said Barry. "As it turned out, Ben had previously beat the wrestler who had placed second in the 74 Kg. weight class at the CIAU's. So it was conceivable that Ben may have won."

**Off The Mat:** After the CIAU's were over, Spate was so excited that Payette had to continually peel him from the ceiling...Barry not a regular church-goer will be attending mass this Sunday with Spate...Spate intends on being a Baptist Minister...Barry did not think Spate would win...He lost the bet...So, see you in church John!...Peter Guterson of the Calgary Dinosaurs won his weight class...Junior members of the Bear's wrestling team will be competing in the Provincials



Phil Spate

in Calgary this weekend...Making up the team: Carl Soderstrom, Rob I-have-to-be-losing-before-I-win Filipchuk, Vang Ioannedes, Sean Mager, John Alcock, and Tony Bacon...Mark Yurik and Payette will be coaching the team...The wrestling season is officially over for this year but some of the members still workout...it is worth a look.

Photo Bill St. John



Mike Payette

## Co-Rec intramurals steal the limelight

by Dave Boyd

Co-Rec intramurals stole the spotlight this week with both a 'Lams and Lions' Badminton Tournament and an Inter-resident Volleyball Tourney.

Participation in both activities was outstanding, the one day volleyball competition featured fourteen teams and well over one hundred players. Semi final action saw the

third Mac Devils defeat the sixth Mac Warriors while the third Kelsey squad knocked out the fourth Henday Slugs. In a hard-fought final, the third Mac Devils managed to sweep two straight games 15-12, 15-11, sending third Kelsey to defeat.

In the popular 'Lams and Lions' Co-Rec Badminton Tournament, the advanced section winners in

the 'A' event were Pitre and Yap, the 'B' event winners were Dowler and Grace, while the 'C' champs were Giuffre and Wood. The Intermediate 'A' event was captured by Holmes and Kraus, the 'B' event winners were Brown and Lew, while the 'C' event visitors were Nett and Nagle. The Panich and Te duo captured the 'A' event in the beginners category, with Hoerle

and Bonin taking the 'B' event and Bourque and Varney won the 'C' event.

In other news, the U of A Campus Recreation Wind-Up Social is planned for Friday, March 29. Tickets are \$10 per person including the dinner and dance. They are available at the Green and Gold Office in the Phys-Ed building.

## A new programme of plays for university students

Announcing the Citadel Young Company - plays by young authors performed by young professional actors

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Interviews held week of March 11.

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