

Peter Van Dusen

We don't give a hoot

People who analyze Canada and Canadians aren't kidding when they say Canadians are apathetic and for the most part aren't interested in how their country fares on the international scene.

Canadians are apathetic Canadians couldn't really give two hoots how their athletes do in other countries where the nations of the world meet to do sports business.

It's a shame and something has to be done about it.

In this writer's eyes the state of this country's sports scene may take a drastic and highly beneficial about face in the coming months. I think much of what will be a very sudden change can be attributed to the appointment of Fitness and Recreation minister Steve Paproski. I am fortunate enough to know Steve Paproski and I am more than confident he will make significant inroads in the amateur and professional sport fields.

This column is not meant to sing the praises of Steve Paproski. What I am trying to point out is that with a change of government comes a change of attitudes in how certain matters should be treated. Hopefully. It will be the job of Steve Paproski to try and get Canadians interested in Canadian sport. Granted we have problems in this country that may occupy much of our time and thought. But think about this. No matter how many problems we have or how we resolve them or what the outcome of any of our troubles might be, we will always have sports and need sports.

Isn't it imperative that something as fundamental to our lives should be given our wholehearted support so that it may prosper? Very often the situation of amateur sport in this country is not talked about. Why? Because we don't want to admit that Canada's amateur sport program may be taking a beating and we don't want to be

part of it. We refuse to support it, we refuse to know anything about it, we don't want to mention it. Instead we choose to stand by and watch our athletes encounter so many problems, both financially and insofar as their acceptance by their countrymen is concerned, that to be a Canadian amateur athlete costs more than it pays.

That is the situation that Mr. Paproski will have to reverse. It will have to be respectable to be a Canadian athlete and it could even be made an attractive prospect.

Our Canadian athletes represent us well at the Pan-American Games. Will it mean anything when they return? Probably not. The heroes will be forgotten almost immediately and the losers will find solace in the fact that they were never really known. At least when you finish last, being ignored by your countrymen is a little less puzzling and a little easier to take.

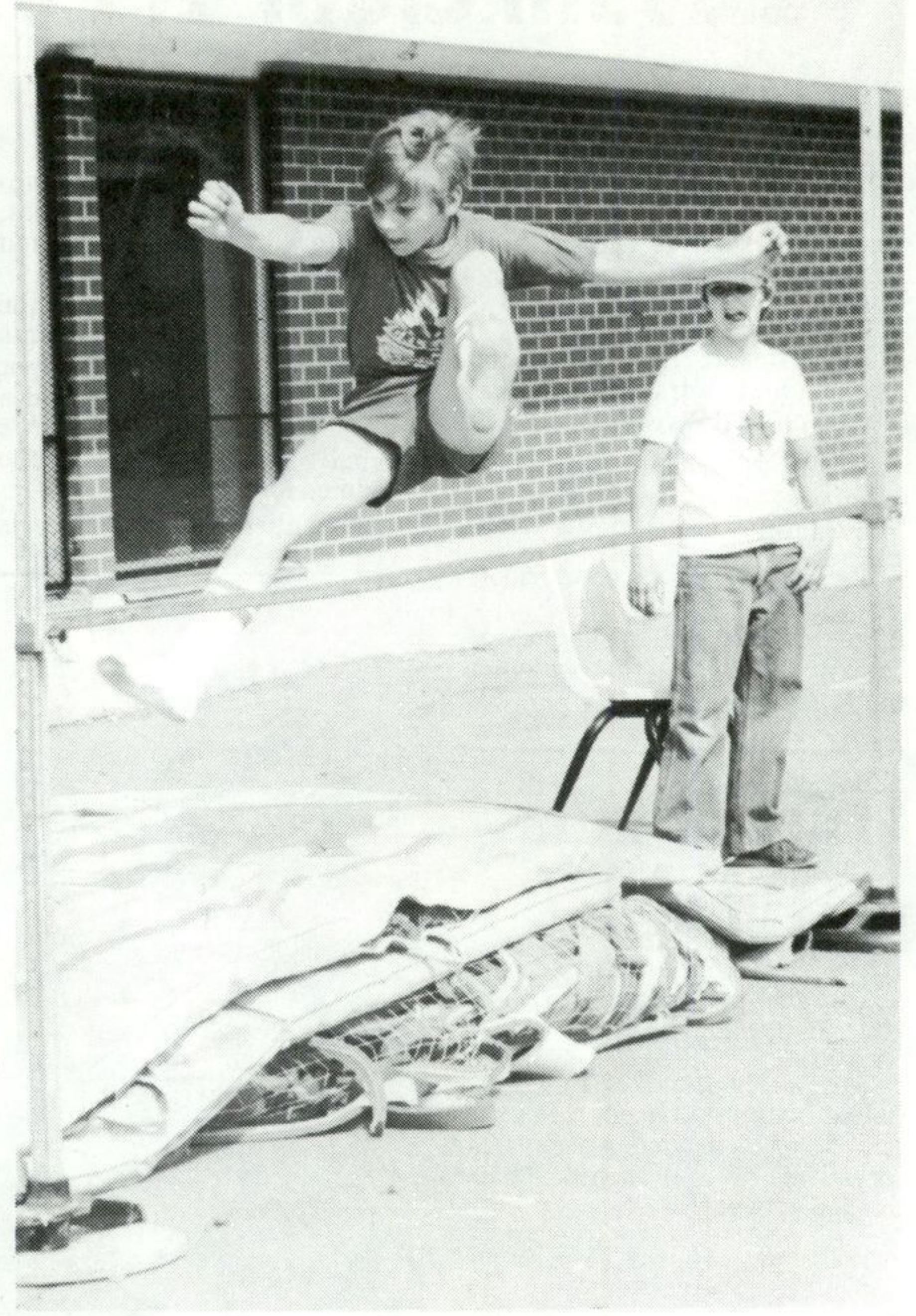
Falls Flyers draft Greg McLaren

At the June Ontario Hockey Association Major Junior A midget draft held in Toronto a young area player, Greg McLaren, was selected by the Niagara Falls Flyers. This means that Greg, a defenceman, will be reporting to the Flyers training camp on August 30 in an effort to be one of the few new recruits to make the team. His task will not be an easy one. He has already met with the Flyers' coach and owner where he was given a

rundown on what is expected of him at training camp. He has embarked on an off-ice training program which has been provided by the club.

Last season he played for the Nepean Raiders Midget AA Club. This team toured Czechoslovakia for two weeks in March 79 where they represented Canada at the European International Midget Hockey Tournament in Zvolen. He had previously played his bantam AA hockey for the

Nepean Raiders and in his first year of midget eligibility played locally for the Metcalfe Jets Junior B team. In the recent Central Junior League hockey draft, Greg was protected by the Nepean Raiders Junior A team and was therefore ineligible for draft consideration by other teams in the league. Should the Flyers decide not to keep him he will return to the Junior Raiders for the upcoming season.



UP AND OVER

Andrew Bradley of Greely makes it look easy as he soars over the high jump. This event was part of the Metcalfe school games held on June 7. Games officials termed the event a complete success. (Photo by Rowsell)

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THE LUCKY WINNER

Shawn Smith couldn't be happier with winning the 10 speed bike on the Russell Minor Hockey draw. The bike was donated to the RMHA by the Bank of Nova Scotia, Russell Branch. Pictured with Shawn

are his parents of Montreal along with Barry Carscadden representing the RMHA and Lise LeBlanc who made the presentation on behalf of the Bank of Nova Scotia. (Photo by Suzanne Veh)

G. J. (Gerry) O'Reilley

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