

## Some recent trends in baseball



**Overtime**  
MARK ALBERSTAT

IT'S BASEBALL SEASON AND along with the peanuts and popcorn comes the talk of yet another lengthy season, Cy Young awards and, of course, the fall classic.

Before the school year is over and the last Overtime is written, I would like to make a few points about a recent trend in baseball.

Not since the New York Yankees defeated the Los Angeles Dodgers in both the 1977 and '78 World Series has any team repeated as world champion. To further stress the point, no team has won back-to-back pennants since then. The last seven years have produced seven different World Series champs and World Series games have been played in ten different cities.

It is interesting to note that this trend appeared about the same time that free agency reared its all-too-powerful head.

Pitcher Andy Messersmith is the player credited with starting it all. After he played out his option year (1975) with the Los Angeles Dodgers and was granted free agency by both an arbitrator and a federal court, the face of baseball, as we knew it, was changed forever.

Free Agency is not an evil, just a bad-tempered child that has its problems. With free agency we saw some of the weaker teams strengthen and some of the dynasties crumble. We also saw owners attempt and almost succeed in buying World Series championships.

Free agency has taught owners

to spend money, but to spend it wisely. Yankees owner George Steinbrenner got Goose Gossage and Dave Winfield through free agency. Not all free agents are instant gold, however — Steinbrenner also got Steve Kemp and Bob Shirley.

Free agency should be loved by all baseball fans and hated and despised by all baseball executives. It has showed the fans that almost any team can win it all, or at least go a long way. Any team can now have big names swinging big bats or throwing good stuff.

However, free agency has made players' contracts so large that one can calculate just how many thousands a given player will make with a swing of the bat, a catch of a pop fly, or a stolen base.

Free agency has brought about the fabled, and often much-sought-after, life-time contract, the Kansas City Royals being prime examples.

The following are a few major league salaries that will give you the scope of what free agency has done: George Foster, New York Mets, \$2,040,000; Dave Winfield, \$2,020,837 (subject to cost of living adjustment); Gary Carter, Mets, \$1,871,428; Bruce Sutter, Atlanta Braves, \$1,666,667; and George Brett, Kansas City, \$1,602,500.

They say that nothing can grow to reach the sky but every year baseball salaries just keep getting closer and closer to doing just that.

## Merit Awards and All-Canadians

By MARK ALBERSTAT

IN CONJUNCTION WITH the CIAU Final Four, the Merit Award winners and the CIAU All-Canadian winners were announced.

The National Association of Basketball Coaches of Canada selected Gord Hamlin, Wally Sears, and Don Grant as this year's Merit Award winners.

Gord Hamlin has been involved with basketball since 1957 as an organizer and administrator. He helped organize the Halifax Amateur Basketball League, was president of Basketball Nova Scotia, Director of the Canadian Amateur Basketball Association, and president of Sport Nova Scotia in 1974-75 and 1977-79. Hamlin is a native of Halifax.

Wally Sears, a free-lance journalist, has been writing about athletics for the past 27 years. In 1980 he received the CIAU Media

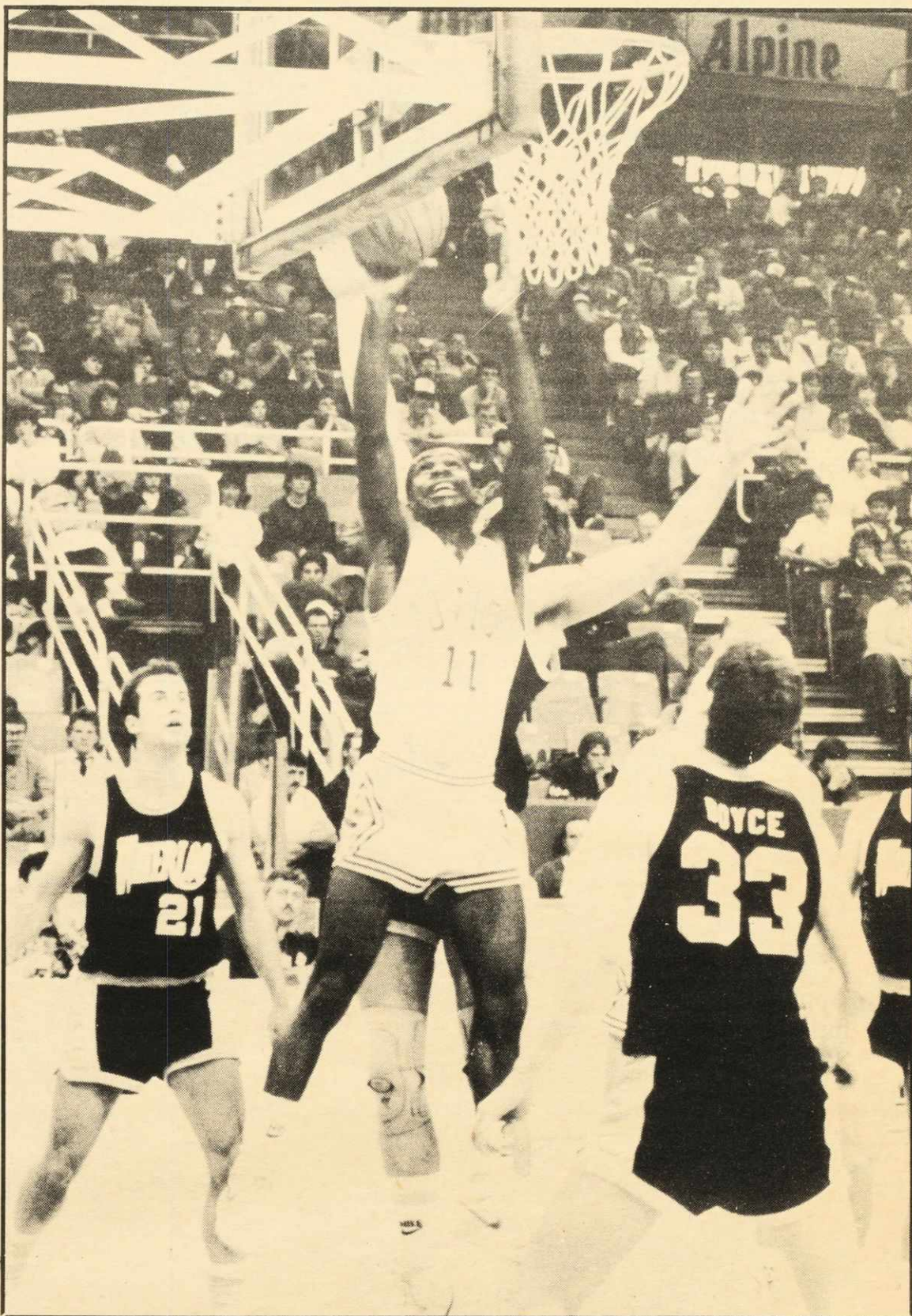
Award and the Sackville Citizen of the Year award. Sears also established the first AUAA Statistics Information office in 1964.

Don Grant has devoted 35 years as an official to the sport of basketball. He has officiated at 13 national championships and is the top working official in the Moncton area. He is president of the provincial Officials' Association and presently sits as a Governor for the New Brunswick Sports Hall of Fame.

The CIAU All-Canadians were announced at a banquet on Thursday night.

The first team consisted of John Carson of Brandon, Byron Tokarchuk of Saskatchewan, Joe Ogoms of Manitoba, Gord Tucker of Winnipeg, and Ken McMurray of Lethbridge.

The second team featured Cord Clemens of Victoria, Rob Latter of Concordia, Peter Savich of Waterloo, Ken Klassen of British Columbia, and Tim Rider of York.



Lloyd Scrubb of Victoria goes up for two points in the championship game against the Waterloo Warriors. The Vikings won the game 70-61 to capture their seventh consecutive national title. Waterloo's Peter Savich and Paul Boyce get ready to rebound. Photo by Todd K. Miller, Dal Photo.

## Vikings win CIAU crown

By MARK ALBERSTAT

FOR THE SEVENTH straight year the Victoria Vikings have won the premier basketball event in the country, taking the CIAU title Saturday afternoon at the Metro Centre by downing the Waterloo Warriors 70-61.

Vikings' centre Cord Clemens claimed this year's title was one of the hardest.

"This season we had a lot of pressure on us because we were carrying six other seasons with us. It gets harder each year. This year's championship was probably the most exciting because of the score, if nothing else," said Clemens.

The Vikings reached the championship game by virtue of their 78-70 win over the Saskatchewan Huskies in the first semi-final on Friday night. The Warriors got

their berth in the championship game by their 69-67 squeaker over the Western University Mustangs.

In the consolation game Saturday, Western beat Saskatchewan 78-71.

The only surprise in the championship game was the closeness of the score. Before even arriving in Halifax, there was talk about the Vikings' virtual stranglehold in the CIAU title. The small crowd that attended the championship game were rooting for the underdog Warriors.

By the half-time break the Vikings had created a 14-point cushion with a 42-28 score. This was largely due to the abilities of seven-foot Clemens, who poured in 16 points, scoring a game total of 26.

The second half saw the crowd get excited as the Warriors whittled away at the Vikings'

margin until there was a one-point lead with 4:57 left which forced a Victoria time out. The Vikings then proceeded to tighten their defence and charge their offence enough for the 11-point win over the frustrated Warriors.

Besides Clemens, veteran Lloyd Scrubb scored in double digits with 13, while Vito Pasquale scored 12.

Paul Boyce led the Warriors' attack with 18 points, while second team All-Canadian Peter Savich chipped in 14 points.

In the consolation game, the Huskies, as in their game the night before, cleaned the boards well but couldn't find the basket when shooting. Leading the Mustangs on offence was Jamie Ziegel with 15 points. Greg Jockims led Saskatchewan with 14 points.