

## Sports Shorts

# Disease in hockey

by John Stewart  
(inspired by Ken Karpoff and Tom Barrett)

On Sunday millions of television viewers (hopefully) will get their annual intercollegiate hockey indoctrination as they watch the CIAU final on CBC.

The nation's dailies will espouse the virtues of college hockey with pseudo-poetic phrases the following day, saying things like: 'It's the only hockey this side of the Atlantic Ocean that combines clean hitting, team-oriented skills, and intelligent play.'

Sadly, by Tuesday, Canadian sports fans will not be talking about university hockey; instead the impending/impossible WHA-NHL merger/expansion question will be on their minds.

Ironically, the trouble in hockey today can be traced directly to Canadians' penchant for ignoring the obvious, for quickly forgetting lessons directed towards them. Certainly, the eventual solidification of professional hockey can do nothing but aid the cause of the sport, but other steps must be taken, and they must be taken now.

College hockey is the answer.

The problem? Junior hockey specifically; minor hockey in general.

Junior hockey breeds a degree of individualism that is detrimental to a fundamentally team-oriented game. Further, the prevalence of unmitigated and unnecessary violence at the Junior levels (witness the recent Calgary Canucks/Red Deer Rustlers game that officials called before the end of the second period because neither team had any players left on the bench; they had all been ejected) has given hockey the kind of reputation that may soon force the game's fans into the closet.

Junior hockey has further hindered the healthy development of young players by enticing them to forfeit high school for the pleasure of competing in such wondrous centres as Billings, Montana.

The toughest, most aggressive and most individual of Junior hockey players are given the opportunity to compete professionally. No doubt these men are skilled, but their approach to the game is wrong and they seem almost incapable of comprehending this.

They play the game by themselves, for themselves; they set personal objectives rather than team ones.

Darwin's theory that the fittest survive has been given a perverted twist by hockey players. Certainly Randy Holt, Steve Durbano, and Dave Shultz are impressive physical specimens, but do they, on the basis of the way they have gained access to and maintained positions in professional hockey deserve to survive, to spawn?

Finally, and of most consequence is the fact that professional hockey players, for the most part, are (as products of Junior) uneducated, unsophisticated individuals who are incapable of or simply unwilling to, accept coaching.

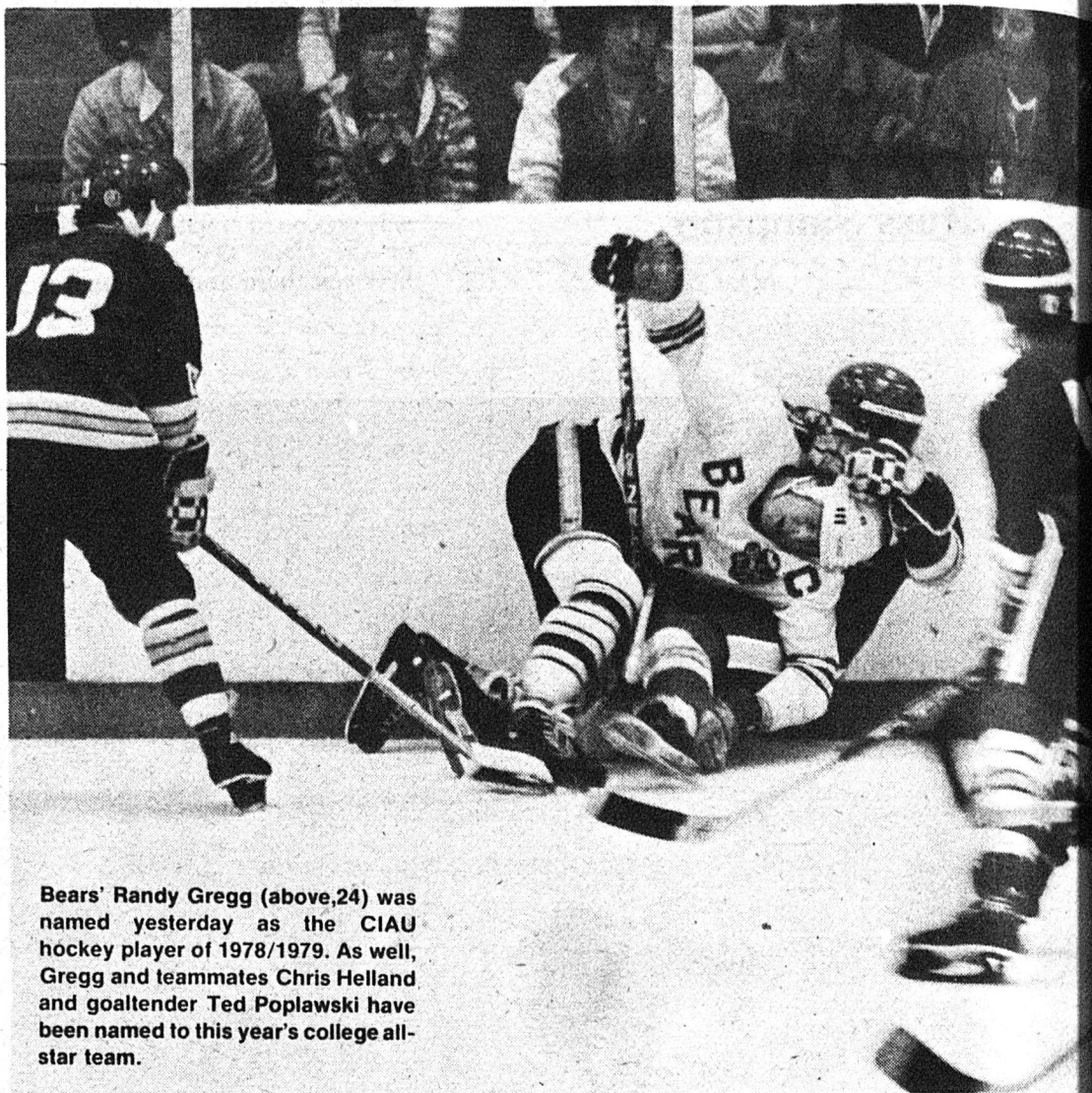
College hockey, as the natural outgrowth of an interscholastic program, would become the vanguard of the game. Already blessed with the best in articulate teacher-coaches (witness the U of A's Clare Drake and Calgary's George Kingston) intercollegiate hockey, fed by a school system that allowed players to remain in the classroom instead of drinking beer in Billings, would become an important training ground.

Admittedly, there is a place for Junior hockey, but it should exist only as an alternative for those *high school graduates or 18 year olds* who wish to pursue hockey. As well, these players should be considered as apprentices who may be allowed to refine their skills until they are 22 years old. A player should be eligible for the draft when he becomes an adult (18) but if he does not make and stay with a pro team he should be sent back to the college or Junior team of his origin, for further refining.

Players who choose the collegiate route should be eligible for certain financial assistance. George Kingston, current president of the CIAU coaches association is this week making a presentation advocating certain subsidization.

The idea of college hockey as a viable training ground for professional play is also contingent on the Super League proposal being put forward at the annual CIAU meeting this week. The Super League would have top teams from across the country compete throughout the season, instead of during one week in March.

Let's hope that the people who have the power to make changes pay close attention to the way the CIAU final is played on Sunday and adjust hockey accordingly.



Bears' Randy Gregg (above, 24) was named yesterday as the CIAU hockey player of 1978/1979. As well, Gregg and teammates Chris Helland and goaltender Ted Poplawski have been named to this year's college all-star team.

## Last home volleyball tournament

# Bears, Pandas host AA teams

The second of three Alberta Volleyball Association 'AA' championship tournaments is set for this Saturday in the main gymnasium, U of A.

Junior Pandas are all in the thick of the fight for first place honors and the resultant opportunity to represent the province at the national senior finals in April.

The Pandas won the seven team women's section at the last 'AA' tournament and hope to

repeat this weekend. U of A women's coach Pierre Baudouin claims that if his team is victorious Saturday they can slalom to a third place finish two weeks from now at the final tournament and still be declared the champions.

The Junior Pandas were a surprise of the last tournament finishing fourth overall, in addition to being the only team to hand the senior U of A women's loss.

Due to a number of injuries the Bears finished fourth in the field of six with a two wins, three losses record at the February round-robin. With the complete team in playing shape the fortunes should improve. As well, the Bears are coming off a credible performance at the University of Saskatchewan Super Volley Invitational weekend, finishing fifth of six teams.

Competition begins 9:30 am Saturday and finishes with the pm draw. The Bears meet the M.E. Lazerte Volleyball Club at 9 am; Edmonton Friars, 12:30 pm; Calgary Volleyball Club, 3:15 pm; U of C Dinosaurs, 3:15 pm; Calgary Ramblers, 7 pm.

The women's draw has the Pandas facing off against Strathmore Blues, 10:15 am; Calgary Autumn, 11:30 am; Edmonton Friars, 2 pm; Junior Pandas, 3:15 pm; U of C Dinosaurs, 4:45 pm; and Calgary Volleyball Club, 7 pm.

The first place team received 50 points last tournament, but cruised 60 this weekend, and will amass 70 at the March tournament. Second place teams receive 35,42 and then 49 tournament points while third place squads were rewarded 30 points at the first round-robin, and receive 36 this Saturday and will earn 42 at the end-of-the-month tournament.

## Sports Quiz

by Jonathan Berkowitz

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1. Four heavyweight boxers retired as champions. Name the four and name the men who succeeded each one as champion.
2. Identify the sports with which each of these athletes is associated. a) Brian Budd b) Darryl McHargue c) Marshall Holman d) Diane Nyad e) Wendy Turnbull f) Peter Luescher
3. Bowie Kuhn is the fifth commissioner of the major leagues of baseball. How many of the first four can you name?
4. Which of these players is the only player to hit a grand-slam home run in his first major league game? a) Roberto Clemente b) Mel Ott c) Gil Hodges d) Rudy York e) Bobby Bonds
5. It's time for a review of the coaching ranks in the two major leagues of hockey. Who are the present coaches of each of the following teams? a) Winnipeg (WHA) b) Philadelphia (NHL) c) Minnesota (NHL) d) Washington (NHL) e) Birmingham (WHA)
6. On April 8, 1969, the Montreal Expos played their first ever (regular-season) baseball game. Can you recall the opposition and the results of the game?
7. Name the first NHL club that each of these well-travelled players played for. a) Ivan Boldirev b) Bob Schmautz c) Pierre Plante d) Rene Robert e) Jean Potvin
8. Name the uniform numbers associated with each of the following athletes. a) Jackie Parker b) Hank Aaron c) Ken Burrough d) Frank Mahovich e) Red Grange f) Eddie Gaedel
9. Only two Toronto Maple Leafs have ever won the Hart Memorial Trophy for Most Valuable Player. Name them.
10. There are over 100 franchises in the four major professional sports (football, basketball, hockey, and baseball). Which is the largest city in North America to not have a team in any of these sports? (The leagues are CFL, NFL, NBA, NHL, WHA, NL, and AL.)