

SPORTS

Bikes, color night, part of notebook

by Alan Small

ONE OF THE MAJOR WORLD SPORTING EVENTS this reporter follows every year is the Tour de France cycling race. To me, it is the ultimate test of endurance, speed, strategy, courage, and of course, bicycling ability.

While the race takes place in

where the other 90 percent of the race was held.

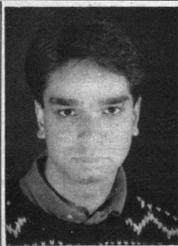
That is a great way of spreading some of the glory and corporate money to other countries, as the Tour de France is the richest and glamorous bike races in the world. In Wednesday's *Globe and Mail* however, readers found out that Canada wants to get in on the act.

The article said that Toronto wants a part of the 1992 Tour de France, which race organizers were thinking about holding a part of in Quebec, and only Quebec.

Not only have the Quebec organizers worked hard in coming up with a plausible bid, but Quebec, and only Quebec should have a shot at hosting the Tour Quebec is the only place in Canada that can recreate the European look of the Tour. When you see the highlights on television, you see backdrops of old French towns and villages. Having it in sterile Toronto would ruin the look, whereas in Quebec City, the race can take place beside the Chateau Frontenac in the old section of Canada's most historic city.

Toronto just wants to get all the sponsorship money.

France, it is sometimes started in other countries, like Belgium or like last year, when it was started in West Berlin. The Tour then hopped aboard a plane to the main part of West Germany, where the race continued, then finally into France.



Ajay Bhardwaj

No one laughs anymore

Everyone's heard the joke about what's blue and white and blue and white and blue and white and lives in the basement? The Toronto Argonauts, Blue Jays, and the Leafs. Well, no more! The former two have climbed out of the basement and to more than just respectability. They're winners. But Toronto's most prized team, the Leafs, well, they're still in the basement. Nobody laughs at them anymore. Everyone either just leaves or, if they're a Leafs fan, they either wear a paper bag or they just cry.

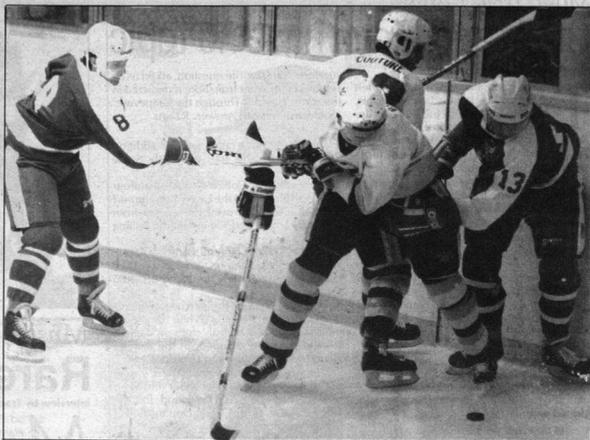
For the last eight years, the Leafs have claimed that they're rebuilding. If they have been rebuilding for the past eight years they'd better build something comparable to the Arch de Triomphe. Over the past little while they've been called the Laughs and Leafs — take your pick. The latter seems more applicable to this sad sack bunch called "hockey players".

Many people believed that Gerry McNamara was the answer to the Leafs' problems. But McNamara proved, much to the chagrin of one writer, that his only qualifications for the job of general manager were his initials. He drafted some real beauties. Russ (what have you done for me

lately?) Courtnall, who is probably the streakiest player in the league. Al! (I don't know what defence means) lafrate, who loves end to end rushes but who obviously doesn't know what the word "trapped" means. Wendel Clark may turn out to be decent if he ever decides he wants to be another Mark Messier instead of another Dave Semenko. Vincent (the floater) Dampousse, loved the Quebec League but can't handle the toughness of the NHL. Someday he may just make it, though. Luke Richardson could become an injury-free Rick Green, if only the Leafs would put him back in the juniors, where he belongs. Take Todd Gill. Please.

McNamara passed up Cam Neely (for Courtnall), Kevin Dineen (for Gary Leeman), Craig Simpson (for Clark), and Brian Benning (for Gill). But something more than just McNamara has kept the Leafs pathetic. Maybe it is the will to lose or maybe they don't use the right type of blades on their skates. Whatever it is, it's enough to make just about every Toronto sports writer pack up his bags and head to Florida to cover the Blue Jays.

But there is something about this part of the season which brings out the best in the Leafs. Maybe they thrive under the pressure of missing the playoffs. That would make any good team want to play all out for the last two games of the year. When you're in a heated battle for a playoff spot in the best race in the NHL, with the talented Minnesota North Stars, who are filled with superstars (i.e. like Brian Lawton) and stick swingers (I don't need to say who) it brings out your best. The Leafs beat them last year. Can they do it again? They're one point down right now, and they play their arch-rivals from Detroit in a home and home series this weekend. Jacques Demers and his boys would dearly love to knock the Leafs out of the playoffs and John Brophy out of his job. But like Harry Neale said the other night, "The Leafs play their best when they're down 16-0 in a best of 33 series." Stay tuned.



\$21 will let you honor U of A athletes at Color Night.

Photo Rob Galbraith

Besides, more people bike race in Quebec, giving a grassroots support to an event like this. Toronto, on the other hand just wants to get all the sponsorship money.

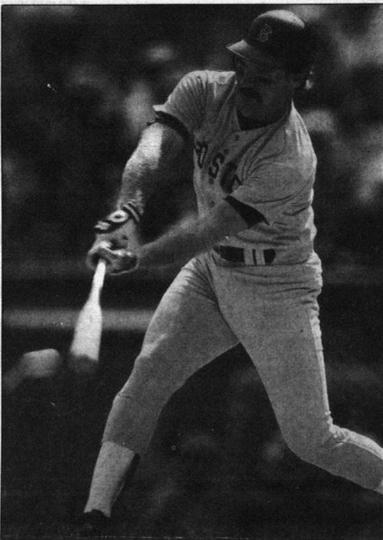
ON APRIL 8TH the U of A salutes its athletes in the 58th Annual Color

Night. For 21 shekels, you, the student can celebrate the achievements of U of A athletes at the Fantasyland Hotel. The whole shindig starts at 5:30.

THE EDMONTON SPORTS REPORTERS take to the ice Saturday night at 7 pm at Varsity Arena

when, for the third year in a row, they take on the Edmonton Eskimos at Canada's national pastime. Admission is \$4, and proceeds go to the Special Olympics.

It will be interesting to see whether The Giz puts on the blades.



AL Batting champ Wade Boggs will lead the Red Sox again this year.

What's in second?

Cam McCulloch

More baseball predictions from the cartoon corner.

AL East

Toronto Blue Jays — Hate to see another fiasco like the Expos at the start of the eighties. Catcher Ernie Witt is starting to creak, George Bell is whining, they're having trouble deciding, on an everyday infield to play with shortstop Tony Fernandez. The Jays better win it soon.

Boston Red Sox — Smokin' reliever Lee Smith over from the National



League to toast some AL bats. Red Sox won't be blowing many late-inning leads this year.

New York Yankees — Certainly have the pop, but the pitching staff signs their paycheques in hieroglyphics. Jack Clark will be lucky to play 100 games.

Milwaukee Brewers — Up and coming. Will be playing the Pirates in the 1990 World Series.

Cleveland Indians — It's their turn. Every slug team has won a pennant in the last ten years. The Braves won in '82, the Padres in '83, the Bucs in '79, and the Twins last year. Only the Mariners and the Rangers remain bridesmaids. Since success for the Indians means not finishing last, I'll go one better and pick them for fifth.

Detroit Tigers — When is everyone going to realize that Sparky Anderson's real name is George and should be called that as he approaches senility. The guy wins by accident.

Baltimore Orioles — Cal Sr., Cal Jr., and Billy Ripken, and a bunch of prospects. This team could use Mr.

MCCULLOCH — p.13

Bookstore B-ball

by Carol Kassian

Who says the Bookstore only sells books? With Campus Recreation's fifth Annual Bookstore Basketball Tournament now underway, gratitude must be extended to the bookstore as they are the sponsors of the awards for this special event.

The tournament began Tuesday, April 29th, and will continue with games being played Wednesday, April 6th and Monday, April 11th in Varsity Gym.

Fourteen teams in total are participating in the event, with competitors in both women's and men's sections.

The men's section has been divided into four pools of three teams

each and a round robin is played within each pool. The top team in each pool advances to the semifinals.

The women's section consists of three games to be played between the two teams entered in the tournament, the Friends of Al Stewart and Elm Street. The championship team will be the one possessing the best record at the end of the three evenings of play.

Eligibility for the Bookstore Basketball Tournament included all students, faculty, and staff. In addition, the maximum of one current U of A intervarsity basketball player was permitted to be on the roster of each team.