

Numbers game

Hockey

Blues 3 Flames 2

1st Period
St. Louis 3 (Wickens, Cavalli) 0-57
Penalties—McDonald Cal (elbowing) 0:35, Norwood SIL (hooking) 5:12, Gilmour SIL (high-sticking) 11:46, Bell SIL (slashing) 17:19.

2nd Period
2. Calgary, Patterson 2 (Loob, MacInnis) 8:59
3. Calgary, Loob 4 (Reinhart, MacInnis) 16:36 (pp)
Penalties—Johnson Cal (holding) 4:41, Folu Cal (slashing) 10:04, Bourgeois SIL (roughing) 15:37, Tonelli Cal (roughing) 17:09, Sutter SIL, Riseborough Cal (roughing) 18:27, Ramage SIL (holding) 19:28.

3rd Period
4. St. Louis, Reeds 4 (Wickens, Bell, 14:42
5. St. Louis, Hunter 5 (Federio) 15:48
Penalties—None.
Shots on goal by:
St. Louis 8-11-36
Calgary 12 12 11-35
Goal: St. Louis
Wassiljey, Calgary
Power-play (second-opportunity)—St. Louis: 0-4; Calgary: 1-4.
Referee—Morel; Linesmen—d'Amico, Hodges.
Attendance—16,782.

Baseball

American League

East Division		West Division	
W	L	Pct.	GBL
New York	14	6	636
Boston	12	8	600
Cleveland	12	9	571 1/2
Detroit	10	10	500
Milwaukee	10	10	500
Baltimore	10	11	476 3/2
Toronto	9	13	409
California	11	6	609
Oakland	13	10	565
Kansas City	10	10	500 2/2
Texas	10	10	500 2/2
Minnosota	10	13	435
Chicago	7	13	350 5/2
Seattle	8	15	348

National League

East Division		West Division	
W	L	Pct.	GBL
New York	14	4	478
Philadelphia	9	10	474 5/2
Pittsburgh	8	10	444
Chicago	8	12	400
St. Louis	8	12	400
Houston	15	6	714
San Diego	13	10	565
San Francisco	13	10	565
Los Angeles	12	13	460
Atlanta	9	12	429
Cincinnati	5	13	278

How will history remember the Edmonton Oilers of the early and mid-1980s?

After their surprising elimination by the determined if less talented Flames, it's possible the Oilers will be seen by history the same way we remember the Boston Bruins of the early 1970s.



Mark Allan

The Bruins, like the Oilers, possessed awesome offensive capabilities.

Phil Esposito, the Slot Machine, filled the net with pucks as no one had done before. His 76 goals, 76 assists and 152 points in the 1970-71 season were records until broken by Wayne Gretzky.

Bobby Orr changed the game forever with his brilliant forays into the offensive zone. He lost his single-season goal record to Edmonton's Paul Coffey this season, but Coffey fell one point short of Orr's record for points in a season.

The Big Bad Bruins of the early 70s could slug it out with the best of them, too, another similarity between them and the Oilers.

And the Bruins had an outstanding supporting cast for Orr and Esposito with the likes of Johnny Bucyk, Gerry Cheevers, Wayne Cashman and Ken Hodge.

Do you remember how many Stanley Cups the Bruins won in the 70s?

Two — 1970 and 1972. With all that talent, they won just two Stanley Cups. The Montreal Canadiens won

In 1968, 1969, 1971 and 1973, followed by the ugly Philadelphia in '74 and '75.

But the Bruins won just twice and you have to wonder whether Edmonton will sip from the hallowed trophy again in this decade.

The Oilers are still young and extremely talented, so their chances are excellent, but it's tough even for the team with the best talent to go all the way.

While the Oilers' two straight Stanley Cups are impressive, they must bounce back to win again or be remembered in the same light as the Bruins — an excellent team with some great players — not a team with claims to greatness.

The Canadiens of the 1950s and 1970s and the Islanders of this decade will always be remembered for what they were — great teams that would somehow find the way to win even when it appeared all was lost.

This season's Calgary Flames were to the Oilers what the Pittsburgh Penguins were to the

Islanders in the 1982 playoffs. The Penguins led New York 3-2 late in the fifth and final game of their Patrick Division semifinal, the first round of the playoffs.

John Tonelli tied it for the Islanders, then won it in overtime as New York successfully overcame this unexpected hurdle. The eventual result was a third straight Stanley Cup, a string of NHL championships not broken until two years later by Edmonton.

It's somehow ironic that Tonelli played a large role in helping the Flames out the Oilers.

Anything written about the Oilers' temporary demise must include a few words about the wretched Steve Smith, who would be well advised not to spend the summer in Edmonton.

His gaffe was a monumental blunder that will assume legendary status in coming years. I expect he'll become the NHL's equivalent of Bonehead Merkle from the early days of baseball.

Still, he didn't lose the series by himself, a fact the Oilers themselves were quick to point out during their dressing room post-mortem.

Smith's own goal put Edmonton down a goal and the Oilers had almost 15 minutes to do the one thing they do best — score.

They couldn't do it and they didn't win — and that's the bottom line. And the bottom line is usually all that history records.

Women, girls come together to boost game

Prince George girls' and women's soccer teams are joining forces again this year in an effort to help boost the growth of both groups.

Two women's teams and three 18-and-younger sides from the Prince George Youth Soccer Association have formed a five team league with a 12-game schedule and the regular season starts Monday.

Youth soccer spokesman Bob Moynes says the league, now in its second year, benefits both groups. "With three (youth) teams, that's really not enough for a league, and with just two ladies teams it's not enough either," said Moynes Friday. "So we pooled them together."

The two women's teams are the Runners World Spruce Caps and Cariboo Chrome.

The youth teams are the College Heights Strikers, the Nechako Royals and Prince George Secondary School.

Moynes added that linking the two groups should help the growth of women's soccer.

"We're trying to create a transition between the girls who are graduating (from youth soccer) and the women's league," said Moynes. "We're hoping the women's league will grow."

Steve Lambie, a spokesman for the women's league and coach of the Spruce Caps, says both the women's teams could use more players.

"We're hoping to get more women interested so that we can organize it better and have a greater number of teams operating."

Games are primarily Monday and Wednesday at Connaught School, with some additional games Tuesdays.

The Spruce Caps play PGSS in the opening game at 6:15 Monday.

Anyone interested in playing can call Lambie at 565-6453 (days) or 562-8065 (evenings).

Meanwhile, the Prince George Youth Soccer Association begins its season in earnest today at Rotary Stadium.

The league has 40 teams and 850 players. Ages run from the youngest — seven- to nine-year-olds in mini-soccer — to the oldest — 16-year-olds in Division Two.

Division Four, Five and Six games are played at John McInnis Secondary School and Division Seven and Eight games and some girls games are at Rotary. Most of the Division Two games are also at Rotary.

Cadman keeps climbing

by DON SCHAFFER Sports reporter

Laurinda Cadman's drive for the top of the sport of diving is accelerating while she trains in Calgary.

Cadman, a former Prince George College student who left the Pisces diving club last year for better coaching and training facilities in Calgary, surpassed the national standards at a meet in Winnipeg in April.

That qualifies her to compete at a higher level, meaning she's diving against some of the best in Canada.

It also means more work. But that seems to agree with the 16-year-old diver, an honor-roll student at Lord Beaverbrook Junior High School. "The coaches are pleased and so am I," Cadman said in a telephone interview Thursday. "I qualified for the age group nationals and the summer senior nationals when I made my national standards."

Cadman placed fifth on the three-metre springboard and the 10-metre tower and seventh on the one-metre springboard in Winnipeg, her first meet in lower competition.

At the Alberta age group provincial championships a week later in Edmonton, she placed sixth on the tower, seventh on the three-metre board and ninth on the one-metre board. There, she set her highest scores ever, despite the lower finishes.

"I guess it was (a tougher meet)," she said. "There were different people there. Some of the people used to be on the national team, so it was tough."

"Now I'm diving against people who have been at it for four to 12 years, and at first I didn't know what to expect."

Since surpassing the national points standards set by the Canadian Amateur Diving Association, she's preparing for the national age group championships in Etobicoke May 19 and 20, and for the

summer senior provincial championships June 6-8 in Edmonton.

The biggest meet of her first season in Calgary is the summer senior national championships at her club's home pool, Lindsay Park. It doubles as the trials for the world championship and Commonwealth Games teams.

To qualify, a diver must place in the top 12, a goal Cadman hopes she can reach. She's also glad it's taking place at the pool where she trains.

"It will be better. You get used to the boards and to everything that's happening around you. Unfortunately, it's right at the same time as my final exams, so I'm trying to arrange something there."

Cadman began diving with the Pisces three seasons ago and climaxed her stay with the club by winning the one-metre gold and the three-metre silver medals at the B.C. provincial championships in Trail last August.

Summer club hits water for first swim

The Prince George Pisces swim club began swimming Thursday in preparation for a 10-meet season that begins in June.

But the diving component of the club will be lucky to get in two meets before the B.C. Summer Swimming Association's provincial championships Aug. 22 to 24 in Burnaby after the death of the only other program in Northern B.C.

The Pisces program appears to have survived the winter-long pool closure intact, president Gary Larsen said Thursday. Larsen said numbers are down slightly from last season, but he expects them to pick up next week.

"A lot of times people don't start coming out until after the first weekend," Larsen explained. "We've got 52 people so far, including divers, but I expect us to round out about 60."

The Dawson Creek meet June 7 and 8 starts the season, with following meets running through July until the Pisces hold their own meet July 26 and 27. The regional championship is in Mackenzie Aug. 9 and 10.

The diving club, under the tutelage of coach Bob Jenner, has 12 members and Jenner expects to have about six more by the end of next week. He's also looking forward to the club's performance at the Summer Games, which he foresees as the biggest meet of the season before the regional and provincial championships.

He also hoped for some meets within the region, but doesn't expect any this season.

"There really aren't any other programs," he explained. "We were trying to get some more clubs started, and there was one in Dawson Creek, but the club there shifted their coach to the swimming coach and now they don't have any divers."

Jenner said the club hopes northwestern clubs will begin their diving programs this season, and he plans to take his charges there, but he'll avoid going to any meets in Coquitlam, where the Sharks club has invited the Pisces divers. "They really just want to scout us out," Jenner said, citing the club's second-place finish at last season's provincial championships as the reason for interest down south.

"I want our kids to be able to compete and just concentrate on their diving," he explained. "I don't want them to be psyched out before the provincials."

Merchant softball set

The Prince George merchant men's softball league opens its annual icebreaker tournament Monday, with its new 10-team roster playing all week and next weekend to complete the round-robin event.

The league lost the Blackburn Burners, who finished in first with an 18-0 record last season, to the Spruce City Men's Fastball Association. Blackburn has a junior team entered this season, and league president Al Meredith said there were two other new teams in the league, expanding the lineup to 10 from eight.

The Prince George Royals moved from the defunct men's recreation league and the Indian Friendship Centre sponsors a team.

The league will play an 18-game schedule, with each team playing the others twice. League play gets under way Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the league diamond in Carrie Jane Gray Park, with Partie Sound meeting Electron Video.

Most games will be played at the league diamond. George Coulling Grading plays its home games at the Willow River diamond, while Blackburn plays at its diamond in Blackburn.

The icebreaker tournament begins with two games Monday. Coulling plays host to JJ's Pub at 7:30, while the Royals meet Croft

Hotel at 6:30 at Carrie Jane Gray.

The teams are divided into two pools for round-robin play, with the top two entering next Sunday's final and the third- and fourth-place teams meeting for the consolation trophy, also Sunday.

Coulling's division includes JJ's, the Royals, Croft Hotel and Electron Video. In the other pool are Blackburn, IFC, Blake's Moving and Storage-Sunland Subaru and Partie Sound.

PRINCE GEORGE RECREATION RUGBY LEAGUE
Registration and First Practice Monday Night May 5th 6:30 p.m. D.P. Todd Field For More Information Call 563-6630

Handball

HANDBALL LEAGUE

Division One	PTS
Charlie Simmons	12
Jim Feragen	11
Dave Jenkins	9
George Guy	9
Al Husband	2
Bob McLennan	1

Division Two
Jim Martindale 14
John Harrington 12
John Speckin 10
Evan Rosen 8
Vern Gatzke 5
Terry Sakamoto 5

Scorecard

FRIDAY SOFTBALL
Men's six-pitch
Isobritain tournament
Runners World 5 Video Pop 4
College Heights 9 Moons 8

Tennis

The men's semi-final and women's final of the U.S. Clay Court tennis championships are on beginning at 1:30 Saturday on The Sports Network (cable 16). The men's final is on at 2:30 Sunday on TSN.

Basketball

NBA

Team	PTS
Boston	111
Atlanta	107
Boston leads	best-of-seven second-round Eastern series 3-0
Dallas	110
LA Lakers	108
Lakers leads	best-of-seven second-round Western series 2-1
Denver	116
Houston	115
Houston leads	best-of-seven second-round Western series 2-1

Golf

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP) — Donnie Hammond said he's not thinking — or at least trying not to think — about a chance at the biggest payoff in PGA Tour history.

"I don't like like there's any extra pressure," Hammond said Friday after taking a share of the third-round lead in the richest tournament on the pro golf tour and raising the possibility he could collect \$457,000 for his week's work. "I think it's an extra opportunity. "When you're trying for \$207,000 for first place, somehow it doesn't seem like \$250,000 is that much more. The pressure isn't in the money. It's in trying to win the golf tournament."

In addition to the \$207,000 winner's share of the five-day, 90-hole Panosonic Las Vegas Invitational, Hammond and Fuzzy Zoeller also are eligible for a \$250,000 bonus if either wins to win. Hammond, winner of \$366,674 in a 3 1/2-year tour career, won his first title at the Bob Hope earlier this season and Zoeller won the Pebble Beach Classic, the other two amateur-oriented tournaments and with this tournament, part of a bonus plan.

Hammond's no-bogey 66 Friday on the Las Vegas Country Club gave him a tie for the lead with Bob Lohr at 202, 14 under par after one round on each of three courses at this desert resort. Lohr had a three-round 70 at Desert Inn in the hot, sunny weather.

Lars Nelson, a former U.S. Open and PGA champion, and rookie Dave Runnells were at 203 with two rounds to go. Nelson shot a 67 at Las Vegas, Runnells 67 at Desert Inn.

Australian Greg Norman and six others were at 204, placing 11 men within two strokes of the lead.

Don Halldorson of Brandon, Man., carded a 71 in the third round for 209, while Dave Barr of Richmond, B.C., had a 72 for 210. Richard Zokol of North Vancouver missed the cut of 211 or better with a 74 for 217.

The third round is on at 1 p.m. Saturday on KING (cable 6). The final round is on at 1 Sunday on KING.

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Al Balding of Toronto, looking for his first Professional Golfers' Association victory in 29 years, put together a steady 5-under-par 67 Friday to take the opening round lead in the rain-suscepted \$250,000 Sunwest Bank-Charity Pride Senior golf tournament.

Rain stranded 18 players on the course in the 54-hole event. The first round was to be completed today. Veteran Gene Litter also was five under par with three holes remaining when play stopped.

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