

Tug-of-war team CNE champions

The art of drawing and quartering supposedly went out with the Edsel, however there's a group of good ol' boys out in West Nissouri who get immense pleasure out of pulling other guys apart.

They are the W.Nissouri Tug-O-War team which made local history on August 26th of this year when they took a 1st in middleweight and a third in unlimited heavyweight classes in the Canadian tugging championships at the CNE.

They aren't particularly a heavy team as heavyweights go, but they make up for it with strength and stamina. The only two teams to beat them at the CME were the tough and well-known Metro Toronto Police and Kitchener Police teams, both of which receive sponsorship from their respective departments.

The Nissouri boys do it all on their own. They buy their own equipment, boots, belts and pay their own way to competitions. Nobody's paying them time and a half to practice and compete.

It's the fifth year that the boys have been competing. They'd already made a name for themselves around these parts, winning just about every local contest there was, and now they're known throughout Canada as a pretty tough bunch of guys.

UPHILL

"But if you'd seen us in our first pull in St. Marys five years ago you would have thought that we

weren't going to amount to much", recalls team spokesman, Paul Elliott. "We skidded and slid all over the place."

Maybe they were on the skids then, but it's been all uphill ever since.

Chip Kent, another team member thinks that one of

the biggest reasons for the team's success is the fact that everyone gets along and the whole thing is done for recreation and a good time.

"Some of these guys were getting a little old for ball and this is something that we can all do", Paul adds.

There are 17 guys on the

team when coaches are counted. The workouts are rugged. Sometimes they're pulling against each other and sometimes they're pulling against a post which has been set up for practice. Once when they were pulling against that substantial stick of wood, the whole

thing came down. Now they use a pickup truck to support the post.

EIGHT MEN

A tug-o-war team can only field eight men. In middleweight, the weight limit is 1763 pounds. Heavyweight teams can be as heavy as

the eight men on the team want to get.

The heaviest team which W. Nissouri can put out is around 1820 pounds. The Metro Police, on the other hand, fielded a 2100 pound team when they pulled at the CNE.



HERE ARE THE CANADIAN Tug-Of-War Champions - The Nissouri Tug-Of-War Team as they appeared for their photo last week. As champions they hold the Paul Levesque Trophy. Team members are as follows: Front row - Steven Kent, Allen Wakem, Gary Stevens, Paul

Elliott, Tony Vanden Hoven, Ron Wakem, Bill Aarts. Back row: John Gregory, Jim Monteith, Ben Aarts, Doug. Johnston, Dale McGill, Peter Voissen, Bill McDonald, Mel Monteith, Dave Glover. Absent for picture - Steve Gover and Rick Corin. (Staff Photo)