

HON, BRUCE LEE

Kung fu cousins each successful

by PAUL SMITH
Sports Reporter

Hollywood came calling on Bruce and Hon Lee in the late 1960's. Bruce answered the call and became a martial arts movie star, but Hon opted to remain in Vancouver to take a more traditional kung fu role.

Today, Hon runs Vancouver's largest school of kung fu and kick boxing. Bruce later died, but the legacy he left lives on in the form of a boom in martial arts in the West which is still felt.

Hon, second cousin to Bruce, was in Prince George on Thursday to help promote next Saturday's kick boxing card at the Coliseum. He and Bruce lived and trained together in Vancouver at one time before Bruce moved to Seattle and began to get involved show business.

"I had a chance to go with him, but that wasn't what I wanted," says Hon Lee. "We kind of drifted apart after that because of business."

While Bruce pursued a movie career which began with a role as Kato in the TV series The Green Hornet and peaked with films like Five Fingers of Death and Enter the Dragon in the early and mid-70's, Hon took a more traditional path as a teacher of martial arts. After teaching under other masters, he opened his own school, Richmond Kung Fu.

Hon has 300 students in kung fu and kick boxing, which makes it the largest in the Vancouver area. In terms of space,

the club is the largest in North America.

It is a successful school, and he credits some of that success to Bruce Lee.

"Bruce was a hero in many ways," says Hon. "He's the one who introduced kung fu to the Western world."

"As tradition, kung fu was very secret. It was forbidden to teach it to anyone but Chinese. But Bruce spread it to the West. He made it open to all."

Hon recalls a day many years ago when a non-Chinese came to him and asked if he could enter the school Hon taught at, which was being run by another master. The prospective student wasn't admitted, despite seven months of persistence.

"But then came the Bruce Lee movies, and he was allowed in," says Hon.

One of Hon's current students is Prince George kick boxer Byron Hayashi, who has been training under Lee for the past year after taking a one-year hiatus from the sport.

Hayashi is headlining the nine-bout card in a nine-round, Canadian professional welterweight title fight against Gaspar Bonomo of Edmonton.

The undercard includes four B.C. title bouts.

Byron, 19-4 with two draws, lost to Gordie Gong in a Canadian super lightweight title bout in his last fight two years ago. But Lee says he has been training hard and should be ready.

"He's been training six days a week, four and five hours a day. He looks very good. He has very fast hands, and he's very strong."

Tickets are on sale at the Coliseum box office and at several Prince George auto dealers.



HON LEE

Rating stuns coach

"Oh, my God."

It's tough to get the usually restrained Ray Masson to lose his composure, but he burst out laughing when informed that his College Heights Cougars high school girls volleyball team was ranked third in B.C. in the pre-season AA (large school) ratings, released Wednesday.

"I don't understand their logic," he marvelled Thursday. "We finished seventh last year and we only have four people back."

The Cougars are the highest-rated of three Prince George teams that were named by the B.C. Secondary School Girls Volleyball Association in its annual pre-season coaches' poll. The Prince George Secondary School Polarettes were eighth on the AA list, while the D.P. Todd Trojans were fifth on the A (small school) poll.

Smithers, the other perennial northern volleyball power, is rated second in A.

The pre-season boys list is expected Wednesday.

Both the girls and boys seasons begin locally next weekend, with the Polars Coke Classic starting the boys season and a girls playday at Kelly Road opening competition for the girls.

Complete rankings, page 16.

Cannon back

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Billy Cannon, the 1959 Heisman Trophy winner as the top U.S. college football player, has re-opened his dental practice after a prison term for counterfeiting.

The successful orthodontist was arrested in 1983 for heading a group that printed \$6 million in phony \$100 bills.

OILERS GIVE 'ENFORCER' TRYOUT

Fotiu making one more try

EDMONTON (CP) — Many of the names in the Edmonton Oilers' training camp are unfamiliar, like Mario Barbe, Nicholas Beaulieu or Dom Campedelli.

They're mostly bodies filling in until the National Hockey League camp is split into major and minor league clubs, cuts are made and the Canada Cup players report.

Shuffled in among the newcomers the last two days, however, is a name familiar to all NHL cities, Nick Fotiu.

"It's kind of strange coming in here (as an Oiler)," said Fotiu, 35, former strongman for the New York Rangers and, last season, the Oilers' bitter provincial rivals, the Calgary Flames.

"I look upon this," he said, his eyes going to an Oilers' logo on his left pant leg. "And, well, it's kind of funny."

Funny indeed. Fotiu played just one season with the Flames but he was a presence in their lineup as they upset the Oilers in the 1986 playoffs and then dominated Edmonton last season with a 6-1-1 record. Fotiu was one of Calgary's enforcers.

The Flames gave Fotiu his outright release so he called Edmonton general manager Glen Sather, asked for a tryout and headed north. One of the first things he did upon arriving at camp was say hello to Marty McSorley, one of the Oilers tough guys.

"I didn't hate their players," Fotiu said of his feelings towards the Oilers during his stay in Calgary. "I didn't hate Marty or Kevin (McClelland). It was just good competition."

Fotiu knows his chances of making the roster of the reigning Stanley Cup champions isn't that great. He's a leftwinger trying to find a spot on a team that already has Glenn Anderson, Esa Tikkanen, Dave Hunter, Moe Lemay and a host of youngsters on that side.

"Maybe I'm Slat's type of player," he said optimistically. "I almost came here two years ago and, as they say, it's never too late."

"If I make the club, great. If I don't, what are you going to do? I know I had a good record against the two teams in the Stanley Cup final last year."

"Calgary won six games (against Edmonton) and two of three from Philly. Eight wins and one tie in 11 games. I'm not saying it was me but I was a part of that. I should take a little credit."

"I know I have one more good year left in me, no matter where I go."

Centre Mark Messier is expected to report to the Edmonton Oilers' training camp as scheduled, but defenceman Paul Coffey's status remains in doubt, coach and general manager Glen Sather said Thursday.

Messier and Coffey said following Team Canada's 6-5 win Tuesday night over the Soviet

Union in the final game of the Canada Cup that they would boycott the team's training camp until their contracts were renegotiated.

Sather said he met with Messier in Toronto on Wednesday night and the rugged forward agreed to report to camp following a previously arranged 10-day break after the Canada Cup.

"He told me there was no problem and he'd see me when he got back from a holiday," said Sather. "Paul I don't know about. I haven't talked to him for five days."

Messier and Coffey are both seeking an increase in their salaries, reported to be about \$325,000 a year. Both have two years remaining on five-year contracts.

Oilers owner Peter Pocklington said he would be willing to listen to the players if they wanted to renegotiate another five-year contract.

Coffey's agent, Gus Badali of Toronto, who renegotiated Wayne Gretzky's contract this summer, said it's possible the defenceman will be in camp by the Sept. 26 deadline.

"I still have to talk to Glen, but I don't think it's a good idea (for the player) to come to camp and talk. I'm going to give Slat's (Sather) a call a couple of days prior to when Paul is supposed to return to the Oilers."

Badali said Coffey is underpaid and is seeking more money and a new long-term contract. He said it's crucial Coffey have the new deal before he enters the option year of his pact.

Equestrian centre stages competition

One of the most exciting of the equestrian disciplines will be on display this weekend in Prince George.

The Robinson Equestrian Centre is staging a two-day eventing competition, an event which challenges the endurance of horse and rider alike.

"Of all the equestrian events short of steeplechasing, this is the most exciting," says organizer Elizabeth Short.

Eventing, which is an Olympic event, includes dressage and stadium jumping. But its focal point is the cross-country portion, which is similar to the steeplechase or the traditional British fox hunt.

"What really makes it different (from other disciplines) is the cross-country phase," says Short. "That's what people identify with eventing."

Short says the sport began in the early 1900's and was originally a military competition between countries. It became a civilian sport following the second World War.

It began and remains a way of testing the endurance of horses. After competing in dressage the first day, horses run the cross-country portion the second day before finishing with stadium jumping.

"The stadium jumping is to show that the horse is still game enough to go out and do some jumping," says Short.

The dressage event starts at 9

a.m. Saturday, and the phase A of the cross-country (roads and tracks) starts at 10 a.m. Sunday. It is followed by phase D, which is cross-country jumping.

The stadium jumping is scheduled to begin about 2 p.m.

Close to 40 competitors are expected from most of the communities between Prince George north west to Smithers.

Boys seek ruling

DENVER (AP) — Two teenagers boys went before a federal judge Wednesday seeking permission to join girls' volleyball and gymnastics teams at their Colorado high schools.

A U.S. District court judge granted a temporary restraining order earlier this month allowing Scott Dahlem, 17, to compete on the girls' gymnastics team at Denver's George Washington high school.

Dahlem seeks an order allowing him to compete as long as no boys' team exists at the school.

Pat Rowley, 15, who goes to Erie high school, seeks an order allowing him to continue practising on the girls' volleyball team.

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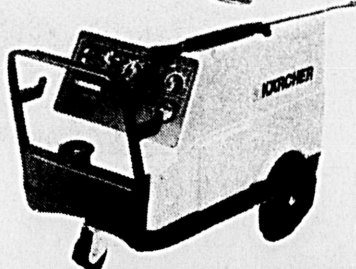


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