

Soccer from page 11

themselves had scored seconds earlier. The goal was disallowed. In another match, a referee was struck on the shoulder with a solid gold cigarette lighter after he had made an unpopular call. Constantine Fatouros, a soccer referee in ancient Greece, had to disguise himself as a Catholic priest to escape an angry crowd on the island of Chios. Unfortunately, he was discovered before his ship could leave for Athens and he suffered a barrage of flying fruit.

Exactly what is it that stirs up such a frenzy of emotion in the average mortal? Just what does soccer have to offer its audience that is so exhilarating? The answer is: plenty

The continual action, an absence of any breaks in play, the excellent potential for close exciting matches, and the sheer bloody poetry of the game are quite simply tailor-made for the insatiable sports buff as well as the occasional fan. For the prospective player, soccer is a

great inexpensive way to keep in shape and have fun doing it.

In its rudimentary form, soccer is possessed of a universality that no other sport can match. It can be played on any surface by any number of participants and all that is required is a ball. And as for conditioning and exercise, it's a fact that the average soccer player has a pulse rate of 55 compared to the average adult's 71: ever wonder why soccer players are always winning those Superstars competitions?

So then why hasn't this exciting diversion caught on in Canada and the United States? Could it be that we in this part of the world don't know a good thing when we see it? One thinks not.

Quite the contrary, from all appearances, soccer hysteria doesn't seem far off in this neck of the woods. Lately, it seems that everybody and his dog is out kicking a soccer ball around. Over the past summer, spurred on by the acquisition of a new professional soccer team for Edmonton and in general more coverage of the sport both on television and in the press, the game has been increasing almost daily in popularity.



Leperchaun's magic no use against Bears.

Bears best

by Bill Ruzycki

The Golden Bears Rugby Club, led by Rob Poole, won the second division championship for the third year in a row last Saturday. Playing against the always tough Leprechaun Rugby Club, the Bears scored 10 unanswered points in the first half of the game, all by team captain

Poole. Despite the loss of Dave Rust, because of an injury, they managed to hold the Leps to only 3 points in the second half.

Pack leader Cam Morstad had this to say "The forwards did a hell of a job to hold their own when we lost Rust. Mike Delong did an exceptional job replacing him. The always modest Rob Poole, who accounted for about half of the team's scoring throughout the year, gave much of the credit for the win to his back line. He stated that the tackling and defensive coverage they displayed during the last couple of games was much improved and impressive.

There remains an exhibition game against the Edmonton Juniors next Tuesday at Ellerslie. Then it's down to San Francisco for two international matches on the October long weekend.

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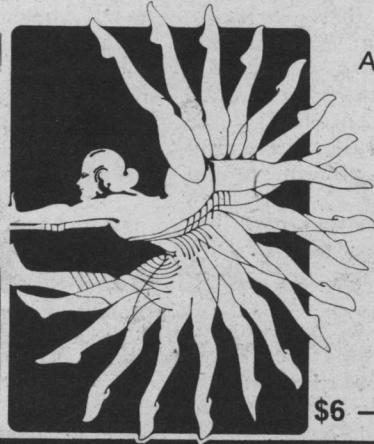
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