



Randal Smathers

I caught part of an interview on television today, with Bryant Gumbel talking to Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, Ken Norton, and Larry Holmes. A few items of note emerged.

Larry Holmes is a sad figure. He was never able to emerge from the shadow of Ali during his ring career, and the constant comparisons with former champions led Holmes to his infamous outburst: "Rocky Marciano couldn't carry my jockstrap." At the time I had hoped that it was a momentary aberration from a man who had been an admirable heavy-weight champion, but it doesn't seem so. When asked how they would rate current champ Mike Tyson, Holmes burst out that he couldn't compare with any of the four men in the room, in their primes.

However, the champ who has stayed the most active in boxing, Frazier, didn't respond out of the kind of braggadocio which fueled Holmes', remarks. Rather, he gave Tyson his due as a punching marksman; one who wastes little effort in combat, and who therefore makes his fights seem anticlimactic through their apparent ease.

The difference between the men is that Frazier is at ease with himself, despite the fact that he, like Norton and Holmes since, lived in the shadow of Ali. Norton and Frazier both raised Ali as the standard against which they were judged, by listing their wins over Ali as the highlights of their careers.

Holmes was deprived of this satisfaction by not beating Ali until he was already half-beaten by age and the scars of old wars, many inflicted by Frazier and Norton. The others had their chances against the king when he was in, or near, his prime, and they recognize his greatness by having had to face it. Holmes will always have to wonder how he would have fared against the Ali of legend.

Comparisons are inevitable in sports, as fans try to reconcile what they see today with what they remember from yesterday. We will never know how such dream matchups might have turned out—although there are a plethora of sports games on the market which are designed to simulate just such events—but they make for great bull sessions.

One final note. The man who was king, the boxer who set the standard for all recent heavy-weights, and who helped set any fighter in any weight class in any era, sat at the end of the row, and smiled his little mocking smile, which so infuriated when he was known as the Louisville Lip, and he looked like any of them: a big, heavy-but-not-fat man, with features spread a bit from too many punches over the years. The features were still evocative of the other men—the young men, the fighters—but when asked if they felt old before their time, that facade vanished.

The most brilliant fighter of any age, the consummate showman of any sport answered first, in a voice completely devoid of its old ring, a voice slurred and dull. "I feel old physically," he whispered, "but I don't feel old up here." And he tapped his temple with a finger which he could not stop from shaking.

Bears to host Huskies in dogfight



Jeff Cowley

Golden Bear hockey player Dave Hingley falls into the clutches of University of Saskatchewan Huskies invade this weekend in Brandon Bobcat Kevin Mantell in action from the home opener. The what is traditionally a rough and tumble tussle.

Bears vs. Huskies
Friday and Saturday, 7:00 p.m.
FM88, CJSR

by Ajay Bhardwaj
Golden Bear hockey coach Bill Moores spelled it out at practice on Tuesday. In order to defeat the University of Saskatchewan Huskies this weekend, the Bears must do the things they do well.

"Saskatchewan is always tough," Moores said. "One of our objectives is to out-work them. The other objective is to be physical."

The Bears enter the game with a 5-0-1 record, five points ahead of the Huskies, who are 3-3.

Leading the Bear lunch pail attack will be forward Al Tarasuk. While many players may disappear into

the woodwork in a physical series, Tarasuk thrives on such competition. When it comes to going to war, no Golden Bear does it as well as Tarasuk.

"I've always been a physical hockey player in every league I've played," said the brawny winger. "I go out and play the man. When I'm on my game I can be effective. A good hit picks up a team. The Golden Bears have prided themselves on working hard and being physical."

The Huskies won't shy away from hard work and the physical nature of a game. They play a similar style to the Bears. That's why this series will be a barn burner. "We have to set the tone early," Tarasuk said.

"We have to let them know that when they're in our barn, they'll be receiving."

Another Golden Bear who has emerged as a physical force this season is centre/left winger Dan Wiebe. The 6'4", 205 pound third year player leads the Bears with 16 minutes in penalties through the first four games of the season. "In the past I've been trying to be physical," Wiebe said. "I'm just getting caught a little more this year."

Wiebe senses that the Bears are reaching the level at which they want to play for the rest of the season. "Last week we started to come together," Wiebe said. "We've got to do the same thing this weekend. It's starting to come."

So is the war.
On the bench: Defenceman **Gord Thibodeau** has a fractured bone in his thumb and was told to take it easy in practice by athletic therapist **Ronnie Mulesa**... The Bears juggled lines, moving **Rob Glasgow** onto **Adam Morrison's** and **Doug McCarthy's** right wing and putting **Brett Cox** on a line with **Marty Yewchuk** and **Todd Gordon**... Wiebe is playing with a cast on his right wrist. He has a cracked bone in it.

Leaders	
Goals - Morrison - 5	
Assists - McCarthy - 10	
Points - Morrison - 15	
PIM - Wiebe - 16	

Pandas hoping to ground volley-Birds

Pandas vs. Thunderbirds
Friday and Saturday, 6:30 p.m.,
Main Gym

by Ajay Bhardwaj
It's home opener time for the Panda volleyball team. They play host to the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds this weekend.

The T-Birds and Pandas finished three-four in Canada West standings last season. However, the two teams boasted very different records. While the 'Birds were 13-7, the Pandas were only 8-12. The two squads met four times in conference and once in tournament play, with UBC winning all five times. The Pandas did, however, force UBC to go to five games twice in their best of five matches.

"They have one of the older teams in Canada West," Panda coach Suzi Smith said. "They have three or four players who were on the Canada Games team."

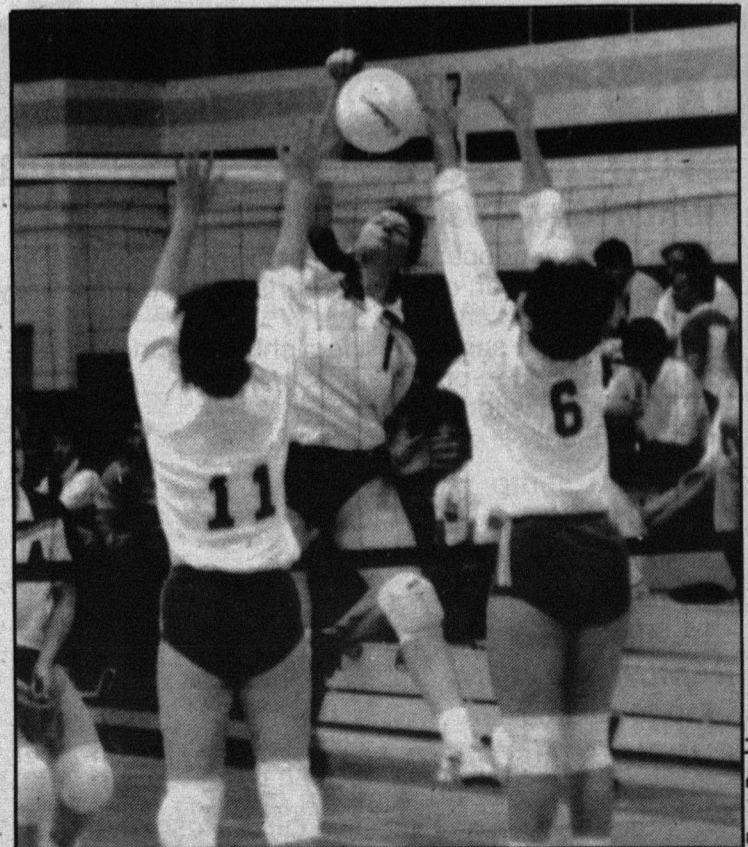
One of the players the Pandas

must stop is power hitter Sara Cepeliaskus. "We have to key on (her) and our blocking has to be good," Smith said. "We have to serve aggressively. (She) can hit anywhere. It will take a team effort to stop (her)."

Smith feels the Pandas have an advantage in starting the season this year over last year. Last year, the Pandas had to wait three weeks after the exhibition season to play a league game. "Having just played last weekend is going to help," Smith said. "It won't take long to get a feel for the game."

Opening at home is something Smith is positive about. "We wanted to go to centre court here," Smith said. "We just played a high profile tournament (the Panda Volleyball Classic) at home. It won't feel different."

None of the players will suffer from butterflies either. "The girls who are going to see court time have already begun on court."



Greg Perkins

Debbie Dyson of the Pandas shows off her power-hitting form. The volleyball team plays for real this weekend.