

The Sporting Fool Speaks By Aaron T. Brown

Hockey reflections... and other comments

Well, the pro-hockey season is underway, and my team, the New Jersey Devils, promise to give every team a run for their money.

My love affair with the Devils began back in 1985, when Kirk Muller, a hero of mine in Junior Hockey, was drafted by them. New Jersey was a hapless team then. In fact, they were so pitiful that they lost out on being the worst team to Pittsburgh, who went on to draft Mr. Magnificent, Mario Lemieux (whose career is over as far as I'm concerned.)

Since then, New Jersey has steadily become a contender, avoiding previous pitfalls and developing young players instead of trading them for has-beens. I took this team under my wing and learned what made them tick, kept stats on the team, and even had pictures of the players on my wall. In fact, I even have a goalie mask that I wear when playing hockey that is painted in Devil colors.

But New Jersey didn't become my team for life until three years ago when they drafted a guy that I had followed closely and had watched throughout many games, Brendan Shanahan. He wasn't big, but had the right combination of skills to potentially become an NHL great. Well, Brendan has improved from 26 points, to 50 his second year and to around 70 last year. Can he become the first Devil to score 100 points?

Just because I liked New Jersey, didn't mean that they were a serious contender, but this year they will be. Last year, the Devils literally stole Peter Stastny from Quebec. Stastny is the first European player to ever reach the 1000 point plateau in career totals. They also picked up Viach Fetisov, the best Russian defenseman, and a potential rookie of the year, Paul Ysebaert.

With a team lineup like the United Nations, some wonder about their toughness. Well, this year they acquired Claude Lemieux from Montreal, one of the most hated men in the NHL (unless he's on your team), who was once voted the most annoying player in a Hockey News poll.

Those of you who are followers of the NHL, watch for New Jersey to take their division (if they can get by Pittsburgh), and possibly be in the Cup final! ...On a sad note, the game room looks like it is to be moved. If you don't want this, do something about it. Let the faculty know that "the wrong element" does not hang out there. Geez, people like me (who attend this school, maintain a 3.4 GPA, and hold other jobs) use it. In fact, my sports writers must spend an hour a week in there to unwind and relax. Get above the petty politics.

Athletes on campus breathe a sigh of relief...

Public restrooms near completion

By Heatherle Himes and Frank Jordan
Staff Writers

Along with the newly resurfaced tennis court and track, the public restrooms and storage space for the CCC track team currently under construction is sure to be a welcome sight to both college athletes and community members who enjoy the use of Cougar playing fields. The approximately 12' X 40' facility is expected to be completed sometime next month.

"It's a welcomed structure," said Carol Peterson, director of athletics.

The building has been funded by bond money from the \$9.5 million dollar levy passed in 1988. The finished project should cost around \$53,000, depending on weather conditions and the amount of complications at the building site. The storage area will be ready for use before the restrooms, due to the fact that the restrooms must be hooked up to the sewer line of South Douglas Loop before being functional.

"The building has been in the planning for years and years," said Head Track Coach Mike Hodges.

The realization that CCC needed this facility arrived after it became a regular event for track athletes to struggle to find their needed equipment in one of the

team's two storage areas, and to haul it out to the track to use it.

The lack of outdoor restrooms made it impossible for players to relieve themselves between innings or events, and proved to be a hardship for community members playing on outdoor college recreational facilities.

Besides providing the track program with a more centrally located storage space, the shed will protect equipment from Oregon's soggy weather.

"We have about \$4000 funds in high jump and pole vault pits," said Hodges. "If you let the weather destroy them, that's a tremendous amount of capital out laid to replace.

"Our hurdles were deteriorating because we had to leave them on the track during the winter. It will be nice to have a place to store the bulk of them," said Hodges. The baseball team will inherit one of the track team's smaller storage areas.

Other improvements made to the track area during the summer months include the resurfacing and remarking of the track itself, and the movement of the bleachers to the homestretch to provide spectators with a better view of the races.

The resurfacing of the tennis



Photo by Lane Scheideman

It's about time! Yes those plagued with bladder control problems will need not worry. The "barn" is right on schedule.

courts is also complete. Cracks in the courts were covered up, and the rest of the courts were resurfaced. The tennis courts were used for the first time on Oct. 11. The improvements were delayed at various times during the project, mostly due to the weather.

"Atlas Tracks handled both

the resurfacing of the track and that of the tennis courts, and they did a fine job," Peterson said. "It was the first time in recent memory that the resurfacing of the tennis courts had taken place."

It should also be mentioned that both projects were finished on budget.

Coach Hodges takes 400th victory as Cross Country team finishes season

by Aaron Brown
Sports Editor

Once again, the Clackamas Cross Country team kicked the competition, this time in La-Grande, where the women's team finished first overall and the men's team placed second.

The story of the meet was on a more personal note for Coach Hodges. As the women's team placed first, it also signalled Hodges' 400th victory as a cross country coach.

"It tells you how long I've been coaching," laughed Hodges.

The women's team also provided another milestone as they finished the race with a perfect score of 15.

"We worked on our grouping this week, and they (the women's team) finished with a 37 second differential, which is the best we've had," commented Hodges. "The best time we had before was 1:17, and that was good."

Wendi Smith capped off the women's performance, finishing second overall with a time of 20:17.

"It was her first number one placing for us," Hodges stated.

Roni Del Sol broke her streak of under 20 finishes, but came in third overall at 20:19. Other finishers included Stephanie Rosen (4th), Kristy Morgan (5th), and Sonia Schmuland (6th).

The men's draw also focussed on improving their grouping, which also paid dividends for the team, and also saw the emergence of Gene Branderhorst.

"The team was running close, but at the two mile mark, Gene took off to catch everyone, caught the leaders, and moved away to his top performance," commented a beaming Hodges.

Branderhorst toasted the competition to a crisp and finished first overall with a time of 26:10. Billy Borkus came in eighth overall at 26:50. Mike Paulson turned in a solid performance according to Hodges, and finished 11th. Nathan Matlock came in at 14th, and Tim Marshall turned in his best performance of the season, placing 15th.

This meet concluded the regular season and also marks a break for both the men's and the women's team. The teams will be preparing for and hosting the Southern Regional championships on Saturday, Oct. 27 at MacIver Park.

The women's team is heavily favored to take the Southern regionals and are considered a dark-horse at the NWAACC regionals to be held the following three weeks from Saturday. The men are one of the best in the Southern and one of the four teams bent on taking one of the three trophies in the Northwest regionals.

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