## Former Trident Jim Cole says: Europeans convinced Team Canada a cinch to win

Canada Cup speculation has sparked daily stories on the strengths and weaknesses of the Czechs, Soviets, Swedes and Finns by correspondentsin Europe.

Few reports, however, are made through the eyes of someone with hockey savvy. For a balance view of next month's series this paper interviewed Jim Cole who filmed many players on the six teams for Carling O'Keefe there. commercials.

The travels of the film crew were chronicled in the Toronto Sun by columnist Paul Rimstead who is featured in some of the commercials.

Mr. Cole, of Acton, spent 18 days filming in Scandinavia and Europe but attempts to enter the Soviet Union failed. A member of the Milton Trident's Intermediate OHA championship team in '74 Mr. Cole goes so far as to predict that the Soviets will fail to make the finals of the Canada Cup series

Q.: What countries did you

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visit and what national club could be playing on the teams did you see training? A.: We went to Sweden. Finland, West Germany and Czechoslovakia. We didn't

The three pros from Finland were running a hockey school at Forssa, Finland, and we visited them

actually see any full teams

training. We saw different

players playing with club

In Swedan we went to Borje Salming's home town-Gayle-and filmed him there. In West Germany we went to a tournament at Fussen where the Soviet champs Spartak were playing.

We also saw 11 members of the Czech team and interviewed them.

O.: You spent some time in Fussen at the Thurnds Und Taxis tournament at which Moscow Spartak was playing. How did Yakushey and Shadrin play in the tournament and were there other young Spartak players who

national team in September? A.: We took in the Spartak vs. Poland game. It was short and fast with Spartak winning

One thing Yakushev told us is that they went into training on June 20. He said that they had finished the major part of their Canada Cup training. I don't think he'll be playing. Shadrin said that the Canada Cup was good for

hockey in general and he said (through an interpreter) that he wished it'd become less dirty and polite. Those were the words. Yakushev also said that he preferred December or

January for the series when all players are in their best condition. On the younger players, I would say there was one other

I have a feeling that the Soviets had their team some other place.

Q.: What type of dry land training were the Fluns and

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Swedes doing? Do you think three weeks for Team Canada is enough to match the stamina the European workouts produce?

A: I'd say, in general, that the Finns and Swedes had their own training plans which they stuck religiously through the summer.

On Team Canada, I think each player took it upon himself to report in better candition.

A problem is that there are not enough exhibition games for Team Canada. I think Pollock made a good

move by selecting lines because it takes a white for players to get used to each other. We did some promotions

with Team Canada and it

looks pretty good. Three weeks for Team player, but I can't recall his Canada to produce? I'd say this Canadian team would be in the best shape of any Canadian team. The com-

> petition for jobs is tough. There was a rumor in Montreal that (Phil) Esposito

may not make the team, of Soviet B team from last There are six centres com- year. He didn't talk specifics peting: Sitler, Dion and Espo about training. He did speak are competing with the in general about the World Clarke, Mahovlich and Cup of Hockey and said that Perreault lines.

Q.: How often and where must participate. did you get a chance to actually workout on the ice with the publicity. As the current European teams? Was it a world champions they feel thrill?

A.: It certainly was a thrill as a hockey fan. I wasn't confident in the players. They skated around me. I didn't have to worry about a thing. I used a 16-mm camera and

I was skating around. It was exciting, being there. Also I was on the ice and with a girl's team in countries you visited?

and Czechslovak coaches in best in the world because of particular willing to talk his experience. He'd be about their countries' par- considered and, he'll be here. ticipation in the Canada Cup or were they secretive?

in order for it to succeed both the Soviets and Canadians

The Czechs are looking for slighted with the Soviets getting all the publicity. So they were very co-operative working out. I was filming as in comparison with the Spartak practiced. I was Soviets. For example they set dates for interviews and made players and translators

available.

Q.: Did you find the Soviet Holicek some say he's the

Q.: Did you see any outstanding goaltender who might be as good or better Czechslovokia and Finland than Tretriak in any of the

Of the Soviet goaltenders with Spartak, there was A.: We talked to the coach nothing special there.

Jim Cole

Q.: What kind of fan support did the competitions you the first two games. They way. visited receive?

A.: I'd say everyone in oslovakia in the first two Europe picks Team Canada to win hands down. I'd say so mainly because of the publicity and the star system. spoilers, to pull one or two up-The Europeans give Team sets. They are the only Canada more of a chance than I give it. Even taxi drivers knew of

the series.

Q.: Are the Russians and Czechs really serious about winning the Canada Cup or could it be they are testing A.: There's the Czech Jiri players for the World Championships at Vienna in April, hoping to lower the boom on the Canadians there.

> A.: I'd say the Czechs are serious. I'd also say that the Russians are hedging. I'd say

the Russians' won't have as good a team as in '72. The common opinion in Europe is that the Russians may not play because they are afraid of loosing. That's why they were relying on political moves such as the defection of the diver.

the Canada Cup series).

would meet in the finals.

play Sweden and Czech-

the Finns and the Americans.

Q.: What is the truth about your film crew not getting into the Soviet Union? (Soviet Diver Sergei Nemtsanov defected from the actual truth. We were dir-Olympics and Moscow

A.: We don't know the ectly representing the threatened to withdraw from Canada Cup. There was to be no problem in picking up

amateurs left. They hold

down jobs and have to ar-

range time off to come over

here. They are natural rivals

of the Russians and Swedes.

We talked to the Czech visas in Helsinki. The day we team captain who said that tried was the day the Societ the Czechs and Canadians diver defected. The next day the secretary I have a feeling, and I'm went to the embassy and was going out on a limb, that the kept waiting eight hours

Russians will be out of it in before being told there was no Another possible reason could be that the Soviets

games, while Canada plays frown on advertising. Yet another reason could be The Finns' ambition is to be that we had two writers with us. One for commercials and

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