The Way I See It

By GARY OAKES
Sports Editor

Bob Pickell, basketball's answer to Eddy Dorohoy, blew into town Friday, talked up a storm for two days and then quietly departed Sunday.

But the six-foot, six-inch 230-pound star centre with Vancouver Puritans of the Inter-City League made a lasting impression on local folk. Pickell spoke and everyone listened. The 34-year-old crew-cut athlete has been around and is more than willing to relate many of his experiences, both in basketball and other things.

He is qualified to speak of basketball. Pickell has been on six Canadian basketball championship teams and has won the inter-city scoring title 10 times in 10 years.

But Pickell is lucky he's able to walk, never mind play basketball. He was 12 when a fall from a hay wagon badly crushed his right ankle. Pickell spent three and a half months in a hospital and had to use crutches for almost a year before he could walk again. Today, a jagged scar serves as a reminder of the accident. There's something else that helps him remember. Bob Pickell's right leg is almost three inches shorter than his left.

Doctors told Pickell he'd never play any sports but the stubborn youngster refused to accept this and has since blossomed into one of Canada's finest athletes.

Pickell born in Lithuania

Bernard Alexander Pickell was born in the British Embassy at Kovno, Lithuania, July 2, 1927. His father was the British Ambassador for the Baltic States.

Pickell said that at the age of eight he talked his father into coming to Canada and was immediately dubbed the "Loquacious Lithuanian". His father, who reads and writes 22 languages and speaks 11 fluently, joined the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Pickell family spent a lot of time travelling around the country. Pickell lived in Vancouver in 1938 and '39 but moved back to the prairies after this.

He returned to Vancouver in 1943 and attended Vancouver College for two years before entering the University of Portland on a basketball scholarship.

Most of "Big Pick's" basketball knowledge was learned at UP from coach Mush Torson. Pickell left the university in 1948 and returned to Vancouver where he played with the Cloverleafs, who won the Canadian championship four years in a row.

In 1951 Pick went to Edmonton where he played football with Annis Stukus' Eskimos. He made $100 a game and ended up with $1,800 for the season. Pickell said he did a lot of the kicking for the Esks as his shorter right leg helped him position his toe on the ball better than most players.

The following year Pickell attended the Olympics at Finland with Canada's basketball team. Bobby Simpson, now a star player with Ottawa Rough Riders of the Eastern Football Conference, was on the Canadian team.

Coach benches Simpson

"Our coach benched Simpson," Pickell said, "because he came in half an hour over the 9:30 pm. curfew. We had games against Brazil and Argentina left to play and had we won both we would have been in the finals against the U.S. But without Simpson we lost both games."

Following the Olympics, Pickell returned to Edmonton. While there he got a call from a university friend, Happy Lee, who needed a forward to play ball in Honolulu.

"It was the coldest night Edmonton had had in 50 years," Pick recalled, "so I said 'where's my plane ticket' and left for Honolulu where it was 80 degrees."

This was in 1953 and shortly after arriving in Honolulu, Pickell's team began a six-week tour of the Far East. The team played almost 40 games and hit the Phillipines, Formosa, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore and others. He was the only Canadian on the team which included fellows like Jim Ramsted from Stanford University; George Malama from the University of Hawaii; and coach Lee Chung.

Pick said basketball was a big thing in the Far East. "In the Phillipines they had a 20,000-seat stadium with a 10-foot fence around the court to protect the players". He remarked that while trying to get the ball from a small player on the other team, he accidentally hit him and the crowd went crazy.

"Several guys tried to climb the fence and the police had to draw their guns. Almost every place we went to had a sign on the wall stating: 'No guns or knives allowed in the stadium', but the people brought them in anyway. In one place we had to play on outside courts before 6,000 people. It began to rain so we decided we should quit. But the crowd screamed and we remembered the knives and guns and so continued playing. It was so wet officials had to put sawdust on the floor to soak up the water."

But with all the bad points, the team still enjoyed the tour and also made $25,000, which is a lot of enjoyment.

We found Pickell to be an exceptionally interesting character. He added a lot to the basketball banquet Friday night and we hope to see more of him up here in the future.

TITLE BOUT TONIGHT

LONDON (AP)—Irishman John Caldwell steps into the ring tonight for a 15-rounder against Frenchman Alphonse Halimi in a revenge battle that could clear up the confused world bantamweight boxing picture.

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Women's curling results

Here are the results of women's curling for last night.

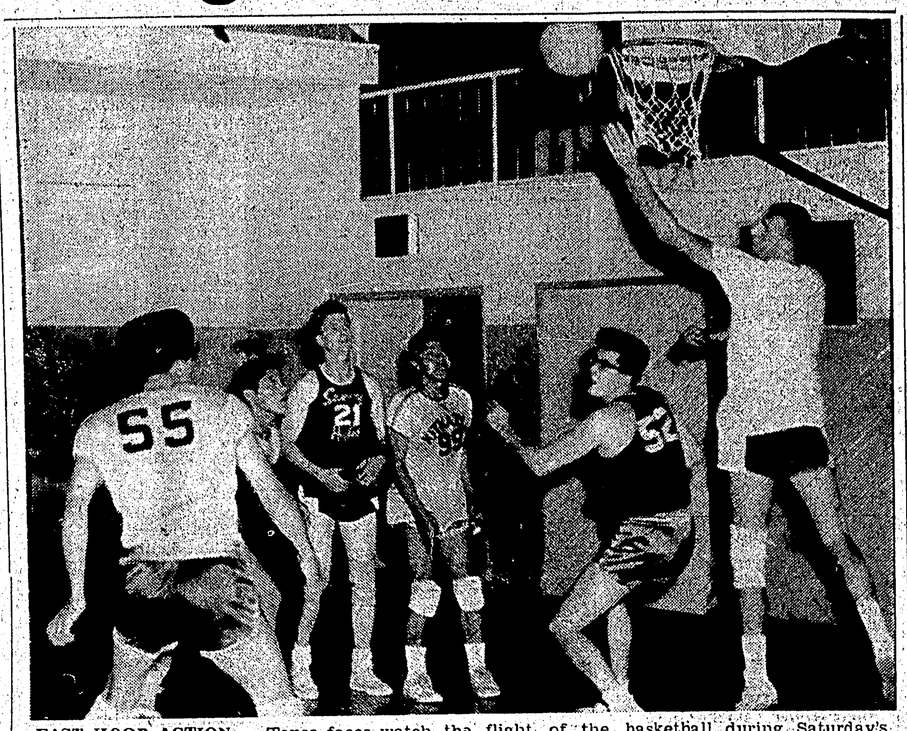
7 p.m. — Bateman 8, Armstrong 7; Scott 3, Rivett 8; Gordon 6, Shier 11; McLean 7, Ritchie 9; Newton 8, McDonald 9; and Kerr 3, Anderson 10.

9 p.m. — McKay 9, Dominato 10; Gomez 7, Holkestad 14; Pallant 9, Eriksen 5; Merrison 10, Deane 3; and Lewis 7, Eby 9.

LAST NIGHT'S FIGHTS

New York (AP)— Tony Hughes, 202½, Cleveland, outpointed Rodolfo Diaz, 181½, Aregntina (8).

Roughriders knock off Bombers



FAST HOOP ACTION — Tense faces watch the flight of the basketball during Saturday's exhibition game between Savoy and Kitkatla at the Civic Centre. Jumping is Vancouver Bob Pickell who scored 31 points for Kitkatla. Kitkatla won senior opener 60-56.
— Staff photo by Gary Oakes

Esks belt Stamps in other battle

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

Saskatchewan Roughriders made partial amends for a mediocre season by upsetting Winnipeg Blue Bombers in one of two Western Football Conference games Monday night.

The fourth-place Saskatchewan club knocked off the first-place Bombers 19-13 in Winnipeg while Calgary Stampeders bowed 20-8 to Edmonton Eskimos in Calgary.

Nothing was at stake in either game. Calgary had already clinched third place in the standings, Edmonton second and Winnipeg first.

For three years now Saskatchewan has won their final league game in Winnipeg after poor seasons. However, their 37-30 victory in 1959 was disallowed when it was learned Saskatchewan used an ineligible player.

The win gives Saskatchewan a final points total of 11 on five wins, 10 losses and a tie in their 16 scheduled games under the leadership of coach Steve Owen.

All four other clubs including the last-place Lions have one more game to play to close out the regular schedule.

Winnipeg meets Eskimos at Edmonton next Saturday and Calgary plays British Columbia Lions in Vancouver Sunday.

Calgary hosts Edmonton Nov. 11 in the opener of a two-game total-point series for the right to meet Winnipeg. The Blue Bombers have a bye into the final.

Monday, Saskatchewan surprised a Winnipeg Stadium crowd of 15,164 with two early touchdowns and a 19-0 lead early in the third quarter.

Then Bombers quarterback Hal Ledyard tossed a short pass to end Ernie Pitts in the end zone for a touchdown.

Bombers got their last touchdown with a second remaining on a pass to end Farrell Funston from quarterback Dick Thornton in his first offensive start of the season. Gordie Rowland converted.

Saskatchewan end Jack Gotta scored on a pass from quarterback Dave Grosz in the first quarter. Ferdy Burket plunged over for another a little later.

Burket also kicked a single. Other Saskatchewan points came on a field goal, a single and two converts by Reg Whitehouse.

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Puck league opens

MERRIT (CP) — A new intermediate hockey team with several former Kamloops senior A players, will operate out of Merritt this season.

The team, to be known as Chiefs, will join the recently-organized Pacific Coast International Hockey League along with clubs from Vancouver, Powell River, Chilliwack and Seattle. A Portland entry has withdrawn.

The intermediate loop is an expanded version of last year's Coast League which comprised Nanaimo, Powell River, New Westminster and Chilliwack.

ELKS NEWSPAPER CAR

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OTHER NO'S.				
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		44		

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George Dean gives big boost to weightlifters' prestige

VANCOUVER (CP) — George Dean is a muscular young man whose accomplishments have given a big lift to the fallen prestige of Vancouver weightlifters.

The fame of local strongmen has dwindled since the heyday of Doug Hepburn, who retired seven years ago from active competition.

Dean, a product of Hepburn's gym in nearby Cloverdale, recently led a surprising British Columbia team to 10 championships at the Washington state weightlifting finals at Everett, Wash. The performance was the province's best ever.

At 28, the handsome Dean is a four-year veteran of weightlifting competitions. In Everett he scored his greatest successes so far, capturing the medium heavyweight division and being named best lifter of the show.

To take the honors he had to lift a total of 800 pounds, 245 pounds in the press, 220 in the snatch and 335 in the clean and jerk. The 335 pounds was 12 more than Dean's native B.C. record and five pounds more than the provincial open mark established in the 1954 British Empire Games.

AIM AT GAMES

And it's the games next year at Perth, Australia, Dean and his weightlifting buddies here are aiming at.

Dean has a great chance, says Sam Kennedy, B.C. weightlifting representative on the AAU.

Kennedy says that if he continues his improvement Dean will lift more than 940 pounds by 1962—300 in the press, 260 in the snatch and 380 in the clean and jerk.

That, adds Kennedy, will be enough to win Dean a place on the team and a great shot at the medium heavyweight games title.

Dean's training partner, Bill Gladstone, and huge John Fraser also are given excellent chances by Kennedy in competitions for team berths.

Gladstone finished behind Dean in the Washington state championships and Fraser won the heavyweight division with a total lift of 800 pounds.

Honors shared in Celco loop

Most honors were shared in both sections of the Celco City Five-Pin Bowling League last Wednesday.

In B section Elsie Dyer of CSAC rolled a 266 high single while Shirley Kent of Kent's scored a 642 high three. Al Faithful of CSAC took both men's honors with 266 and 662 while Paul's Shell captured both team honors with 1,172 and 3,381.

In A section Betty Turner of McRae Mtrs. bowled a 260 high single while Dot Ballinger of Rupert Mtrs. took high three with 623.

Tony Toth of Rupert Mtrs. took men's high single with 305 while Jim Thompson of Good Neighbors rolled an 817 for high three. Rupert Mtrs. picked up both team honors with 1,439 and 3,745.

Results were:

B section — Paul's 3, Sports Shop 1; Johnson's 3, Sports 1; Robertson's 3, Rebels 1; Co-op 3, PR Hotel 1; CSAC 2, Cook's 2; and Jack's 2; Kent's 2.

A section — McRae Mtrs. 4, McRae Bros. 0; Rupert Mtrs. 3, Wings 1; Commercial 4; RCMP 0; Good Neighbors 4, Eddie's 0; Standard Oil 3, Robinson's 1; and Orme's 2, Bud's 2.

Joyce Paul tops B section bowlers

Joyce Paul of High Balls rolled a three-game total of 601 in B section of the Women's Five-Pin Bowling League last Tuesday and helped her team capture both team honors with 876 and 2,419.

Laura Blake of Co-op scored a 261 for high single.

In A section Agnes Pierce of Annettes bowled a 301 high single and led her team to both awards with 1,078 and 2,811.

Edith Sundberg of Sports Shop took high three with 759.

Results:

B section — High Balls 3, Co-op 1; Off Tracks 3, Odd Balls 1; Rebekahs 3, Beatniks 1; PRFCU 3, Kaien Credit Union 1; Saanich 2½, Whitecaps 1½; and Big Sisters 2½, Greenhorns 1½.

A section — Annettes 4, Jeanettes 0; Dibbs 4; Hard Hats 0; Shop Easy 3, RCMP 1; New Laurel 3, Sports Shop 1; Clausens 3, McLean & Rudderham 1; and Fashion 2, Stars 2.

Brown wins

MANILA (AP) — Joe Brown successfully defended his world lightweight championship Saturday night by outpointing Bert Somodio of the Philippines in their 15-round bout.

Last Night's Fights

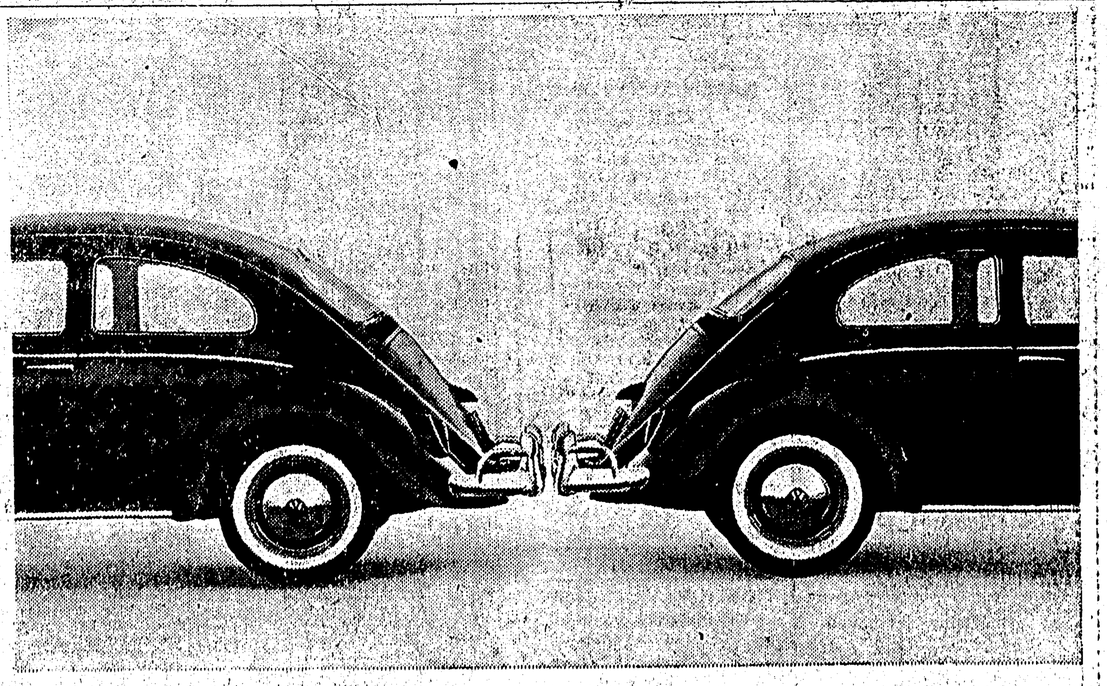
Halifax (AP) — Blair Richardson, South Bar, N.S., stopped Floyd McCoy, New York (3).

PRESENTATION — Doug Ruttan (left) presents the Most Sportsman-Like Player trophy to Rainmakers' Bruce Mitchell following the basketball banquet held Friday night in the Canadian Legion auditorium. Mitchell didn't arrive until after the dinner was finished and expressed complete surprise at winning the trophy.
— Staff photo by Gary Oakes

Adams Distillers Appointment

Mark Holesic

Thomas Adams Distillers Limited announces the appointment of Mark Holesic as British Columbia Sales Manager. Born in Goderich, Ont., Mr. Holesic joined the Canadian Army in 1944 and served continuously until 1957. During this time he took special staff courses in the United Kingdom and the United States, winning top marks. He saw action in Japan and Korea during the Korean War. In 1957 Mr. Holesic retired from the Army and joined the staff of Thomas Adams Distillers. He will make his home in Vancouver.



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