

Vanishing U of A sports scene

This is difficult for a coach and is even more difficult for players.

"The games and the results of the games don't mean a darn thing. We ask a team to practice, week in and week out, with only one prospect—having an exhibition game on the weekend.

"This created a lot of ill feeling in the operation of the team and we wouldn't think of participating on that basis again.

"In fact, the coach would probably refuse the job.

MATTER OF FINANCES

"Of course, the second reason, and a very important reason as far

"We eliminated not one, but all junior varsity teams—hockey, basketball and volleyball.

"The basketball is very similar to hockey in that a league is the major problem.

"Basketball played in exhibition games and in the senior men's league on a partial basis last year. This does not provide the calibre of competition we require. As a result, the team is never up for a game, and doesn't accomplish anything.

"The players never improve, they get worse, and they get bad habits. This is no way to run a team.

"To my way of thinking, the U of A has a reputation and we have to uphold that reputation. We have always operated on the highest plane and we have been known for the calibre of our teams.

"When I think of the number of times our coaches and players complained, particularly in junior hockey and junior basketball! Then you begin to wonder why you have a junior team."

HOCKEY COACH SPEAKS

Clare Drake, the varsity hockey coach, foresees the lack of a junior hockey team as having far-reaching negative contributions towards senior hockey on campus.

"I think it is important to have a team at the university on the junior level. If a player coming from an out-of-town team has an opportunity to play with a university team, he is associating with players of common interest.

"He's practicing on our university facilities, he's becoming familiar with them and he develops a certain loyalty to the team. He associates himself with the university team and it is natural for him to work with the university and to try out for the team.

"I think he establishes a loyalty no matter where he is. The same boy, say he comes from Red Deer, if he does not have the opportunity to play here, is forced to play with an outside team, say the south-side junior team. He becomes familiar with where they practice, with the players on that team, and

then the following year, it is difficult for him to break away.

NO JUNIORS—SENIORS SUFFER

"I think that over a period of years, the lack of a junior team will hurt the senior club—particularly this year. We had 60 players trying out for the senior team.

"There is room for 18 on the team, and a freshman has to compete with the eight or nine players above junior 'A' level. In any given year, we have about ten players above junior 'A' calibre. If these freshman are allowed to play here on the junior team, they have a better chance of moving up to the senior team.

"Intramurals are not competitive enough and there is not enough

"The meals came in principally because these three teams (basketball—\$1,013, hockey and football—\$1,050) have to practice over the supper hour.

"However, there is a chance the junior teams will be back. I opposed their withdrawal quite strongly until the UAB promised to reconsider the move next year.

SCHOLARSHIP PLAYERS

"There are six boys on scholarships at this university. I hope that three or four of them will make the team. That may be a little on the high side, it might not be any more than two.

"The scholarship boys that don't make the team can play wherever they want. I'll likely keep the boys with the team longer than I ordinarily would and give them every opportunity to make the team.

"The scholarships these boys receive is tuition only.

"Without a junior team we might carry three extra players. This is another advantage of a junior team—in the past three years we've had a player hurt in a Friday night game and called up a junior player to take his place.

"At most of our senior practices, we try to get one junior line out, say, two or three players. These players become familiar with the things we are trying to stress, such as checking and skating drills. If we don't have a junior team, we can't bring these extra players out.

"I hope the juniors are re-activated next year and this is one of the things we are going to talk about in the minor hockey committees in the city. Maybe this type of thing will be resolved."

EX-COACH DISSATISFIED

Brian MacDonald, assistant to university president Dr. Walter H. Johns, and the coach of the junior Bears hockey club last season was emphatic in his views on the dismissal.

"First of all, I am disappointed in the fact that it is going to be discontinued because I think it served a useful purpose, not only for providing players for the senior hockey team, but for the junior

By RICHARD VIVONE

Where have all the fees gone?

Or, why can't the University Athletic Board meet its budget?

The UAB, at its annual budget meeting, decided to abandon sponsorship of the following junior teams and clubs—hockey, basketball, volleyball, badminton, bowling, curling, fencing, rifle, and rodeo—because it has NSF.

The UAB directs and supervises the extracurricular athletic programs on campus both intramural and extramural. It is composed of representatives of students, staff and alumni—with students in the majority.

Mr. E. D. Zemrau, UAB business manager, gave the following reasons for abolition of junior teams.

"We have no league for them to play in.

"You recall last year the junior hockey team played a strictly exhibition schedule of 12-16 games.

"The junior Red Wings were the only team we could get to play us.

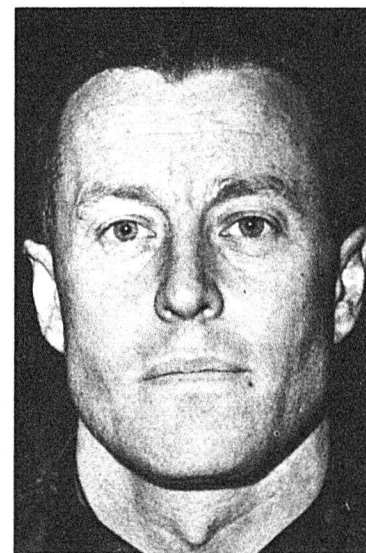


E. D. ZEMRAU
... UAB business manager

as the UAB is concerned, is the matter of finances. We have cut last year and the year before and the year before that some \$30,000 to \$40,000 out of the yearly budget.

"It doesn't matter where you pare, it always hurts someone and that someone as a result is not able to participate in the manner he would like.

"This is one of the reasons we thought junior teams could be justifiably cut.



CLARE DRAKE
... juniors develop loyalty

opportunity to play. Six games a year are hardly adequate.

"The only addition to the hockey budget this year is the training table meals (\$1,215). Each of the other universities has had these training table meals for a number of years now. We've been the last to institute them.