

CBC black and white



Tim Enger

For years now the NHL has worked hard to glitz up its image to compete with the much classier NFL, NBA, and Major League Baseball. For the most part they have been successful, the latest triumph being Rendezvous '87.

But now they are faced with a new problem, one they have no control over, and it occurs right at the point of product delivery: second-class colormen on TV broadcasts.

It seems everytime you turn on a game nowadays you get some bombastic ex-player or coach spouting off from the mouth and annoying you to the point of turning the volume down on the TV.

The worst three offenders are Harry Neale, John Garrett, and the grand poobah of them all, John Davidson.

Of the three, Neale is probably the best. He can be tolerable at times, and he is getting better, but his constant verbal foul-ups combined with the high nasal voice make listening to Harry a rather irritating experience.

Garrett's problem is pure inexperience and the fact that maybe he took one too many pucks in the head during his several years as an WHA/NHL journeyman goaltender. His goofs and inability to match-up players with their numbers is just plain embarrassing. Technically he's the worst, but the fact that he's just a rookie in the booth means that he has a possibility of getting better. Unfortunately, the same can not be said for Davidson.

Now I know that some people (and publications like *The Hockey News*) rate him as one of the best, but for the life of me I can't understand why. He comes across like a pushy door-to-door vacuum cleaner salesman that you do not want in your home. As well, his nauseating buddy-buddy attitude during player interviews is enough to set the NHL back ten years.

It always seems like he's going to end his interviews with "Gretz, I luv ya, give Vicki a kiss for me, and let's

do that lunch thing real soon." Yecch.

One only has to watch ESPN's hockey broadcasts to realize what a distraction these guys are. ESPN uses professional commentators most of the time, and believe me, it's like a breath of fresh air compared to what we usually get.

I'm not saying that you can't be a good announcer if you're an ex-coach or player. CBS' NFL broadcasts would be lost without their number one team of Pat Summerall (former New York Giant) and John Madden (former coach of the Oakland Raiders). But the main differences between these guys and the aforementioned Three Stooges are that they are good and the Stooges aren't.

It's time the hockey broadcasting stations realized that game experience insight is useless, if it can't be related properly.

Foster Hewitt must be spinning in his grave.

The West was certainly the best

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As for her teammates, Patterson finished in fifth spot with a score of 34.50, which gained her All-Canadian status, and Kmech finished 15th. Along with the two Pendas, York placed a pair on the prestigious All-Canadian squad, while one Calgary gymnast and Manitoba's Shelley Skalena, who took the gold with a 36.35, rounded out the tournament team.

Kmech, who entered the event ranked 19th in the country, earned seventh place in the beam event with a combined score of 16.15 over the two days.

While Hanneman retained her third national ranking, Patterson improved greatly, going from 18th place at the outset to fifth at meet's end. She also grabbed the silver in the beam event with an 8.7 Friday coupled with an 8.4 Saturday.

But once again it was Hanneman who led her team, coming home with silvers in both the vault (9.15, 9.20) and the Bars (9.00, 9.10).

Overall the western gymnasts proved superior, as four of the top



Photo Stephanie Blisnop

Monica Kmech placed 15th at the McMaster CIAU's.

five and nine of the top 15 places went to gymnasts from western Canada.

"When I talked to the coach from McMaster he said that he thought the west was really strong," said Ross. "He felt that their diffi-

culty levels were higher than they were (in the east)."

The silver follows a bronze medal performance by the Alberta team last year, and a gold medal the year before that.

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