

Garry Allison



Finals sidelights

The Canadian Rodeo Finals in Edmonton last week were a success... there were a record number of 51,012 fans who clicked through the turnstiles for the six performances to prove it... the only major problem over the entire week was the announcing... both were American announcers because the argument has always been there's not a Canadian announcer good enough for the Finals... well Clem McSpadden was all right, in fact last year, teamed with Jay Harwood, he was perfect... but Pete Logan was poor... any number of Canadian announcers would have done a better job than Logan... let's hope the Finals committee doesn't ask him back... there was one performance that lacked in thrills, Thursday's I believe... but Friday's performance was one of the best rodeo shows presented anywhere... for me the highlight of the week was little Bruce Kostelansky of Lethbridge, or at least four miles out of it... Bruce, after bucking off the first day, fought back and wound up the Canadian champion... the boys were the favorites of the big crowds all week... Bruce has to be one of the best-mannered boys you'll ever meet... a credit to Wally and Alice, his parents.

This year was the first time the members of the winning wild horse race team also received recognition... Ernie Dorin won the event and he, along with Greg Kesler and Lorne Wells, received a silver buckle... Wells looks great after dropping close to 40 pounds... he did it the hard way though... a broken jaw... Kostelansky received a telegram during the finals from his hockey coach John Ablett, wishing him well... Bruce really appreciated it... for his escort at the awards banquet Bruce had former Miss Rodeo Canada, Sis Thacker... and he asked her herself... not bad for a 12-year-old... only colorful Tommy Bews would stop for a chew of snuff halfway through an acceptance speech... Calgary's Marty Lyle rode all of his steers in the boys' steer riding... Joe Chomistik of Scandia couldn't come untraced until the final day of the rodeo... Taber's Arnold Leth just missed his first Canadian dogging title... he has a lot of folks pulling for him but fell short with a valiant effort... the Reeder-Gladstone ropooff for the Canadian crown was thrilling indeed... Bill Reeder won, but we had to feel a little sorry for Jimmy Gladstone, who just never has had any luck at the finals.

Mel Coleman may have well lost the Canadian saddle bronc title Saturday afternoon when he bucked down in the middle of a good ride due to a broken stirrup leather... Jerri Duce is in a class all by herself among Canadian barrel runners... any athlete would be proud to be only half as consistent as Jerri... in six runs she finished first five times and second once... Phil Doan was re-elected as the president of the Canadian Rodeo Cowboys Association... he beat out Cardston's Lynn Jensen... Jensen had a poor finals... like Gladstone, but just doesn't have any luck in the fancy Coliseum... Ron Ostrum, who was defending dominion steer wrestling king, is really superstitious... he kept changing shirts at the finals until he won a go round, then he kept the "winner shirt" on... Reg Kesler's bareback broncs were the cream of the crop on the final day... of the 10 horses out Reg owned five, and two bucked their riders down.

There may be some big changes coming up in the CRCA concerning stock contactors and the amateur and pro rodeos they do... could be there will be a rule coming out that say the men who supply the animals must choose between one or the other... also a few other major changes may be upcoming, one concerning Calgary but they are still before the board for approval, or disapproval... Moon Rocket may be the bareback horse of the year in the world, and Canada, but Moonshine outshone the Calgary Stampede horse at the finals... Garry Hyland, in the boys' steer riding had a special reason to do well, his dad had a heart attack during the rodeo... reports were that he was recovering... Wilf Hyland has a habit of slapping his own face four times before he rides... as one who knows about good food let me say the spread put on by a Molson House during the rodeo was the best I've seen anywhere... the point system at the finals worked on a 40-30-20-10 basis for first, second, third and fourth.

Public relations is sadly lacking at the finals... there was talk of forming a media group to promote rodeo... but I think it's about time rodeo tried getting off its backside and promoting itself to the media... you shouldn't put on a show the size of the finals and make secrets of everything... there wasn't one CRCA representative at the media meeting... Brian Haraga's gritty performance after hitting his head on the chute in the boys' event was something to see... he took five stitches after he had completed the ride... Brian Claypool bought himself in the calcutta for \$675 and then bucked off... the calcutta bidding area was one of the most popular spots in the Edmonton Inn... some big money was made... some was lost too... the clowns, some top-name cowboys, and the boys steer riders, all paid a visit to the children's hospital during the rodeo... Mel Hyland took along his guitar and sang a few songs... young Larry Robinson of Innisfail had a lot of bad luck in the roping over the week... he can rope better than he showed... the convention stirred up some dust for a change... the rumors in the halls of the Edmonton Inn were almost as exciting as the rodeo.

Minor hockey

Four boys, Lee Harrison, Len Overbeeke, Bruce Lyons and Richard Buria, scored for the tier two bantam Legion Saints as they skated to a 4-0 victory over the Canadians.

The Labor Club B's picked up a victory and a tie with Great Falls on the weekend. They won 5-1 and tied 4-4.

In pee wee tier 1 action the Jets bested the Marjands 3-1 on the strength of two goals from Danny Peters. Vern Smith scored the third goal for the winners. Troy Eriar replied for the losers.

Frank Kogler fired home three goals to lead the tier 1 midget Centennials to a 5-3 win over the Oilers.

Neil Povey and Doug Hanna also scored for the winners while Grant Wiens, John Jacobson and Cary Goshinman replied for the Oilers. Bob Oney picked up four assists for the winners.

Lethbridge Canadians downed Pincher Creek 8-4 in Bantam hockey action with Steve Shipley leading the Canadians' attack with two goals.

Singles were added by Darryl Robertson, Garry Heathcote, Greg Crant, Jeff Paskuski, Alan Tajiri and Blair Spence.

Scoring for Pincher Creek were Kelly Leavitt, Ray Gousdau, Dave Towe and Randy McLeod.

Ryan Maier's second period goal was all the Bobcats needed as they edged the Tigers 1-0 in Mite action.

All the scoring came in the first period as the Blues edged the Toros 4-3 in a Midget Tier 1 hockey game Tuesday.

Terry Hamilton, Barry Demaree, Todd Takeyasu and Jamie Severson connected for the Blues.

Scoring for the Toros were Neil Court, Brad Tradewell and Fred Tomson.

PLAYERS STABBED
BOSTON (AP) — Cornerback Andrew Puopolo of Harvard's football team is fighting for his life in hospital after being revived by doctors following a stabbing Tuesday night. Puopolo, 22, is in critical condition with multiple wounds in the chest. Team-mate Thomas Lincoln, 21, was stabbed in the same incident but is listed in good condition. Police said the athletes got into a fight with a group of men after a prostitute stole a wallet from one of their companions.

Led by Hess, Foggo

Dinosaurs in on weekend



GREGG HESS



RICHARD FOGGO



PERRY MIRKOVICH

University of Calgary Dinosaurs, men's and women's variety, will invade the University of Lethbridge fieldhouse Friday and Saturday.

The male version of the basketballing Dinmies were the top team in the Canada-West League last season and bring with them two familiar faces to Lethbridge basketball fans.

Gregg Hess, a former standout with the LCC Kodiaks, and Richard Foggo, a top man for the Pronghorns the past two seasons, both wear Calgary colors now.

"I wouldn't be surprised if coach Gary Howard starts Foggo," Pronghorn coach John Affleck said. "Hess and Mike Santiago are both starters and his main outside shooters."

"We are going to play man-to-man against the Dinosaurs, its been working for us the past two games."

Pronghorns are 1-1 on the season, but with a bit of luck should have been the same 2-0 as the Dinosaurs.

"We're going to go with what we believe in," said Affleck, "and try to develop it. I'll be very disappointed if we don't come away with at least a split in the two games. Everything is right for us to take them."

"Basically we want to continue the momentum we started with Victoria last weekend. That means a reduction of turnovers and super effort on defence."

Jack Lilja, coach of the Pronghorn women, will be looking to give his girls a win after two losses.

"Calgary is a much improved club according to reports," Lilja stated. "How improved is hard to say. They are aggressive defensively and will be running."

"We should really win our next four games in the schedule and wind up at Christmas with a 4-2 record."

"Right now we are prepared for anything they throw against us. It's just a matter of our girls putting it all together. I'm looking forward to this weekend."

"I'll be starting Lori and Les Lilja as guards and Georgina Lester, Connie Frouws and Debbie Yanota up front. We will be without Myrna Allert again, this time with an injured knee."

Affleck is pleased with proceedings to date. "All things considered we're pretty happy at this point. Jim Duxbury has been the most consistent for us overall and Perry Mirkovich has been playing, and practicing, with much more consistent intensity."

"I'm going to start Joey McLaughlin at guard to give us a quick boost, and then go from there."

"Calgary had the best bench in the league last season and that's who's playing for them this year. They probably have the best overall leader-guard in the league in Ian Mackay."

"They are ready, they're even coming in early Friday to practice prior to the girls game. But we're ready too."

Friday night is "Dorm Night" at the U of L and Galt School of Nurses night as well.

Last weekend's basketball entertainment was superb and fans can look for more of the same this time out.

Hull worried about WHA

WINNIPEG (CP) — Bobby Hull brought credibility to the World Hockey Association five years ago but now the veteran scoring star says the league may not survive much longer.

Hull said that without some sort of merger with the National Hockey League, the WHA's years are numbered. "Just look around," he said. "You can't expect to survive when you're only getting 6,000 fans."

Such a merger is getting closer, said Hull, who is preparing to play with Winnipeg Jets after missing the first six weeks of the season with an injured left hand.

He said a merger would not involve all teams but might see the NHL drop some weaker franchises in favor of the strongest WHA clubs.

That would rid both leagues of "cancerous" franchises and create one strong league.

But is there a chance of the NHL agreeing to a merger? "They may be stubborn but they'll come around," Hull said. "They have their problem spots too. We saw a game in Cleveland last week and if you put both the teams together you still wouldn't have one good club."

He said falling attendance is a major problem in both leagues.

Winnipeg is the only WHA franchise to show an operating profit last season, but that turned into a loss with the annual payment to former owners of the club.

Another problem with the WHA, Hull said, is the lack of improvement in calibre.

TEAMS GET WORSE

"Almost every team that comes in here is getting worse," he said. "There just hasn't been the improvement we expected."

"We're not getting the top

young kids. They don't want to play in a second-rate league. And we're not going to be getting many established stars either."

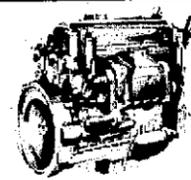
"For every team that has improved, four are worse."

Now, he says, it's time to get rid of the bad franchises in both leagues, along with the musclemen employed by various clubs trying to overcome their lack of talent with an excess of violence.

Hull reaches the end of his five-year playing contract next spring.

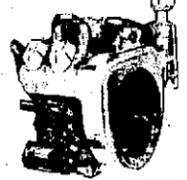
Although he declines to speculate what will happen then—he will still be under contract to Winnipeg for five more years—rumors have been growing that the Golden Jet will be back with the NHL Chicago Black Hawks next season, with or without the Jets.

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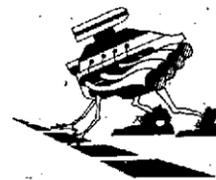
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