

Sightseeing and partying in Moscow

CCCP  CANADA

Omagh girls best Acton

by Denis Gibbons
All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy and so while most of our time in Moscow was spent at the Institute of Sport and Physical Culture absorbing information on the Soviet scientific approach to sport and physical education, evenings and weekends were reserved for sightseeing and trips to sport and cultural events around the huge city of a million.

I will leave description of the excellent facilities and program included in the Institute to my friend Bruce Andrews, whose experience in physical education better qualifies him for the assignment. In the next few editions I will attempt to report on our extra-curricular activities, hopefully in three parts, one for each of the three weeks we were in Moscow.

Following our first lecture on philosophic and social problems in sport, delivered at the Institute the afternoon after we arrived in Moscow, we went taken by bus to Red Square in the centre of the city and just outside the walls of the Kremlin which houses Soviet government headquarters. Here we were allowed to walk around for an hour and photograph sites like the famous St. Basil's Cathedral, provided we kept off the Square itself, where we were disappointed to learn that Lenin's Tomb was under repairs and not available for viewing.

We wandered off the Square into the GUM department store, which looked to me like Eaton's or Simpson's might have been 30 years ago. I'd hardly been in the building five minutes when I was offered 25 rubles (Russian dollars) for the peewee hockey jacket I was wearing. This was the first of many opportunities I had to unload fancy items like my Adidas shoes and sweat suit, which we learned are impossible for Russians to come by, except from visitors to the country. While in the GUM, I also had my first taste of Russian ice cream which turned out to be as delicious as any of the North American or Spanish brands I had tried before.

Tuesday night supper at the Hotel Leningrad, where we were bused for all our meals was typical of the fine victuals our Russian hosts served up to us each day. An appetizer of potato salad, black bread, buns and butter was followed by soup, steak, french fries, peas, kvass (a Russian soft drink) and ice cream topped with blueberry sauce for dessert.

The meal was so filling that when we arrived back at the Institute for what we had been told would be just a pre-course meeting with our Russian professors and found the auditorium decorated with tables full of sweets and goodies, it was almost too much for us.

"Tonight we are going to have tea, coffee and pastries and time to acquaint ourselves with our Russian friends," explained our interpreter. "Stronger drinks will be reserved for another occasion."

Our hosts further livened up the evening by treating us to Russian singing and dancing and as a complete surprise inviting members of our group to take part in fun games like trying to collect balloons while



ROWING COURSE facilities, including a grandstand for spectators are already in use on the outskirts of Moscow and could be the site of rowing competitions in the 1980 Olympics, if Moscow's bid for the games is accepted. Young ladies from East Germany, Romania, Bulgaria and Poland were competing against the Soviet Union Saturday June 1, when the Canadian group visited the course.

steering a child's tricycle for which they offered prizes to the winners. The atmosphere was a welcome change from the one we had found when we landed in the pouring rain at Sheremetevo Airport two days earlier and been subjected to passport and luggage examination.

By Wednesday evening after our first day on the ice at Sokolniki Arena (I'll report more about this another week), most of us were beginning to become better adjusted to the city. Pork chops were the bill of fare at the Leningrad that evening and then we were off on a sightseeing tour which took us to an elevated area near Moscow University which overlooks the

huge Luzhni Sports Complex. From our viewpoint we had our first look at the 103,000 seat Lenin Stadium, the Palace of Sports where the Team Canada-Soviet hockey series was played, competitive swimming facilities and score upon score of tennis courts. All of these were situated in a park area with plenty of grass and trees. Next we stopped at the popular "Moskva" swimming pool, the world's largest outdoor heated pool. Swimmers are even seen here in the middle of a Moscow winter, since the water is always heated, we were told by our guide.

The next evening (Thursday) we paid the first of two visits to Lenin Stadium, this

one to watch a First Division football match between the Spartak Sports Club of Moscow and a club from Leningrad whose name I cannot spell but is pronounced in English "ZEFend". We were surprised to find only a small crowd of spectators (perhaps 4,000) in the huge 103,000 seat stadium. An even greater surprise however, was to discover a group of youths formed into a cheering section chanting "SPARTAK, SPARTAK..." and applauding rhythmically the same as done at North American sports events. We noted that the police kept a close watch on the group and even ushered a couple of youngsters out of the stadium, although I know not for what reason.

Friday evening we took a short sightseeing tour which included stops at the Triumphal Arch, a monument to commemorate the Russians' defeat of Napoleon and a souvenir store at the Hotel Russia, a modern building on the Moscow River which we were told is the largest hotel in Europe. The store was one of several in the city, usually connected to a hotel where only foreign currency (dollars, francs etc.) can be used. Shopping is limited to visitors to the country. Rubles may not be used nor are native Russians allowed to buy.

Following our final stint on the ice Saturday morning, we were bused in the afternoon to the outskirts of the city where we watched an international rowing competition with teams from the Soviet Union, Romania, Bulgaria, Poland and East Germany. Facilities at the rowing course included a grandstand similar to the one at Mohawk Raceway equipped with closed circuit TV sets to allow spectators to see the start of the race, two man-made water courses, one for competition and one for practice, shelters for the boats and handsome new residences for the competitors. There we soaked up the Soviet sunshine and watched the finals of four events, with East German teams coming out on top twice. Soviet officials hope the course will be a big plus for them in their bid to host the 1980 Olympics.

Saturday night it was back to the Institute and fulfillment of the Russian promise that there would be something stronger served another night. Vodka was king for the night and although we at first thought we were making an impression on our Russian hosts by tipping back the national drink one after another, we soon discovered that there were more sensible souls at our table.

"Don't you understand that men can become very, very foolish when they drink too much vodka," an attractive young track and field student warned me.

Rock 'n roll music Russian style was provided for our dancing pleasure by a band made up of Institute students and Professor Maslov, director of the Institute proved his musical ability with an accordion equals his knowledge in the field of sport and physical education. It was an evening of good fun and fellowship with our Russian hosts. Most of the Institute students invited to attend, we learned later, were selected because of their ability to speak English. Hearing them handle the English language so well embarrassed me into studying my Russian language book a little harder. More about my attempts to speak Russian, the Moscow Circus, symphony and ballet another week.



MOSCOW youngsters play table tennis in one of the city's many parks.

Daamen wins three ribbons

SPORTS EDITOR DENIS GIBBONS RECALLS SOME EXTRA CURRICULAR EVENTS FOR READERS

Milton's Marty Daamen took three ribbons at the Brantford Legion Track and Field meet recently. Daamen was running with the Oakville Kiwanis track and field club. Daamen finished third in the Atom 200 metre dash, sec-

ond in the 400 metre event and was part of the first place 100 metre relay team. Daamen and Brenda Ryan were the only Milton athletes competing at the meet. Both are members of the Holy Rosary School Track team.

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Postie beats gas cost pedals to work



George Henderson is one man who has found a way to beat the energy crisis and get in shape at the same time.

Each day, weather permitting, Henderson pedals his 10 speed bicycle the 8.5 miles from his home in Acton to work in Georgetown. He is employed at the Georgetown post office as a Supervising Letter Carrier.

"I save the cost of gas and get some exercise at the same time," he says.

The experiment, which began last summer, means that Henderson must spend an hour travelling each day.

"It's a little easier coming here in the morning because the trip's mostly downhill but going back to Acton takes about ten minutes longer," he said. The trip to Georgetown usually lasts 25 minutes.

POSTMAN GEORGE HENDERSON rides off after a long day. He rides each day from Acton to Georgetown.

Henderson never rides his bike to work if it is raining or foggy. "It's just too dangerous to be on the road on bad days," he added.

His rides began about a month ago when the weather began to improve and to make it to Georgetown in time for work he must leave Acton around 5.50 a.m.

His role as a supervisor takes him on various routes throughout Georgetown. Henderson handles routes for regular letter carriers who are on holidays and during the Christmas rush he works inside as a sorter.

Henderson plans to continue riding his bike to work for the rest of the summer and then drive his car when winter rolls around again. "I certainly get a lot of funny looks from passing motorists," he added.



GEORGE HENDERSON busily sorts out mail for his route.

Oakville takes game

Oakville came on strong with a 5-1 win over Campbellville in Halton Senior Baseball Monday night in Oakville. It was Campbellville's third loss of the season.

Both pitchers went the route with Oaks' Gord Currie limiting the Campbellville batters to nine hits. He walked two and struck out nine.

Villagers' Garn Mitchell gave up five runs on twelve hits as he walked one and struck out seven.

Tim Black led the Oakville batting attack with three singles with pitcher Currie stamming a double and a single. Bob Conrad singled twice and Searrow, Hull, Reynolds, Savin and Daymond each contributed a single.

Loris Faggon doubled and singled for the Campbellville crew with Steve Smith hitting two singles. Rick Mitchell, Don Hearns, Wade Bekar, Ray Evans, and Garn Mit-

chell all drove out singles. Campbellville will try to get back on their winning streak Sunday afternoon when Dundas will travel to Campbellville. Game time is 2.30.

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What's doing in North Halton area

COMMUNITY CENTENNIAL DAY

Come out and enjoy a full day of activities on Monday, July 1, at Prospect Park, in Acton.

The fun begins at 7 a.m. and continues all day. Enjoy such scheduled events as a rock concert at 1 p.m. and a chicken barbeque at 4 p.m. A special attraction will be the unveiling of a new Historical Plaque. Tickets are available from any Fire Fighter or Rotarian, Acton IGA, Pro Hardware, Home Hardware, Acton Delicatessen and the Arena.

LACROSSE

Enjoy Junior "C" Lacrosse at the Acton Community Centre on Wednesday, June 26, at 8.30 p.m. The Acton Rams will be hosting Oshawa.

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Government of Ontario
William Davis, Premier

Omagh splits

Omagh bats lagged behind on a wet Lowville diamond last Monday. The midlets lost 18-7.

Inglewood fell 14-4 in Omagh Thursday night unable to match the home team's offense and defense.