

National News

University teams thumb noses at college rivals.
(UPEI drops out of competition)

SOURCE: The Varsity (University of Toronto) by Blair Sanderson

TORONTO (CUP) — The University of Ottawa decided two months ago to replace Humber College with the University of Western Ontario in its upcoming men's basketball exhibition tournament, but it made the decision official only two weeks ago, according to two coaches.

Neither Ken Olynyk, U of T Varsity Blues men's basketball head coach, nor Mike Katz, Humber College Hawks men's basketball head coach, had concrete proof as to when exactly host Ottawa made its decision to rescind the original invitation to Humber. However, Olynyk said it was consistent with what he had heard from others within the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic

Union (CIAU).

McGill University and the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) were originally scheduled to compete in the tournament along with Humber and the Ottawa Gee-Gees. At least one of the two invited teams threatened to pull out if a college team was involved.

"I don't think McGill was aware who was in the tournament," said Olynyk. "They were under the impression that it would be four CIAU schools."

Katz had his suspicions that something was wrong when he hadn't spoken to the Gee-Gees between March and September of this year.

"I knew something was up," said Katz. "He [Jack Eisenmann, Ottawa men's basketball head coach], capitulated to pressure from the other universities."

Michelle Belanger, U of T Varsity Blues women's basketball head coach, believes a major problem exists because there is no consequence to a team dropping out (in this instance either Redmen or the UPEI Panthers), of a tournament after making a commitment.

"We don't have fines when teams drop out," said Belanger. "Humber should be compensated for the hole in their schedule."

"If the CIAU had a better organizational system it would discourage teams from pulling out like that."

Eisenmann said he was fed up with discussing the controversy further (it made the front page of The Globe and Mail earlier this month), and wouldn't comment specifically about McGill or UPEI, but said all the teams involved entered the tournament with their eyes wide open.

"When you offer invitations you offer to teams from ten different schools," said Eisenmann. "I made it clear to all the other schools. They knew what was going on."

While many university teams refuse to play college teams, schools such as U of T schedule exhibition games against colleges, usually local teams. The Raptor Cup, which the Blues will again participate in this December, is essentially an unofficial city basketball championship for Toronto-area universities and colleges. Varsity will also play George Brown College in a pre-season game on Nov. 3.

"The whole impetus behind [the Raptor Cup], is creating a Metro championship," Olynyk said. "It's fun. They [the collegiate teams] want to attack us. We want to get after them."

For Toronto-area universities it's also more financially viable to play some of the strong college teams.

"Budgets started to shrink and that affected travel," Katz said.

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Coolbreeze's Entertainment Payment

Welcome to the first edition of the Entertainment Payment, the home of celebrity gossip and pop culture observations. Let's start with a look at the past summer...

Following the success of "The Blair Witch Project" TV's teen witch, Sabrina, promises to kill more characters this season in hopes of tapping into a wider audience.

Speaking of summer blockbusters, did anyone see "Star Wars: The Phantom Menace"? Well word on the street is that Mel Brooks has already started making "Space Balls Episode One". After his failed lawsuit that claimed George Lucas stole the idea for Star Wars from his film "Spaceballs", Brooks has decided to fight back by making a parody of the latest "Star Wars" movie,

but this time Brooks promises it will not be as serious as the original "Spaceballs". Brooks is actually going to make fun of the movie, instead of making an artistic statement. George Lucas is sure to feel this kick to his Spaceballs.

Is there anything those Gap models can't do? First of all they look good in slacks, and now they can sing too. I bet someone could make a lot of money off those kids.

Talk about life imitating art with "Scream" costars David Arquette and Courtney Cox. Not only are they an item, but they are also solving murder mysteries together. I don't know where they find the time between Courtney's role as the "bitch" on TV's "Friends" and David's whacky antics as the 1 800 CALL AT&T guy. But if I'm ever brutally murdered, I hope they're on the case.

Dick Martin is on top of the world with his smash hit, "Livin La Vida Loca" and TV's Entertainment Tonight can't help but acknowledge this fact every single day. They won't let me forget, and I can't stop watching. I need my Dick Martin updates or else my life just won't seem as complete.

Critics are accusing Rosie O'Donnell of being a sell out. That's ridiculous. She may not be Geraldo, but gosh darn it, her opinion counts too.

I don't know about you but I have a severe case of what the media has called "Latin Fever". Everytime I see a Jennifer Lopez video I get the trots real bad.

That's all for this week. And be sure to watch my cameo on John Daly's "Real TV" this week. My face is blurred out, but I'm the guy who gets arrested for public urination. I can't believe they have cameras inside bank machines.