

Canadian hockey is competitive in Europe

By Sherman

Where does Canada really rate on the ice in the rink of international hockey?

More than a good number of Canadian hockey fans and respected personages within the North American ice hockey establishment contend that Soviet Russia has surpassed this country in over-all playing calibre and production of world-class hockey players.

The U.S.S.R. is now, in the Canadian mind, the best hockey-playing nation in the world.

I, as a hockey fan expressing a purely lay opinion, feel that Canada still presents a romantic unknown quality to Europeans.

The Soviets and Czechs need us more than we need them.

For the CCCP Big Team to be convinced that they are a great team of skaters, along with their two or three premier league teams, they have to lay to rest their doubts by always challenging Canada's top pro league, the NHL.

The USSR is supreme

within the European ice hockey arena — the Czechs are the only ones who can come close, having a first division nearly as good as the Soviet Preimer League.

Now, where does Canada fit in?

I believe Canada is equal in grading with the Soviet Union, even though the facts from international matches of the past six or eight years do not bear this out.

Of course, the North American style is different from its European counterpart. Excuses aside, though, the structure and objectives of the North American system are oriented to commercial profit for the owners.

In some years of competition, the Canadians cannot ice their very best players, while the Soviets can do this year after year.

What am I leading up to? There is no doubt that the Russians have one of the world's greatest teams. The Czechs too would finish first

in most of the NHL's hockey divisions.

Yet take the NHL All-Stars, train them in an atmosphere and attitudes similar to those in the Soviet Union, and keep them together for six or eight months, including fifteen to twenty games in Europe.

Under such conditions, and including the dollar incentive, the NHL All-Stars would give the Soviets a new calibre of opposition, unlike anything the Soviets have before experienced.

I believe the Soviets themselves would concur with this.

The only other team that could tie or beat the Soviets is the Stanley Cup championship team.

Another often unrealised point is that the Soviet club teams which paly the NHL are stacked with six or eight members from other national club teams.

The Canadians should send only their best against the Soviets — either the NHL All-Stars, the Stanley Cup

New York Islanders, or the Edmonton Oilers. Even then I would add other NHL superstars to their line-ups.

In short, when Russia and Canada play, it's the best hockey in the world.

We have not reached true world hockey standards, but who is the real winner?

The hockey fans of Canada, Russia, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, and

Finland.

It is too bad the CCCP or Czechs never played the old six-team NHL fifteen or twenty years ago, when the Montreal Canadians and Toronto Maple Leafs were at their peak with Beliveau, Richards, Plante, and Harvey Moore.

Come on, Canada. We have more talent and a better image than we realise.

OBLATE BROTHERS AND

PRIESTS

IN CANADA ARE:

Teachers

Doctors

Pastors

Writers

Social Workers

Psychologists

Counsellors

Accountants

Bush-Pilots

Carpenters

Youth Ministers

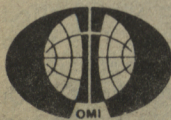
Chaplains

... BUT MOST OF ALL WE ARE

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Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

Maritime - Ontario Province
17 Graham Ave.
OTTAWA, Ontario
K1S 0B6
(613) 235-7015



British Columbia - Alberta Province
9505 - 153rd Street
EDMONTON, Alberta
T5P 3M6
(403) 489-6052

CANADA'S LARGEST R.C. COMMUNITY OF MEN

CHEESE, COOKIE, AND BEANS



Point of View

By Mike J. Trainor

A university education once could only be attained by the very rich.

But, as time and society changed, the benefits of such an education became readily available to more and more young people.

However, with the recent decreased funding to post-secondary institutions by provincial governments, a university education may once again become accessible only to the very rich.

Many students were shocked to learn of President Meincke's announcement last week that tuition fees were being increased for the 1984-85 academic year.

He gave as justification for the increase that the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) recommendation of 7 1/2 per cent increase in funding would hardly prove adequate for UPEI to continue to offer quality programs and services.

It has become the same old story year after year here at UPEI.

With the provincial government's reduction in commitment to post-secondary education, students are expected to pick up the tab for maintaining the existence of the institution.

Students have become frustrated and discouraged at the prospect of having to find the money for increased fees so that they may continue their education.

With summer jobs becoming increasingly hard to acquire, students are now finding it extremely difficult to come up with the money needed to continue their education at UPEI.

Facing these prospects, many young people will be evaluating their options and their future.

With the Ministers of Education meeting in Charlottetown this week, let us hope that provincial governments will once again renew their commitment to post-secondary education.

Without this commitment, the accessibility to a university education will once again be available only to those who can afford it.

Students must become more involved in these kinds of issues. If students fail to convey their views to government and university leaders, we will be taken advantage of, as in the past.

It is high time that we let these people know that we are sick and tired of paying for their mistakes, and that we have had all we can take.

"And that's my point of view!"

