

# TALKS WITH THE COACHES

by John Cairns

Most sports predictions are made either early in the seasons, or during the playoffs. Recently, with the hockey season still young and with the Grey Cup final pending, Canadian fans have been at their forecasting best.

## STANLEY CUP

Question: Who will win the Stanley Cup and why?

Coach Birger: How do you count someone like Montreal out? Even though they experienced a few defeats I still think that when the chips are down at the end of the year they're going to be the ones to come through. I've had a favorite in the Boston Bruins in the past, so I'd probably be pulling a little bit in that way, but I think it's going to be Montreal again.

Coach Mulligan: Montreal.

Question: Who will win the National Hockey League scoring race this year?  
Coach Mulligan: Lafleur, unless they change the rules.

Question: Who will win the Vezina trophy?

Coach Mulligan: It will go to Dryden again because he has the best defense. Recently Montreal has lost a couple of games because the defense went to sleep. That's why they're winners. They've pretty near got the top four defensemen in the League. Well, they've got four defensemen that can make any team and you can't say that about any other team in the league.

## GREY CUP

Question: Who is going to win the Grey Cup and why?

Coach Birger: I picked some

dark horses back some time ago. I chose Winnipeg and Toronto meeting in the finals with Winnipeg going all the way. I don't know who is going to win it. I think if those two met in the finals I would probably have a pretty good pick, but I'm not sure if they will. I'll just say I'll go out on a limb and say it'll still go that way.

Coach Mulligan: Montreal.

They have the best defense right now, and with Barnes coming back they have a steady offense. They're balanced. I can't see Ottawa or Toronto knocking off Montreal in the east. Ottawa is hurting at middle linebacker and Toronto, I don't think they have any running backs except their quarterback. In the west it will get down to I think Winnipeg and Edmonton, and that will be a toss-up. Edmonton is hot now so I'll pick Montreal over pick them, but I pick Montreal over Edmonton in the Grey Cup.

Both Coach Birger's C.F.L. favorites have since fallen to the sidelines. In a more recent conversation he advised that from the four remaining teams, Montreal and British Columbia would be the finalists. Personally, I chose Winnipeg and Montreal. That's half wrong already. Only Coach Mulligan's predictions are still looking good. Being wrong however, is what makes predicting so much fun.

## WOMEN IN SPORT

The role of females in sport has been almost as controversial as who will

win what. No one can deny that the professional leagues are male oriented.

The key question is whether this should be changed.

Question: Should there be a better place in professional sports for women?

Coach Mulligan: Hey! That is a dandy question. It depends. In contact sports it'd be pretty hard. People would have to change their ideas in bringing up their children, so that when girls get up to the age of seventeen or eighteen hitting comes naturally just like it does to boys. Individual sports, yeah, In fact, women are proven to be more adept than men at individual skills like tennis, golf, track and field and swimming.

Coach Birger: Professional sports to me are big business and are competing for the entertainment dollar. If people thought they could make money as a result of promoting women's sports, I think you'd see it. If women should so desire that they should want to play professionally; and playing professionally to me means that it is your vocation, and that it is what you are going to do for a living and for earning a salary, then I would see nothing wrong with it.

I enjoy watching women's sports, for instance at the university level. I think they're great and possibly they could attract considerable attention in certain games.

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