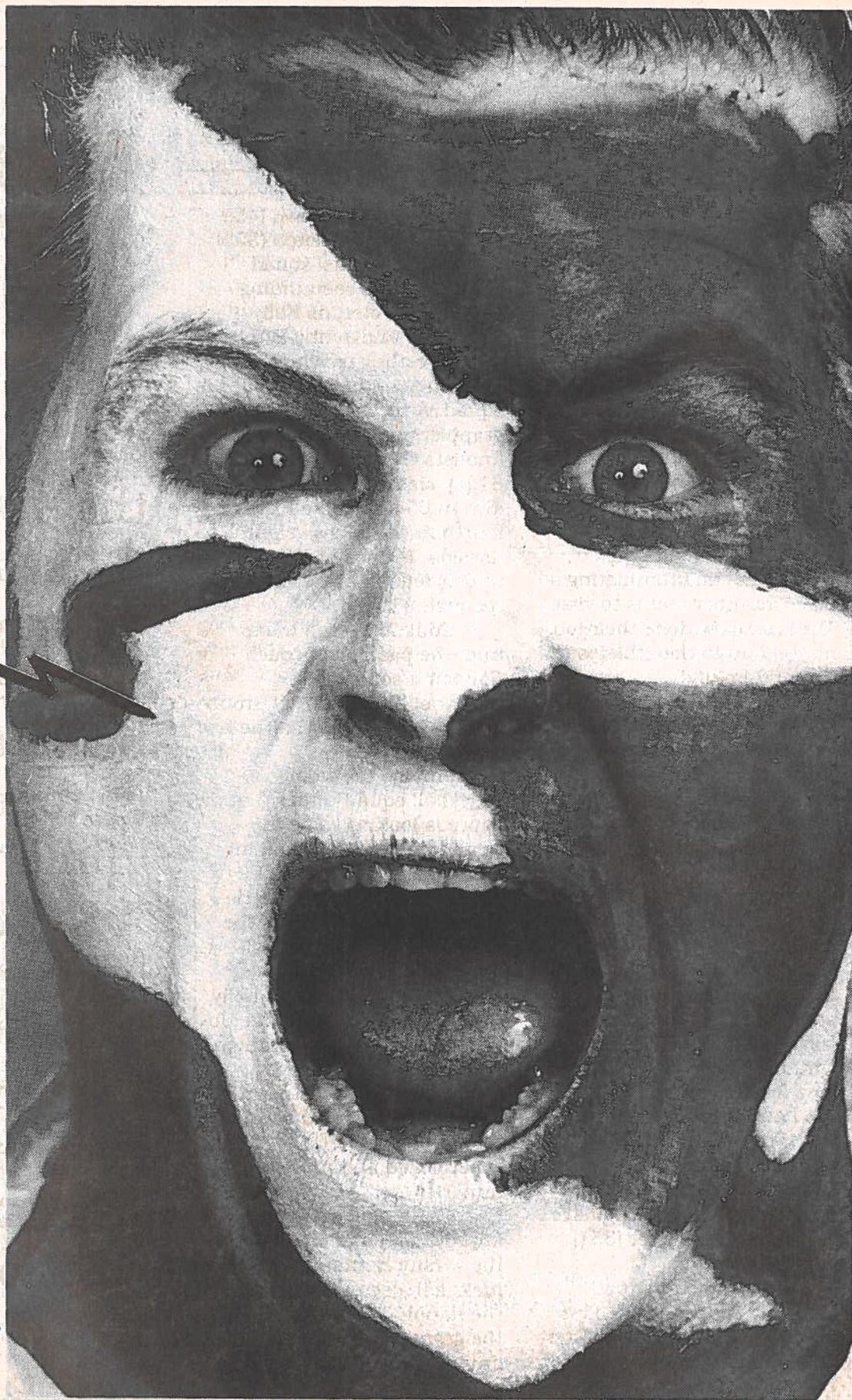


THUNDERSTORM

Magazine
Vol. 2, #1
October, 1991
Department of
Athletics
**Get
Ready To
Roar With
The New
Season!**



Feature Columnist

Julio Gomes
Sports Editor,
Chronicle-Journal and
Times-News

For the past few winters, hordes of students have been gathering at the C. J. Sanders Fieldhouse. What they have been doing is rocking the gymnasium to such an extent that when the L.U. varsity teams take to the floor they're fully primed for action. With such rabid support, is this the year the roof will finally be blown off the 'Thunderdome'?

This enthusiastic following has made the Fieldhouse an intimidating place for other teams to visit. The fans have done their job, now it's up to the athletes to respond in kind.

Not since the 1986 - 87 season when the women's basketball team finished fourth at the nationals has there been a banner to hang at the Fieldhouse. This season, however, promises the best chance to change that.

The men's basketball squad, national runner-ups in 1977, will certainly aim to improve on the modest advance of last season. A 6-9 win - loss record in the Ontario league was followed by a first - round playoff at the hands of McMaster.

From that squad they've lost splendid point guard Jeff Byerley (466 total points), but veteran Leslie Ragguette (465) and Ray Foster (351) will be back.

The women's squad similarly tripped in the first hurdle to the nationals. After a 9-6 mark in the league they crashed to Toronto. Leading

scorers Kathy Harrison (459 points) and Pam Leitch (325) anchor Stu Julius' squad, along with the rebounding prowess of veterans Kelly Fitzgerald and Jenny Burgess.

Wrestling coach Francis Clayton is optimistic about his squad. A record turnout of 21 grapplers include national finalists Craig Hardy (5th in 61 kg. class) and Simon Lampi (6th in 65 kg.). Mike Kirlew, fourth in the heavyweight division, is back at L.U. but undecided about returning to the mat.

Eddie Zinger, a name from the past, gives coach Clayton a solid core of veterans. Added to that group is a freshman crop that he has high hopes for.

Finally, the women's volleyball squad under Claude Lapre is looking to be the strongest outfit he's had in four seasons here. In '90-91 they finished 9-5 in Ontario but were knocked out of the playoffs by York, eventual national bronze medallists.

With the quartet of Kelly Williams, Kelly Breutigam, Jo-Anne Hood and Andie Aitken on the floor, L.U. was a competitive force last year. This year, they're all back, they're older, more experienced and probably hungrier too.

The prognosis is for improved results on all four of the varsity fronts. With any luck, it'll also mean a trip to the national championships - the grand stage where anything can happen. □



"Not since the 1986 - 87 season when the women's basketball team finished fourth at the nationals has there been a banner to hang at the Fieldhouse."

Zanatta Remembered

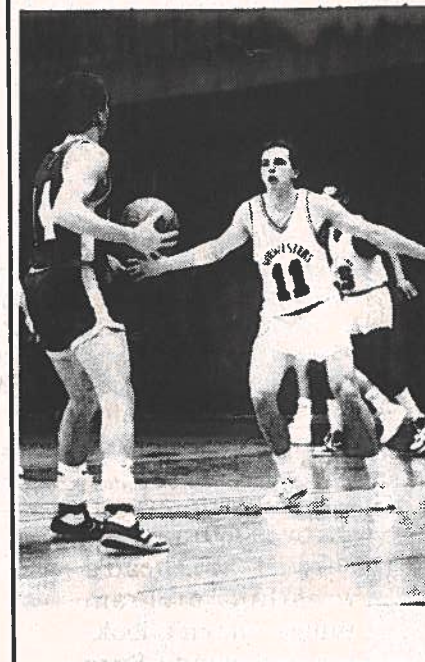
The second annual John Zanatta Alumni Games are gearing up for action in a few days and the rivalries just seem to get better each year.

In the Ladies' game last year, the alumni team took a bit of a thrashing at 86-59 and were shown very little mercy from Stu Julius' Nor'Westers. This year the rumour is that they won't fall so easily. Lorna Braaksma and Leanne Yarrish are two ex-Nor'Westers that will be back to try and even things up. If those two aren't enough to worry the home squad, heads up play maker Sharon Knowles-Boyd will be back to make things interesting.

Last year's mens game was a much closer battle than predicted. Dave Zanatta who has yet to be confirmed for this years game ripped up the court to score a game leading 30 pts. It wasn't enough though as the alumni squad couldn't stop the hot hands of Ray Foster and Mike Lalonde

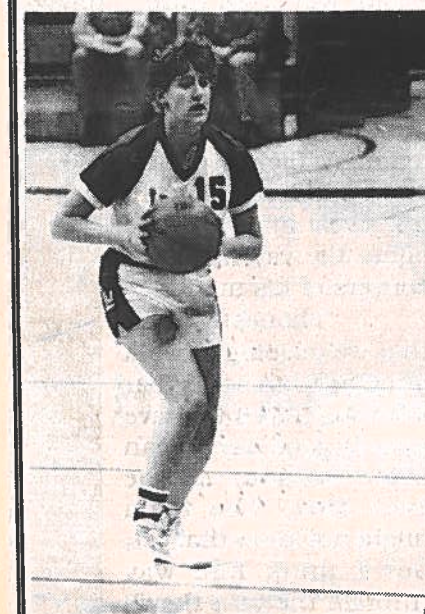
who dominated home scoring with 16 pts. each to help clinch a 95-90 victory. This year the battle will be even more hotly contested. The guard tandem of John Laplante and Jeff Byerley that so recently, it seems, dominated the L.U. court has been reunited and won't be coming to lose.

Besides being a great opportunity to see your Nor'Westers in action, the John Zanatta memorial games are a tribute to a man who really was a great Nor'Wester. John Zanatta died tragically on August 12th 1990 and the games are a way of remembering what a good person he was. As well, over \$6000 was raised at the door last year for the John Zanatta Scholarship fund, some of which will be given



out to a worthy recipient this year.

Post game activities this year feature a huge bash in the main cafeteria and everyone is invited so come on out and let your hair down.



Braaksma, left and Laplante, upper right: Two alumni returning for the Zanatta Memorial

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Two years ago on the twentieth anniversary of Lakehead's wrestling program things weren't looking too good. Sure there was some great individual talent with the likes of Mark Tarantini and Tony Gallo, but the team lacked that all important ingredient so critical for big time success: depth. This year for the first time in a long time, they have that ingredient.

If you had asked the new coach of L.U.'s wrestling team in 1985 where he thought his squad would go that year he might have laughed. How far can a team go with six wrestlers? Well, six seasons later Francis Clayton is still laughing, but he's laughing for entirely different reasons.

This year's roster shows 21 names, 10 of which are the carry-overs from last year; Hardy, Laybolt, Kirlew and Kitchen to name just a few. These guys are the veterans. They

Wrestling: Grappling with numbers pays off!

will be the core of this years team providing both the experience and the leadership. The other 11 names are new. These are the hungry freshmen eager to prove that they are frontline guys, eager to beat out some of the veterans for their spots. This of course is in large part why Francis Clayton is smiling. For coach Clayton this is just the beginning of great things to come.

"When we started last year the very best we could have done is place fourth at the OUAA's, and we did that,

we were a distant fourth, a long way from third", Clayton says kind of quietly without really looking right at you. You ask him about this years team. A flicker excitement suddenly plays in his eyes and a smile fights its way in to the corners of his mouth...

"I honestly think that we're going to walk into the OUAA's this year knowing that if we have a really good day we can come second, maybe even first. The team might not know that yet, but I think half way through the year they'll begin to realize it..."

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Maturity On The Court



R to L- Williams,
Breutigam, Bergmans and
Aitken... experience and talent.

Across-Lapre: "We'll
finish in one of the top two
spots"...

Don't come out to a volleyball game this year expecting to see a lot of new faces on the team...the Nor'Westers starting line-up (barring any sudden injuries of course) is all of veteran calibre. For a team that began last year's season with ten rookies in what was essentially a rebuilding year, and still managed to finish up at 9 and 5, six veterans on the floor augers very well.

You would be mistaken however if you thought that the team had no youth. This club still has a few young rookies to build on for the future, they just aren't starters yet. Essentially what it all comes down to is a higher degree of maturity on the court at any one time. For coach Claude Lapre this is a refreshing change.

"We lose a few good players and gain a few good rookies every year but we're starting to have a span of ages now which should start to make the transition a little easier every year, and at the same time keep us competitive."

With mainstays like the two Kellys-Breutigam and Williams, Andy Aitken, Geraldine Bergmans, Jo-Ann Hood-It's tough not to be optimistic and Lapre is just that.

"I'm not a betting man," Lapre says sheepishly, "but if I had to take a bet, I'd have to say that we'll finish in one of the top two spots in our division this season, hopefully the top one."

We'll mention it to Pete Rose.

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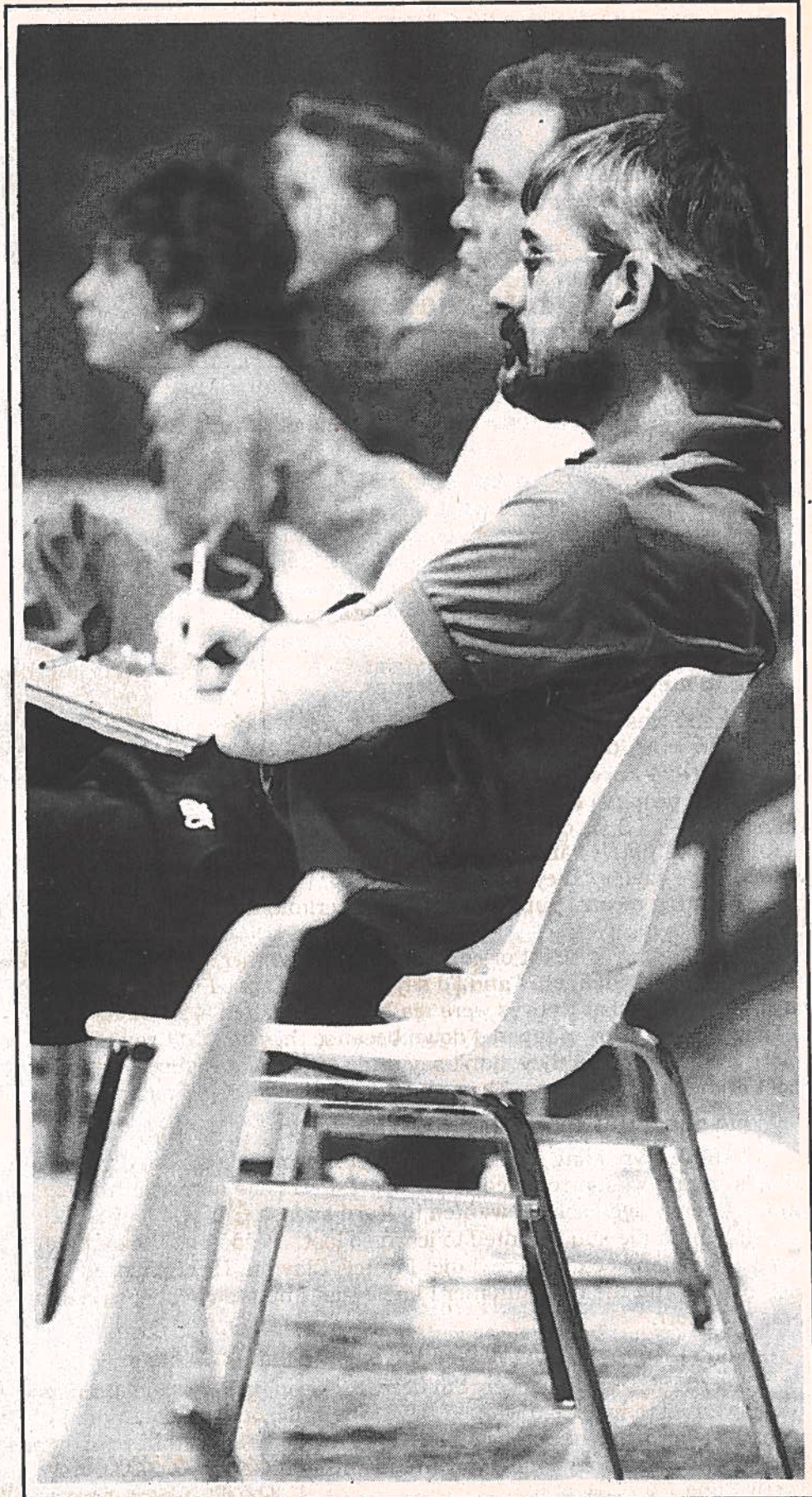
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A New Catch- Word For Lapre..



It is no secret that in her attempts to come to terms with the original inhabitants of her lands, Canada has failed. This interview is not an attempt to place blame on any individual or body for this failure, nor does it delve deeply into the problems associated with Canada's native peoples today. It is rather a collection of some of the thoughts of a young man who is rising above this legacy of problems in his efforts to become a Canadian champion wrestler.

Wrestling with Stereotypes: An Interview with Craig Hardy

Talk to me a little about stereotypes.

When I was a really young kid, 3 or 4 yrs old I knew what kind of person I was I knew I was a native. I knew what people thought of me... some people. I knew what I was going to be doing. Here's a 3 yr. old kid listening to people talking about natives and I'm comprehending this, and understanding what they're saying. They are discriminating, I didn't even know what discriminating meant, but I knew it was discriminating, they were doing bad things to us.

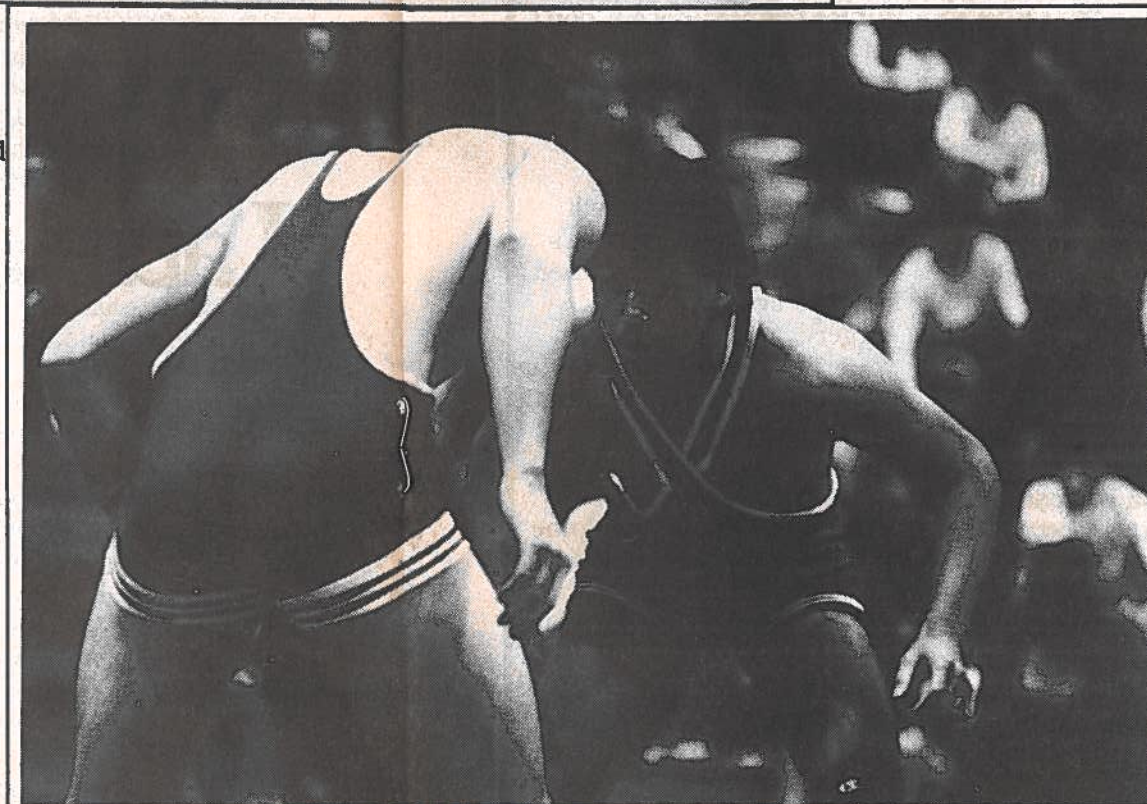
I'd walk down a street or go to a store I remember, and someone would say, "You're an Indian eh?" and I'd say, "yeah" because I was proud. At an early age I knew that Natives were really discriminated against. As the years went on it sort of tapered down because they couldn't say much about me. Highschool they didn't say or do anything because I was above most of the other students. They couldn't call me a stupid native.

What about wrestling, when did it all start?

I started wrestling in grade nine after moving down from James Bay. That's when I was introduced to the sport. I was like an uncontrollable animal, really aggressive. I wanted to learn so fast. Everybody was so much behind me and I wanted to learn so fast. As soon as the summer time came along I came here. I met Francis Clayton. He challenged me some more and the next summer I knew that I had to wrestle, wrestling was my sport.

What role has wrestling played in your life to this point?

Wrestling is probably why I'm here. Right out of highschool, I really, really wanted to wrestle. I wanted to wrestle university competition. I wanted to become a champion. I wanted to do something that nobody has done. Nobody from my family, my friends, from my reserve. Something rarely done.



How many CIAU wrestling champions do you see walking around Thunder Bay? This is still a big thing and it will be until I accomplish what I accomplish. Right now everything that I've thought of I've accomplished, everything that I've dreamed of I've accomplished, and more.

What about the academic side of things?

I also want to become a teacher. While I'm wrestling here why not get an education at the same time. That's what I'm here for too. So that's what I'm doing. I want to become a teacher.

Wherever I end up teaching I know I'm going to start something up with wrestling. If I'm going to teach in a remote reserve in a semi-isolated area like out in White River somewhere or Armstrong, I'm going to end up starting up something because wrestling is not going to stop here or stop 5 years from now. I'm going to go on as a coach.

Tell me more about the discrimination, what has it been like for you in Thunder Bay?

Discrimination comes a lot with the older society, but not much at all with the younger society. Like not to my face at all, because nobody will discriminate against me. There's no discrimination on our wrestling team. They don't give a shit who we are, where we are from. They just know that we are wrestlers, and come here to wrestle and go to school. We got Indians, a polish person, englishmen, a guy from India... nobody cares. Just the older generation... I saw a documentary on television the other day that said "Most natives my age have a better chance of going to jail than going to university."

Natives are good people. It's just that we sometimes have a lack of opportunity and we are at a disadvantage to other people and that's the only downfall. Once we get steered in one direction it's hard to get on the right foot.

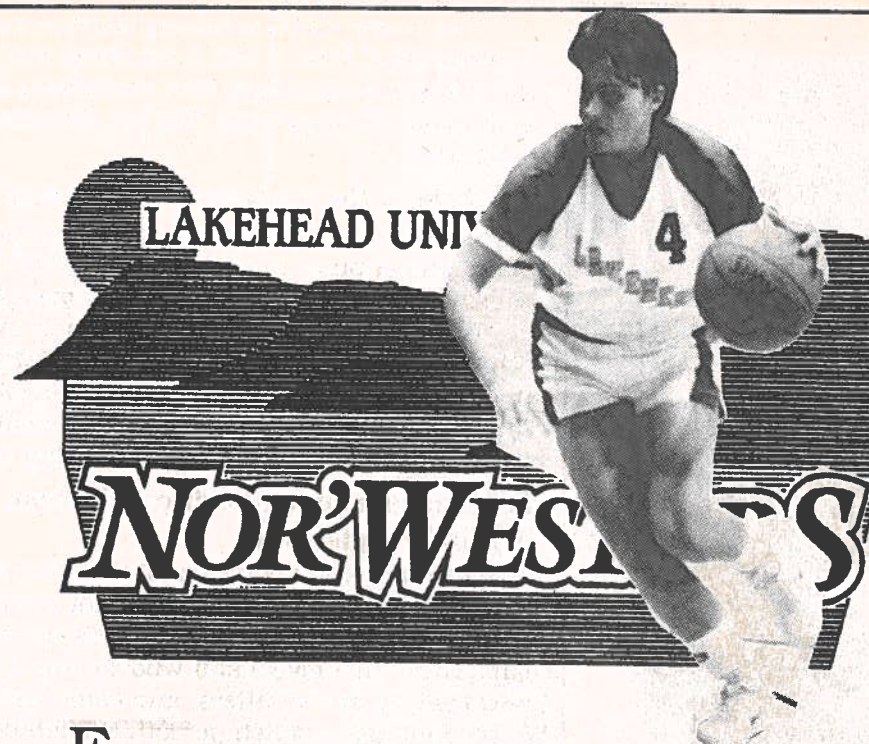
With both your feet going in the direction you are going where do you see Craig Hardy in the future?

I see myself down the road as being a really experienced wrestler. I want that and I want to keep that. I get a lot of support from my parents, they know how important wrestling is to me. I get a lot of support from my girlfriend, she sees it the most, she sees what I see, she knows what I want to do. She knows how I feel when I accomplish something.

Once you're successful, once you're out of there, once you're more successful than other people then you don't get that any more. That's how I see it. You hear people talking behind you're back about Indians. Sometimes people don't know what to think about Indians. They ask me where I am from and then they see it sort of the way you might see it, you know, like you are going to get attacked by Indians if you show up on the reserve. The younger generation, they're just curious, and they really don't know any better. □

Interviewed by Chris Williams

Two Hot Rookies Might Be Enough to Make You Forget...



Fans of the lady Nor'Westers haven't forgotten last season yet, and neither has head coach Stu Julius.

"When we went down to Toronto to play in the semi-final game unfortunately Pam Leitch and Barb Hill were sick the night before. That hurt us because we ended up losing the tourney by about 7 pts... If we were healthy we could have beaten them. It was a situation where bad luck and bad timing took its toll."

This year Julius has tried to minimize the odds of that happening again. A couple of new and exciting recruits have been added to what must surely be, at least on paper, the most solid line-up in the OWIAA West. One of those is Donna Forman, a Brampton native who played on the Ontario Provincial team and was one of the last cuts from the National Junior Team. It's easy to see why Forman is being touted as one of the hottest talents coming out of Ontario this year.

Another new gun who comes highly recommended is Patty Johnston who has defected from that loathsome eastern division team Toronto to come live with her buddy Pam Leitch. Johnston played for the Canadian National Junior team, and wait, don't get too excited but she also won both U of T's athlete of the year and the OWIAA rookie of the year award in her freshman year. The Nor'Westers however, will have to wait for Johnston's talent until Christmas when she gets over her foot surgery.

The real strength of this team lies in its overwhelming number of experienced veterans; Kathy Harrison, Pam Leitch, Barb Hill, Kelly Fitzgerald, Bonnie McAlpine to name a few, all know what its like to get 'Ohhh so close' to going all the way to the Nationals. This year all they have to hope for is a little bit of good luck and some good timing, it would appear they have everything else.



Wishing the Nor'Westers every success in the 91/92 season!

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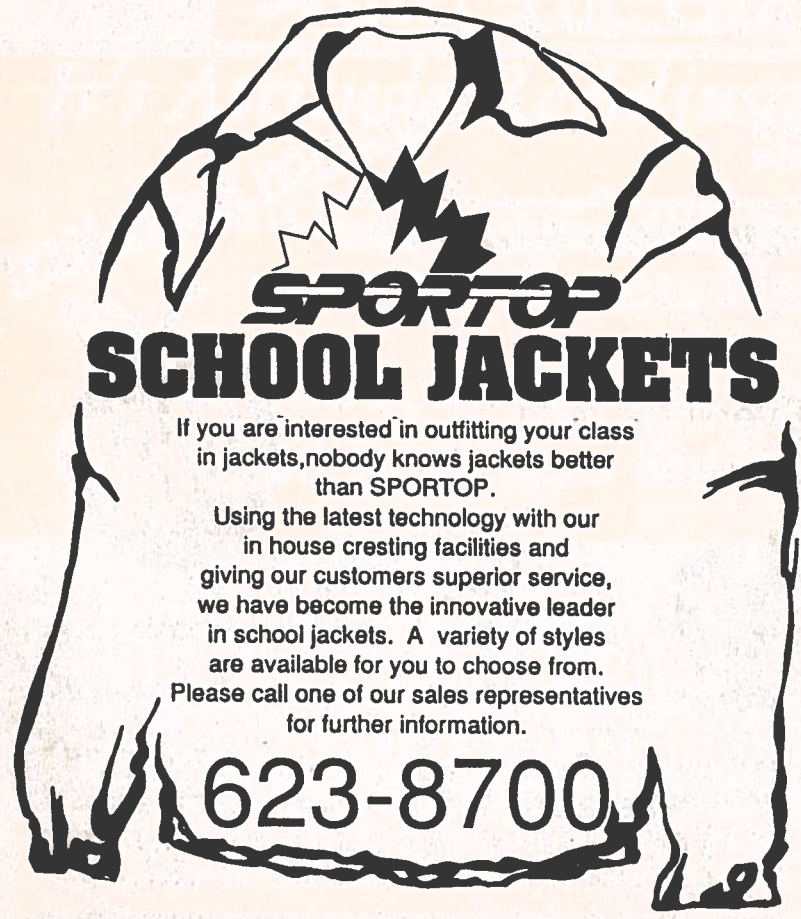


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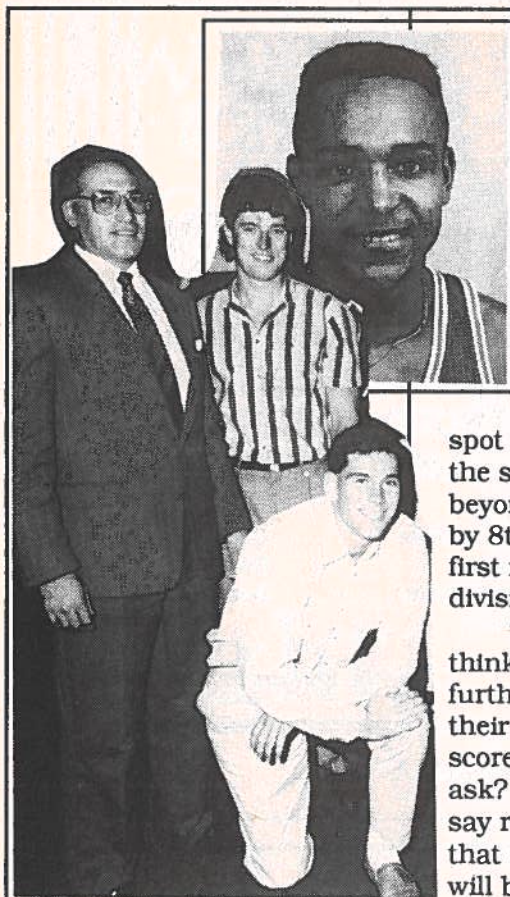
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Les and More Rookies...

The Ontario leagues have proven tough for the Nor'Westers there is no doubt about it. Last year the men finished up the season at 6 and 8 in league play, enough to put them in a three way tie with Brock and Waterloo for fourth

spot in the OUAA West, but the season wasn't to go much beyond that. L.U was defeated by 8th ranked McMaster in the first round of the western division playoffs.

This year, coach Lou Pero thinks that the team can go further, even after the loss of their second highest point scorer Jeff Byerley. How you ask? Well Lou would probably say rookies are the answer to that question. Next Month will be featuring an indepth

look at some of the new talent on the men's team and previewing how it might help take them one step closer to the OUAA West Championships. □

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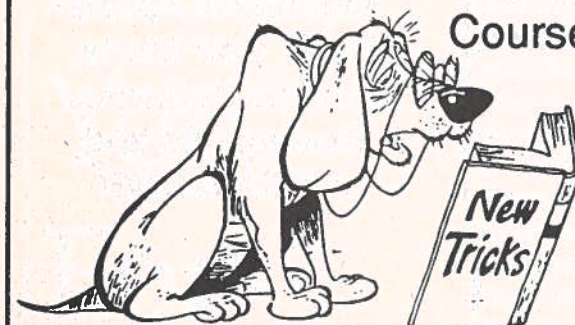
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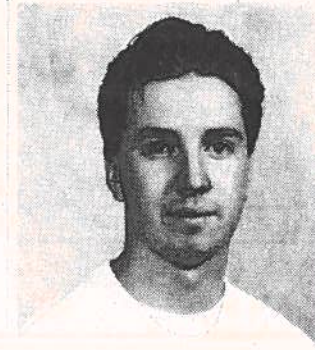
Volleyball



Head Coach - Claude Lapre



Asst. Coach - Ian Cull

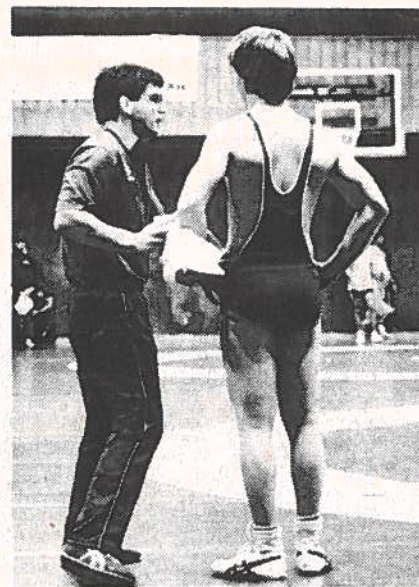


Asst. Coach - Dominic Cooke

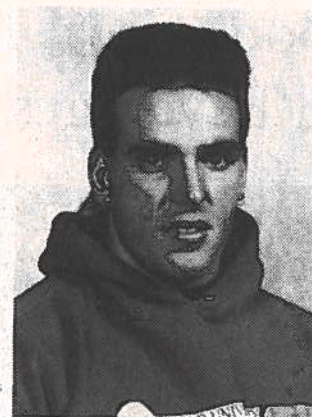


Manager - Sharon Eckel

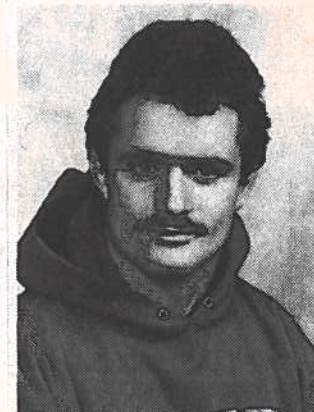
Wrestling



Head Coach - Francis Clayton



Asst. Coach - Steve Roslinsky



Asst. Coach - Jim Gowanlock

Women's Basketball



Head Coach - Stu Julius

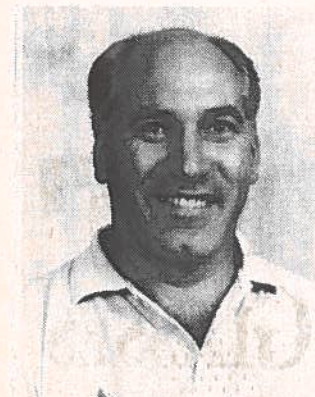


Asst. Coach - Rob Simmons

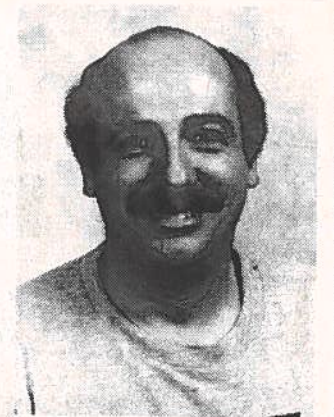


Asst. Coach - Bob Main

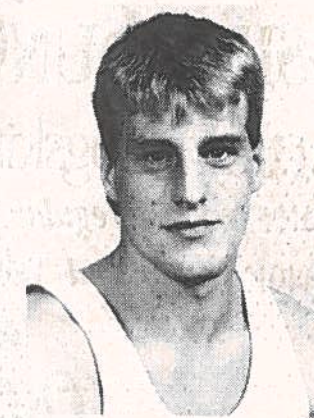
Men's Basketball



Head Coach - Lou Pero



Asst. Coach - Ron Venturo



Asst. Coach - Al Brinkert



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