

Hockey update

Stanley Cup: U.S.—Canada rivalry grows

It's getting close to Stanley Cup time for all you hockey fans, and once again the old sentiments of national pride and international resentment are beginning to flare among the hockey audience.

Why is this so? Because out of the four favored finalist teams, two are American, and two are Canadian.

Canadian pride is presently at a high point as the Edmonton Oilers are thrashing the Minnesota North Stars by a 2-0 games ratio in the seven-game series. But this takes a back seat. Pride really shows when it is announced that Montreal is leading three games to two in its series over the openly admired, but secretly hated, New York Islanders.

However, along with the pride (and all the boasting that goes with it) lies also a fear of a turnaround.

This is because Canadians view themselves as the masters, founders and teachers of the sport. "Canadians taught the Russians, Czechs and Americans how to play hockey," is a common phrase in the Great, White North.

So whenever a team from one of these countries defeats a Canadian team, the mood is one of shame and disgrace. Naturally, the attitude of the winner is usually along the lines of, "We beat those Canucks at their own game."

The hurt is especially acute when an American team wins, since Canadians view U.S. hockey players as being a bunch of redneck farmers or New York



By Marco Procaccini
Copy Editor

businessmen who would rather be playing baseball.

Therefore, an American team winning the Stanley Cup is like an Eskimo eating a burrito—it doesn't look very attractive.

This is why the Islanders are so secretly resented. The New York team, headed by veteran coach Al Arbour, has stormed to Stanley Cup victory for the past four years, devastating most Canadian teams along the way. Teams such as the Quebec Nordique, Vancouver Canucks and Edmonton Oilers have been mercilessly trampled with relative ease.

If Canadians were not the great sports they are, diplomatic relations with the U.S. could have been severed. It's easy to see that hockey is something like a religion in Canada—it is taken very, very seriously. Canadians see the Islanders as an oasis of in-

telligence in a desert of American stupidity on ice, since U.S. teams such as the Buffalo Sabres and Philadelphia Flyers, although tough contenders, have difficulty finding the goal net.

Teams like the Detroit Red Wings and Washington Capitals still haven't discovered which goal not to shoot at. And as far as the Atlanta Flames are concerned, Canadians feel that anyone who lives in a state that grows peanuts and watermelons can't possibly know anything about hockey.

California is for surfing, not skating. Right, L.A. Kings?

Montreal's coach Jacques Lemarre is known as "the man who never smiles" unless his team wins the cup. He hasn't smiled in four years, since Montreal gave up its four-year reign in a loss to, oddly enough, Minnesota in 1980. (Minnesota was then dumped by the Islanders, who won the Stanley Cup that year to begin their reign.)

Will he smile this year? Who knows? Montreal is one of the toughest and most experienced teams in the NHL. But so are the Islanders, and Montreal's 3-2 lead could change.

So all you hockey fans get your flags ready, think up rude chants to scream out and collect as many paper and styrofoam cups as you can to throw (That's what they do in Canada).

I'm placing no bets, although I'd like to see Montreal win (since I'm Canadian—as if you couldn't tell). But either way, it'll be close.

Session spikes mark

It was no surprise. The men's track team once again belittled the four-year schools. But this time it was even more joyful as they did it at their only home meet of the year—the Clackamas Invitational last weekend.

The star performance came from sprinter Roy Session in the 200. His top effort came with a school record 21.4 run which qualified him for the national meet and earned him first place against the likes

of Western Oregon, Linfield, Portland State, Pacific, University of Portland and the Greater Portland Road Runners' Club.

Assistant Coach Kelly Sullivan was pleased with Session and his team members' showing. "Overall it was a really good meet for us. We held out five of our top distance runners and still scored well," Sullivan boasted.

Session along with counterparts Jon Elston, Del Barber and Yul Provanča captured the mile relay with a 3:21.5 running. Going into the final leg the Cougars trailed, but a 48.47 lap by Provanča proved to be the difference.

Another highlight came in the high jump, as Al Taylor captured first by matching his season best at 6-8 and almost cleared 6-9, but his ankle barely tripped the bar. Steve Hines jumped 6-0 to earn a third place for the host team.

There were three other first-place finishes for the Cougs as Jeff Tressler won the 400 with a 48.6 time, Rob Roley tied with Mark Dunbar



OVER THE TOP—Freshman Al Taylor just misses attempt at national qualifying height 6-9.

in the 800 (1:54.2), and discus thrower Rich Gaiser won his event with a 148-9 toss.

"We wanted to get a couple of people qualified for the national meet and we did," Sullivan said.

The Cougars will host the regional meet this coming weekend, May 4 and 5. Sullivan's crew will be defending their regional crown, but the coach said they cannot overlook anyone.

"We are the favorites, but there are a lot of good teams. We'll win if we perform well," he said.



Kelly Sullivan

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