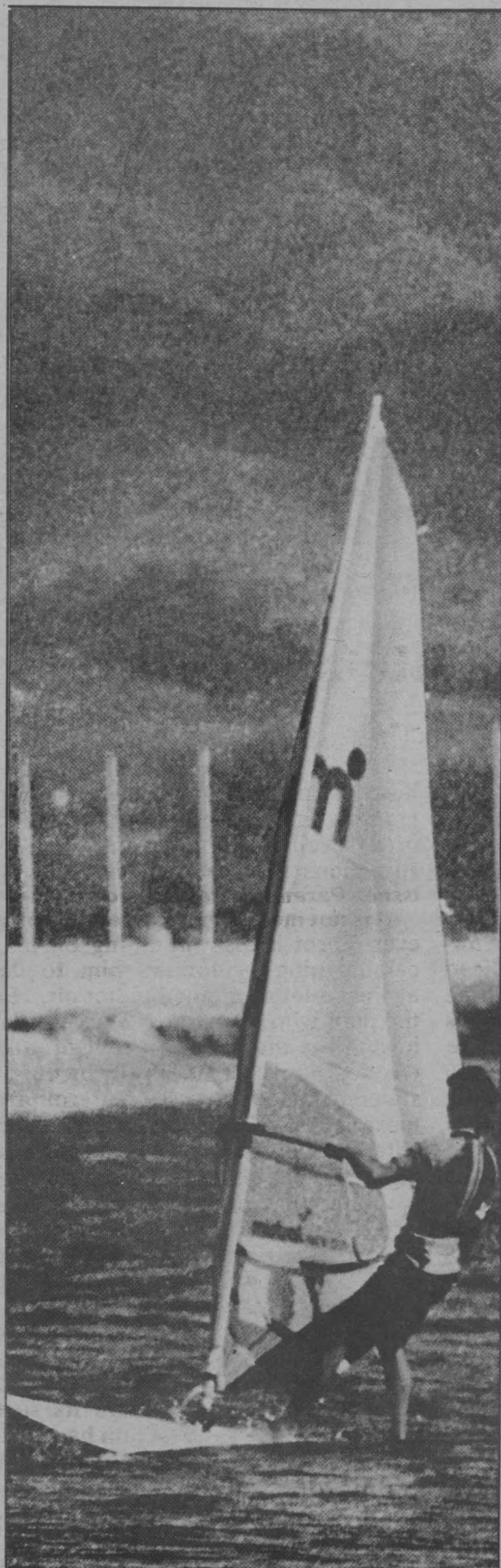
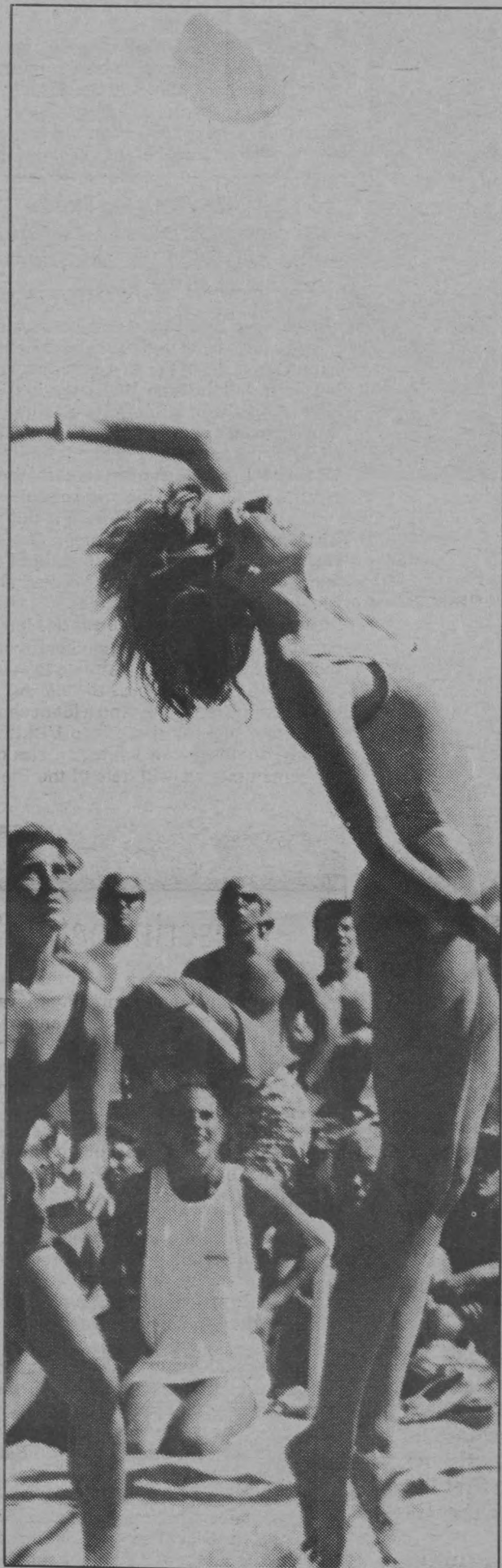
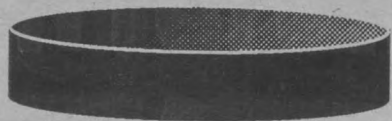


Winter Sports '92



In Santa Barbara, the Outdoors Aren't Just for Summer

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Winter Sports

In Santa Barbara, It's
Hard to Distinguish
Between Seasonal Sports

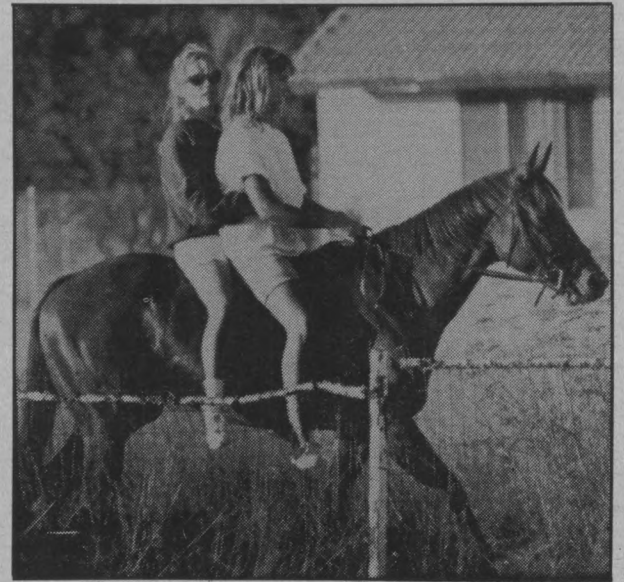
If you're looking
for fun in the
snow, you're in
the wrong city.

Santa Barbara is famous
for a lot of things, but tradi-
tional winter sports is not
one of them. Residents
who like ice hockey, ski-
ing, tobogganing or any
other snow or ice-centered
sport must travel long dis-
tances to partake in their
favorite activity. Yes, it's
difficult living in Santa
Barbara when your heart
is in the snow.

But the advantage that
we have in this town is that
every sport *becomes* a
"winter" sport. Baseball in
December? No problem.
Sailing on New Year's
Day? It's possible. Rugby
at Christmas time? Sure.

We may not get snow-
flakes and freezing temp-
eratures, but we are
blessed with sunshine al-
most year-round. This
means that there is no dis-
tinction between the four
seasons. With the excep-
tion of a little rain and
wind every now and then,
the weather in Southern
California is a constant.

And that's good news
for sports fans. We may
miss out on the opportu-
nity to lace up the skates,
but we can lace up the



The coming of winter
doesn't mean you
have to put away your
frisbee, or even your
horse.

hightops year-round. We
don't get to wield a hockey
stick very often, but we can
use baseball bats all the
time. It's just the will of our
environment. There are no
real "winter" sports, just
outdoor activities which
don't get hampered by
mother nature.

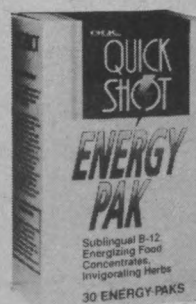
Besides, do any of us re-
ally know what a luge is?



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We Don't Even Know What Winter Is Like

Snowflakes and Parkas Are Far, Far Away

By Andrew Paul
Winter Sports Staff

Wait a minute. I thought that this past weekend, we all turned the clocks back an hour. You know, that daylight savings thing. I thought we turned them back an hour so we could have more daylight, or

W i n t e r
S p o r t s
F a c t

The word "winter" appears 20 times in this story.

something like that.

But, nobody told me that we actually turned the clocks ahead a season. Well, I was just informed that winter is upon us, or soon ahead.

Either way, however, it certainly does not seem like winter. In fact, it never will be winter in Santa Barbara. It never has been winter, it is not winter now and it never will be winter in Santa Barbara.

Let me explain something to you, winter is not just a season. In Santa Barbara, the difference between fall and winter is the size of the waves.

Look, winter is snow. And not the type of snow

Winter is basically bypassed in these parts. There is no winter.

that you find after you drive for hours, up a few thousand feet in elevation, but the kind of snow that lands at your doorstep. The kind that actually blocks you in your house so that you need a shovel to get out. That's winter.

Not the winter that means you need to wrap a sweater around your waist in case it gets too cold. But, the winter that means you need to wear a sweater over a turtle neck shirt, under a windbreaker, under one of those eskimo-looking hooded coats.

Not the winter that means you need to close your window before you go to bed so you don't wake-up in the middle of the night and need to turn the fan down a notch. But, the winter that means you need the heat on while you sleep in a sweater over a turtle neck shirt, under a windbreaker, under one of those eskimo-looking hooded coats. That's winter.

Winter is getting in your car a half hour before you need to go anywhere, just

to let it warm up to the point that it will move. It's putting on the defrost and the heater so that you can move, not so that you can clear up the windows from there being one too many people in the car.

None of those things ever happen in Santa Barbara, and for that reason alone, I feel confident in saying that in Santa Barbara, autumn ends some time in January, when spring begins. Winter is basically bypassed in these parts. There is no winter.

If you couldn't tell, I grew up in a place that has a 'real' winter. But let's get something straight. Although I wouldn't change a thing about growing up in a place where snow falls daily for months, I also wouldn't want to change a thing about living in a place now that doesn't have a real winter.

I mean, seriously, although building a snowman, sledding down a hill, ice skating on a lake, shoveling a driveway and getting numb fingers, toes and ears are all experiences that can never be matched, who the heck wants to deal with that stuff now?

I'll be the first to say that I'd rather just deal with wrapping that sweater around my waist.

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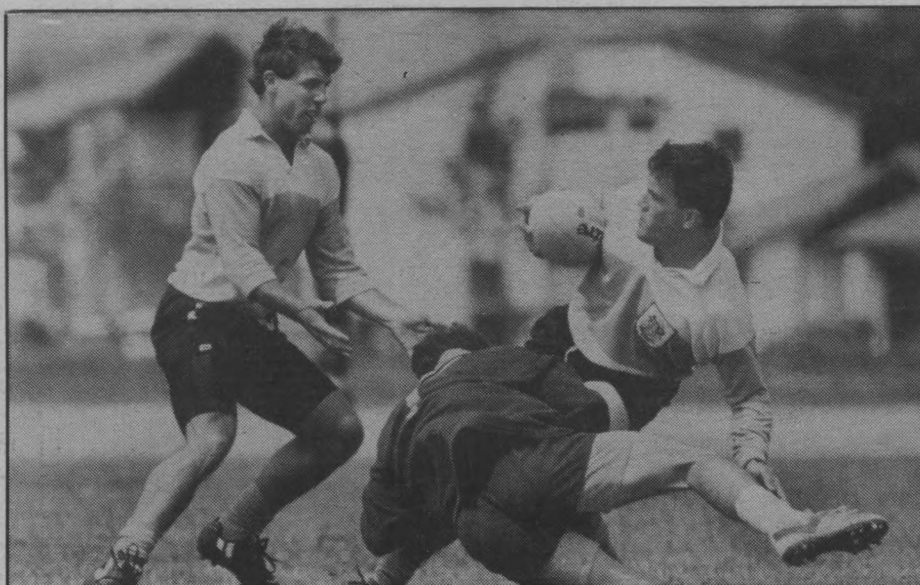
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WINTER SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

Football

If You Can Touch It, Can You Catch It?
A Recollection of a Gridiron Youth

By Dino Scoppettone
Winter Sports Staff

Even though he was an option quarterback in high school, Pops could throw the ball. Ever since I was a little kid, Pops would take me out with the old pigskin and fire off a few passes in my direction. He showed no mercy. Here I am, 5- or 6-years-old at best, and he's winging the ball at me like he's John Elway or something. Of course, this was before John Elway.

Anyway, I got this ball coming at me at 90 miles an hour, and the ones I can catch knock me over. Some of the other ones fly so high that all I can do is get my fingertips on them. Then Pops comes up with that

classic father statement: "If you can touch it, you can catch it." Every dad, at one time or another, has dragged that phrase out.

Then the kid (in this case, me) starts

Winter Sports Fact

The most prolific passer in NFL history is named Fran.

getting pissed. "No, Dad, that ball was three feet over my head. I was lucky to even scrape it with my fingertips," the kid

See FOOTBALL, p.10A

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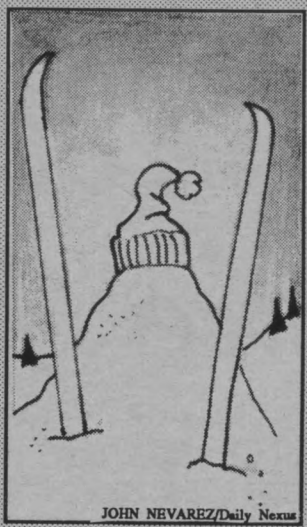
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Five Years Ago, Brian Banks
Went on His First Ski Trip.
He Never Wants to Go Again.

Ski Trip Q&A

Frank Advice From a
Terrible Skier



My first (and only) skiing trip now being the stuff of legend, let me advise those of you contemplating a jaunt up into the powder. Please understand, if there was someone who could have answered all of my questions before my fateful trip, I may never have gone, thereby sparing myself and my entire family generations of ridicule.

I wouldn't say that I hate skiing now, but let me point out that I would rather seal my eyelids shut with a hot glue gun than take to the slopes again. Now that I've established my objectivity, let me address some of the common concerns of virgin skiers.

What kind of clothes will I need?

Compiling enough layers to keep the skin from turning blue and the body temperature above frozen is a major adventure. I would suggest that prospective skiers look through that pile of old clothes in the closet corner. Got four pair of jeans that you don't wear anymore? Take 'em. How about some of those argyle sweaters you had to have in seventh grade? You'll need 'em.

In short, collect as many garments as possible, never ruling out borrowing other people's clothes. Believe me, when you're stuck in the snow for an hour waiting for help, you'll be glad that's not your jacket getting soaked and muddy.

How much money should I bring with

me?

Those savings bonds you've held onto for college tuition will sure come in handy now. Lift tickets can run as much as \$50 a day at major resorts. Add that to the cost of room, board, ski rentals and any emergency medical attention you may need, and it adds up to quite a sum.

There are, however, a few ways to save money. You can probably get free lift tick-

**W i n t e r
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are
half-priced
after
midnight.

ets if you are able to stage a chair accident and promise not to notify the insurance companies. Also, be sure to take advantage of the free liquids available inside the ambulance on the way to the hospital.

Now that I'm ready for my trip, where is the best place to go?

Mammoth is a California favorite, but the chairlift lines have gotten so long that the whole place now looks a lot like Disneyland, complete with snowy-white Matterhorn mountain. Aspen is a good choice, and chances are you'll run into a celebrity on the slopes. Better yet, they'll run into you and you can sue them for a million bucks.

But the choice here is Lake Tahoe, just a short drive away from Reno's gambling strip and lounge acts. What could be better than capping off a long day waiting in line for a run than losing your money at the craps table while being serenaded by Tony Orlando and Dawn?

Do the resorts have lessons for first-time skiers?

Let me give you a little recap of what happened in my "lesson". My broad-shouldered instructor (I'll call her "Adolf") pushed me up a 30-foot slope and then pushed me down. She repeated this until she felt I had the grasp of this activity and then moved me onto an awaiting chairlift. While I protested that I still felt a little unclear on the basics of skiing, we reached the top of the mountain. She pulled me off the lift with her, dumped my frozen body onto the snow, and went down the run solo. I never saw her again.

Yes, they have lessons.

How will I know when it is time to move to the bigger slopes?

When you can ski the bunny hill with your eyes closed, on one leg, tripping little kids as you go down, then it is time to move on. Until then, though, I recommend sticking with the easy slope. It's like my grandfather used to tell me, "No need to cook a filet mignon when you can get just as full on Spam."

I've heard ski resorts are a great place to meet people. Is this true?

It depends on the kind of people you are interested in meeting. Sure, the slopes are terrific if ambulance drivers and ski repair men are your cup of tea. But please realize that the old cliché of couples relaxing in front of a roaring fire with cups of hot cocoa is grossly outdated. The '90s stay-in-doors nighttime activity includes chugging a Meisterbrau while relaxing in front of the VCR watching *Terminator 2*. This does have its certain charm, but it's been my experience that skiing doesn't promote romance the way it used to. Or maybe females just aren't attracted to deadweights with no balance who roll down the slopes because it's easier than skiing.

How long should my trip be?

Most people like to take "ski weekends", but I have found that two days is not enough time to fully experience the sport. I used my trip to devise a

schedule which should be helpful in planning your vacation.

• Day One: Plan on using this day as an orientation to the surroundings. Find the slopes, the best restaurants, the quickest route to the hospital, that sort of thing. Get a good rest because you're in for a long day tomorrow.

• Day Two: Rise early to be one of the first to wait in line all day. Bring a cheat sheet of conversation starters you can use on the people standing around you. Some examples — "The lines are never this long at the Olympics," "Don't worry about me

When you can ski the bunny hill with your eyes closed, on one leg, tripping little kids as you go down, then it's time to move on. Until then, though, I recommend sticking with the easy slope.

if I fall up there. I'm just testing the durability of this fabric" and "Who wants to jump the trees with me?"

• Day Three: If you had any takers on the tree jump, leave Day Three open for blood transfusions and stitches.

• Day Four: It's back to the slopes. You might want to vary your technique by now, so go down the run on one leg, or use the poles to speed yourself up.

• Day Five: If you went down one-legged at high speeds, leave Day Five open for blood transfusions and stitches.

• Day Six: Count your losses and go home.

Are there places to ski year-round?

Some resorts stay open during the summer months, but you might consider water-skiing as an off-season activity. Just remember to keep your legs in front of you when you are in the water waiting for the boat to move. I had a difficult time grasping this concept on my first (and only) waterskiing trip, and I went for a nice drag around the lake. But the limp only lasted a few months, and I am now able to go back into the water. Just don't get me around skis.

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STEVE OLSEN/Daily Nexus

By Deborah Rafii
Winter Sports Staff

Wet trails of the bouncing Spaulding basketball scatter across the driveway. Sweaty palms maneuver the prized object back and forth and between the legs. Swish! The net jingles as the fine-textured leather glides in. Tiny specks of mist slowly and gradually transform into sharp needles that prick the player's warm and damp skin. Bodies with radiating heat bump and collide as each teammate strives for the hoop while managing to avoid the slippery pavement.

Winter Sports Fact

Basketball rules prohibit an opponent from throwing X-acto knives at your feet.

No longer do the winter months hinder the athlete's desire to engage in the popular sport of outdoor basketball. Some shied away from the outside activity with the slightest change in weather. Basketball in the rain, however, is slowly becoming something of a phenomenon.

Gone are the days when a light shower meant you'd go looking in the closet for a boardgame that wasn't missing any pieces. Many hours were wasted on menial activities that required no physical exertion except the flipping of channels on the television ... and you had a remote! But the game of basketball shall not be shunned in these cold winter months. Besides, how can we call California cold? The popular sport, as enjoyed by many, can be quite rewarding if we add a slight slant.

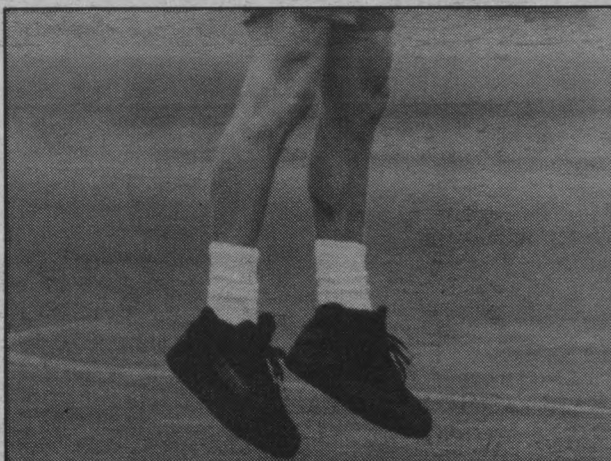
Rain.

A simple and common analogy depicts the difference between the traditional game of basketball inside a gymnasium, and the hardcore street game of outdoor basket-

WINTER SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

Basketball in the Rain

Dreary Outside? There's No Better Time to Play Ball Than When the Sun Won't Come Out



STEVE OLSEN/Daily Nexus

ball during the rainy season. Here it is: Driving an automatic car may be interesting and some find it entertaining. However, driving a manual, or stick shift automobile, provides a challenge for those who dare. The same applies to the sport of basketball.

Not only must the player concentrate on the critical facets such as boxing out, rebounding and running an effective offense, but he or she must also be mindful of the slick surface. In addition, most can agree that vision is slightly impaired with the distraction of bolting raindrops.

The game involves two teams consisting of five players each and is not difficult to understand. The object is to shoot the ball into the opponent's hoop. But the game intensifies with the change in climate. Cold weather, accompanied by rain, creates exhilaration as the player's adrenaline battles the body's natural yearning for energy.

But just as your body's temperature increases, the

brisk sprinkle will cool and refresh the heat as well as blend in with perspiration. There's nothing like the sweet and salty aroma of blood, sweat and rain that gathers faintly in the air.

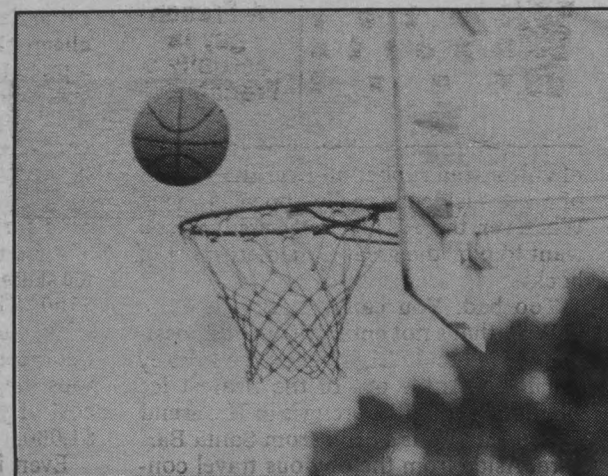
But before you hit the courts, you must be aware of the conditions in which the game should be played.

- Before tip-off, each player must designate the man that he or she will be covering. Then, the players must simultaneously pour a cup of slightly dirty water on themselves so as to prevent rainfall shock.

- The basketball must be thrown into a medium-sized puddle of mud.

- For safety precautions, raingear may not be worn.

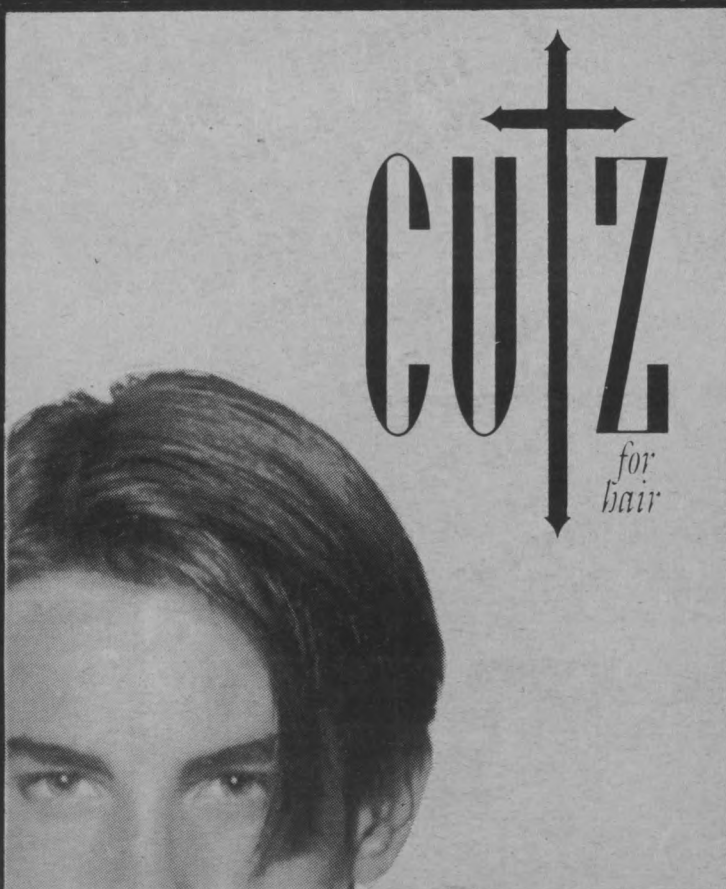
So why stay in and count all the damn pennies that you've saved up for a special day? Grab a pair of dirty yet durable Nikes, put on those mutilated cutoffs and your least favorite T-shirt (How about that "Perot for '92" one?) and round up a group of audacious athletes.



STEVE OLSEN/Daily Nexus

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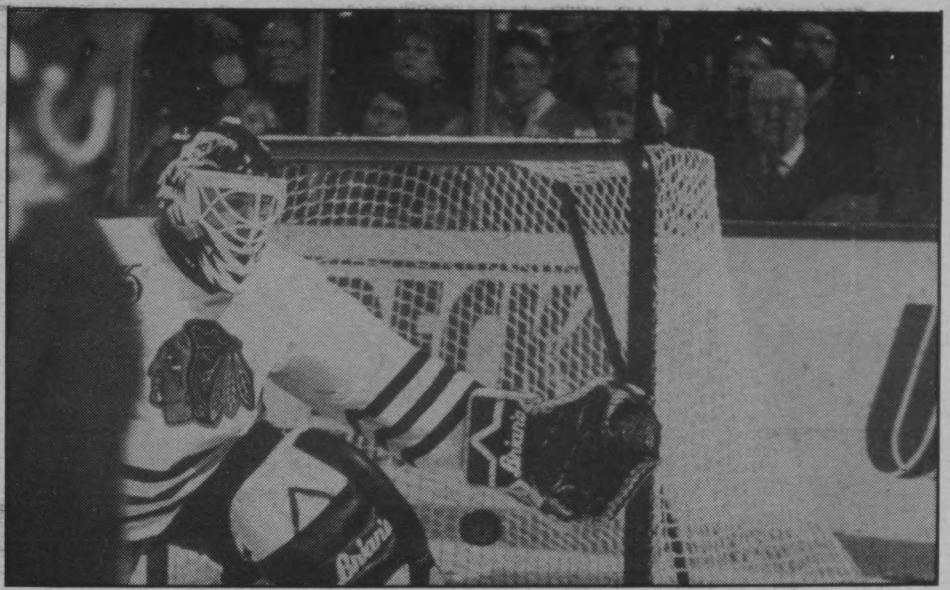
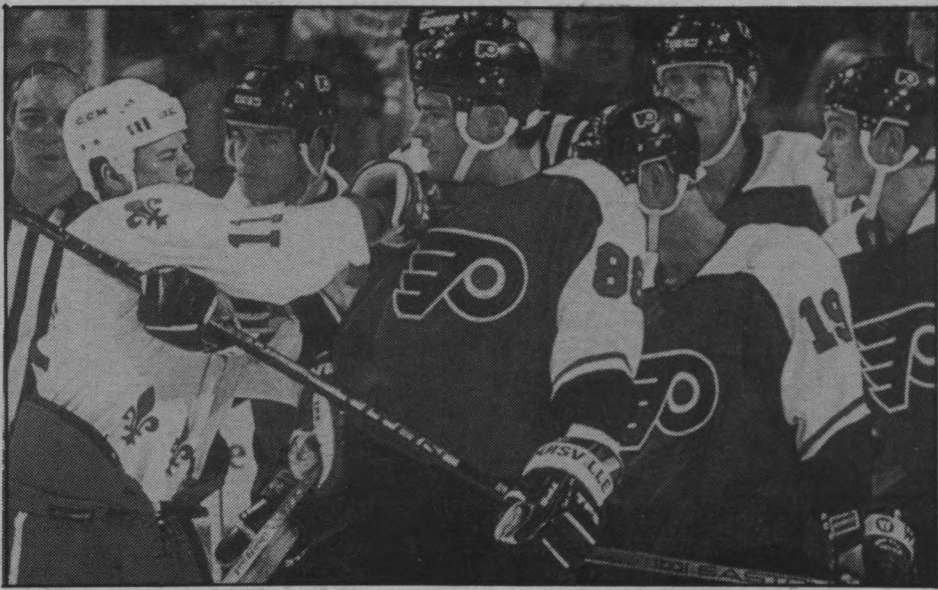
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By Scott McPherson
Winter Sports Staff

Let's say that you've decided that you want to learn how to play the game of hockey. Perhaps you remember the thrill you got while watching the Americans get thumped by the Unified Team in the 1992 Olympics at Albertville. Maybe you've been inspired by the recent reappearance of NHL games on ESPN. Or perhaps the idea of chasing a small, cylindrical piece

WINTER SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

Hockey

The Closest Place to Lace up the Skates Is an Hour Away, But the Drive May be Worth It

Winter Sports

A French guy is actually a French guy.

of vulcanized rubber all over the surface of a giant ice cube really appeals to you. Whatever the reason, let's assume you want to play the great Canadian sport of hockey.

Too bad. You can't.

Well, that's not entirely true; it's possible, but difficult. There is an ice hockey league that runs out of the nearest ice skating rink, but the arena is in Thousand Oaks — an hour's drive from Santa Barbara. Aside from the obvious travel con-

siderations, the league also does not come cheap: the Thousand Oaks league brings a price tag of \$400 for one 20-game season. Just the entry fee and the cost of gas getting to and from the rink over the course of one season will have you paying in the \$600 range.

And we haven't even taken you shopping for your equipment yet.

First there's the special hockey-style ice skates — those will cost you well over \$100. Then there are the pads, pants, stick, gloves, helmet, more pads etc. The final cost of your equipment package now tops the \$400 mark, bringing the entire cost of your hockey showcase to a cool \$1,000.

Even if you can find the money, you

still have to find the time. Let's say your team plays on a Saturday; you drive down to the rink, put on all of your gear, warm up, play the game, change and back into the car for the drive North. When you finally get to your Santa Barbara residence, it's almost six hours later. So much for your weekend.

But let's say you decide you want to check out this hockey thing anyway. You go to the rink, lace up some rental skates and hit the ice — literally. If you're not an experienced skater, you may find yourself horizontal on the ice more often than you are vertical. Ice skating is not easily mastered, and many, many trips to the rink will be required before you are competent enough on skates to even entertain the

notion of playing a fast-moving team sport while on the ice.

Meanwhile, the local adolescent hockey players — who hang out at the arena dressed in their NHL apparel and sporting the latest in hockey skates — will make your early ice skating experiences hell. The little dears will go zipping in and out of your immediate vicinity while trying to impress the 16-year-old figure skaters that constantly twirl in the center of the rink.

The rink scene is such a bizarre one.

But anyway, let's assume that you decide that ice hockey just isn't worth the time, effort and money. Have no fear — floor hockey was created just for people like you. It just so happens that UCSB has a thriving floor hockey population, as some 150 people regularly participate in intramural and pickup games on the second floor of Robertson Gymnasium. While the playing surface may not be as fast (or as cold) as traditional ice, floor hockey games can still be a good time.

The game of hockey requires more skill, strength and stamina than any other team sport, and even on the Rob Gym court, the game demands quite a bit. There is still a goalie looking to block all of your shots, there are still defenders that

See HOCKEY, p.10A

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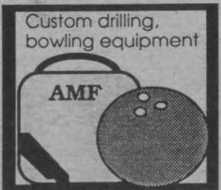
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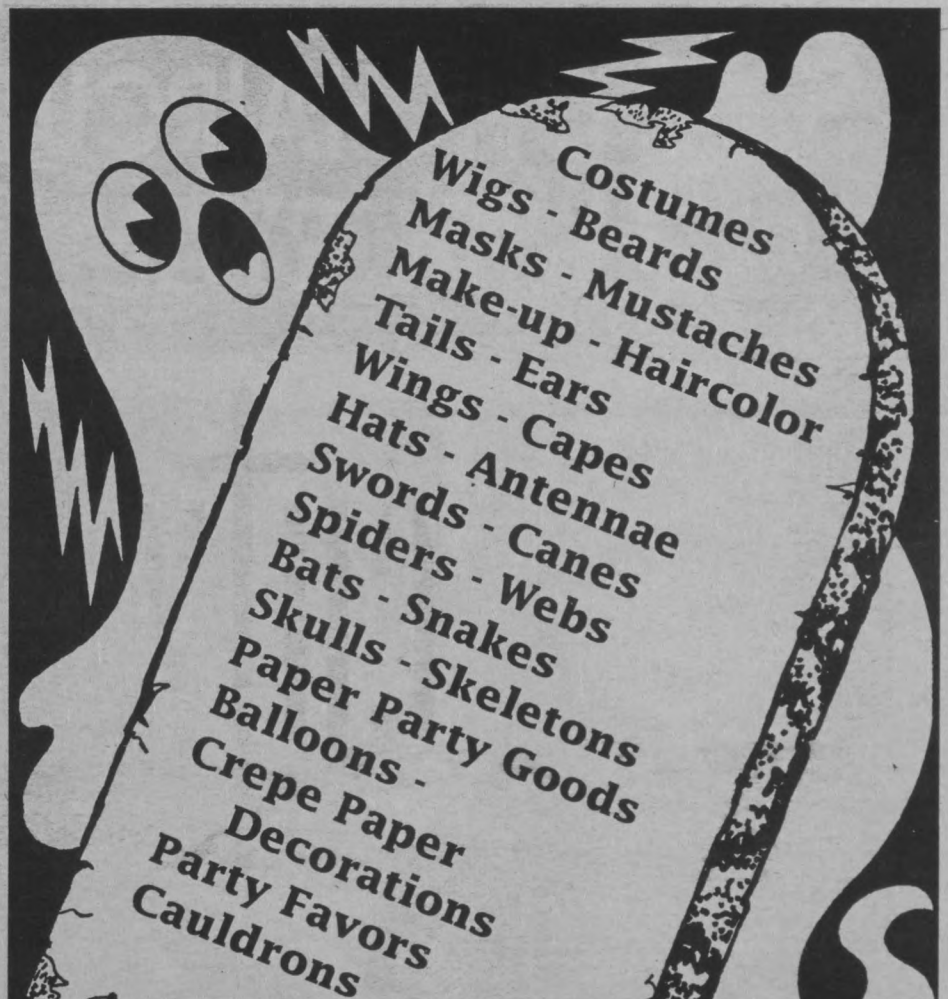


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WINTER SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

Luge and Curling

Shuffleboard on Ice and Hurling Bodies Down an Icy Slope Are Actually Olympic Events

By Jay Bennert
Winter Sports Staff

Imagine hurling down an icy incline at speeds approaching real, real fast or imagine playing shuffleboard with 40-pound rocks — in sub-zero temperatures.

You can't, can you?

Winter sports such as the luge and curling are practically unheard of in California. There just aren't that many kids who are playground curlers in Van Nuys. That

stars into its ranks.

Luge racers, the correct term is actually luge-guys, are renowned throughout the sporting world for their professionalism, dedication and prowess. Of course they look silly as all hell in those *Hefty Cinch-Sacks* they wear as uniforms. At the 1992 Winter Olympics in Albertville the American luge team looked like it had been covered in blue shellac and then had goldfish bowls stuck on their heads.

The world luge powerhouse is East Germany, closely followed by West Germany. Wait, no that's not right at all. With German reunification the two luge teams have joined together to form a sort of Fourth Reich of world lugeing. The real contest in international competitions now is for second place.

While lugeing is at least vaguely familiar because of the coverage it receives during the Olympics, curling does not even rate the briefest sound byte of television time. Of course this could be related to viewer interest. Curling is not the most action-packed of Olympic sports and it doesn't have any big name stars to lure the audience. You're not going to see Katarina Witt lugging a 40-pound rock around Lillehammer in 1994.

The sport of curling was invented in Scotland shortly after the Scots stopped painting themselves blue and practicing cannibalism. It was possibly invented during the reign of Mary, Queen of Scots, a Frenchwoman.

Curling was first played in the New World in Quebec (those darn Frenchies again). It involves taking the aforementioned 40-pound rock, called a stone

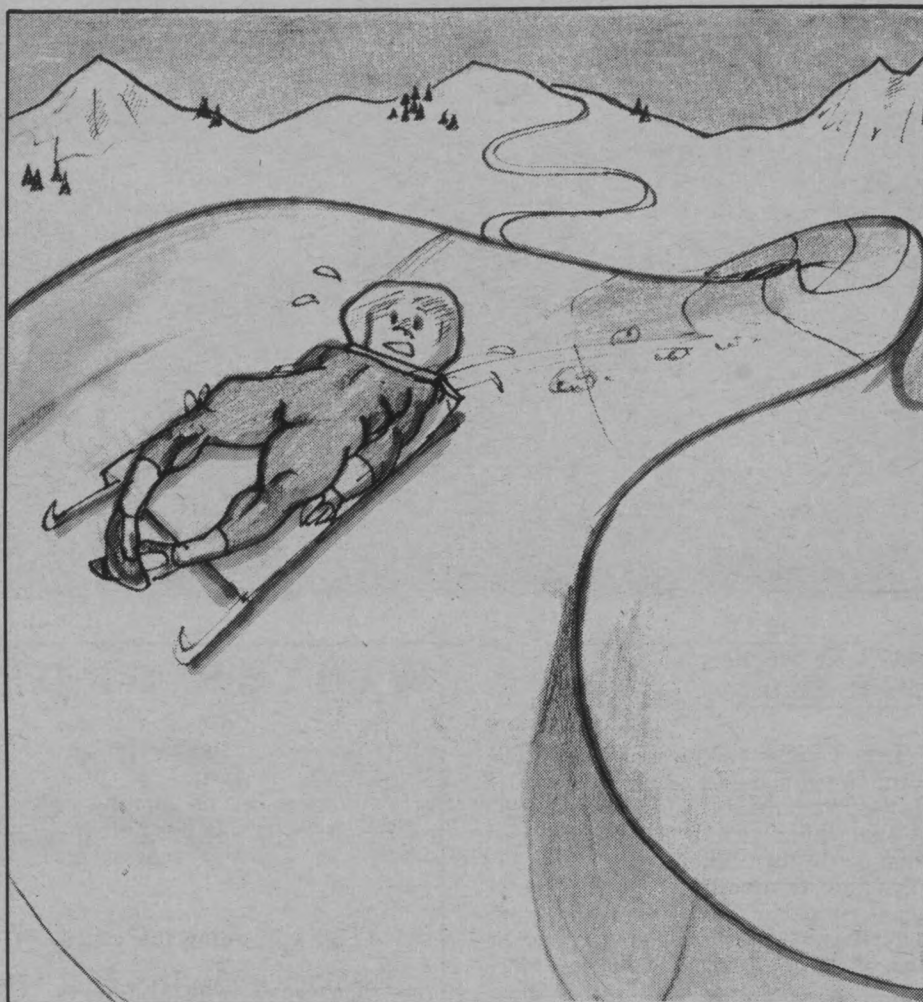
350 days of sunshine a year might have something to do with it.

These mainstays of alpine athleticism go unheralded except for a brief period every four years when the world puts on its parka for yet another Winter Olympics live (tape delayed on the West Coast) from the European iceberg of your choice.

The sport of luge racing was invented a long time ago by a group of Frenchmen who were incapable of winning a war without help (some things never change, do they?). In its modern incarnation, the luge is a race against the clock carried out on the same track used for bobsled runs. The two sports are, in fact, closely related. Except the luge has so far escaped the encroachment of aging, over-the-hill NFL

Winter Sports Fact

Luge racers tend to have back problems.



JOHN NEVAREZ/Daily Nexus

(those Scots don't miss a trick), and hucking it across the ice towards a flat bullseye.

Simple you say? *Au contraire mon*

Curling does not even rate the briefest sound byte of television time.

frere. While team member #1 hucks the stone, the other three members of the team take brooms and sweep the ice in front of the stone. This accomplishes two things. One, it gives curling its strategy

and action and two, it allows four guys per country to take the junket to Lillehammer instead of only one.

The best curlers in the world are Canadian. Which, since we stole Gretzky, Lemieux and Lindros et. al. from the Great White North, is the only sport in which the best players in the world are still in Canada.

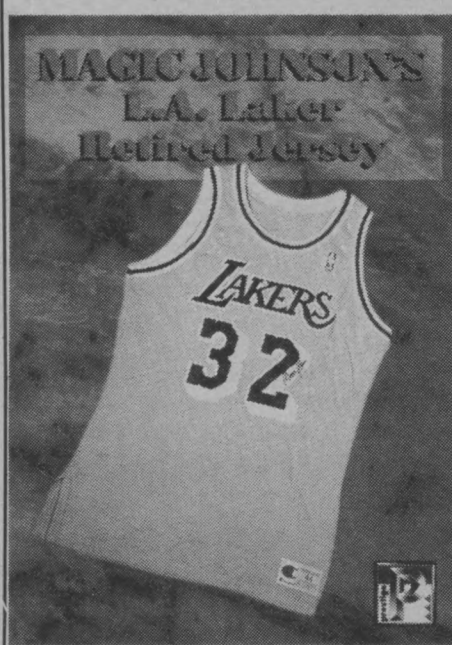
Well, OK they have the best players in the world in baseball too, at least this year. There, are you happy Toronto?

So this winter, as you are walking along the beach in your shorts and T-shirt, think of your brethren in Germany, Canada, Scotland and even France, who are freezing and toiling away at practice. After all, it's only 447 days to Lillehammer.

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WHAT TO WATCH IN THE WINTER MONTHS

JOHN TREVINO/Daily Nexus

By Brian Banks
Winter Sports Staff

For those of us who prefer the comfort of a soft couch to physical activity during the winter months, television has always been

Winter Sports Fact

Tim McCarver is actually a Kroft puppet.

a good friend. In the next few months, signs of the winter season will begin appearing on your local station. Unfortunately, we do not have the Winter Olympics this year, so fans will have to get their fill of the luge from other sources. This also means we won't get Tim McCarver's overanalysis until next year's baseball season.

There are some good things about the Olympic off-years.

The networks, then, will scramble to fill the winter sport quota in the absence of the Olympics. ABC's "Wide World of Sports" will follow its infamous "Agony of Defeat" guy with actual snow skiing. This way, we can see athletes skid down a long run on their backsides live, not just on some decade-old footage.

Professional hockey will also be making more of appearance on television this winter, as ESPN will carry weekly games in addition to live Kings hockey broadcasts on their flagship station. ESPN, no doubt, will also kill some time with other winter sports broadcasts that have a smaller audience interest. Expect to watch lots of curling and cross-country skiing in the afternoon and late night hours, ESPN's winter an-

swer to monster truck races.

Professional basketball will appease those fans who don't like their sports played on frozen water. The sweat and humidity of a basketball game gives the impression of a summer activity, while people outside most arenas are actually defrosting their ears.

Of course, there's also the NFL, which begins to wrap up its season around Christmas time. If you haven't seen a winter game played in Green Bay, you are missing one of television sports all-time greatest events. It's the only time that a quarterback's slide to complete a scramble can carry him 60 yards.

Check your local stations for other winter events on television. If you're lucky, you might catch a figure skater run into the wall or something. It beats reruns of "Frosty the Snowman."

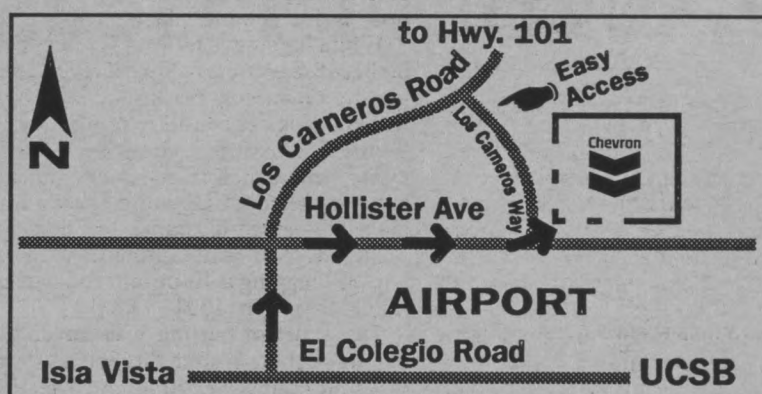
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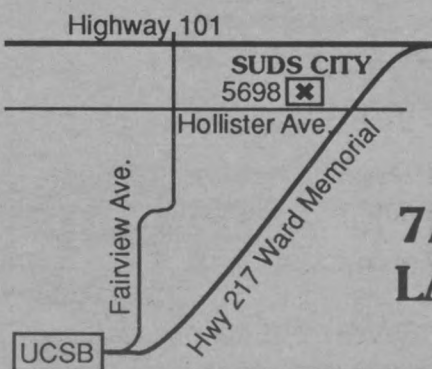
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FOOTBALL: It's Catchable

Continued from p.4A
(me, remember) will say. The dad just shakes his head and repeats himself. "If you can touch it, you can catch it."

If you ask me, that's a load of bull. Ask Pops, and he'll tell you it's true. The deal is, at the time, Pops had me convinced. You can convince a 6-year-old of a lot of things. So then you start telling your friends this theory about touching and catching, and they kick your butt for being gullible. Of course, this was before we knew what gullible was.

So I grew older (not grew up, because I'm still shorter than Ross Perot) and continued the whole football thing. Pops sat me down one day and explained the game, you know, what a touchdown is, what a safety is, all that stuff. It's pretty confusing if you don't know, or if you think you know and you're wrong. My old roommate Scott thought he knew a lot of things, but he was usually wrong. But we're getting off the point.

Anyway, like a lot of people, I played intramurals in junior high. There was this one guy on my team that had this real scrunched-up face. Our quarterback called him E.T. Now, how cool is that? The kid is at a real impressionable age, and we've got someone calling him E.T. There's a real morale builder. I never saw the guy again after junior high. I wonder if he still looks like E.T. I wonder if he left because people called him E.T. I hope he comes to our junior high reunion.

Back to the point. Intramurals gave way to high school football. So me, my old roommate Scott and the Jabba Junior guy all played. Even though our team sucked, it was really fun. There were only 20 guys on our team, and a lot of them were no good. I was OK, and Scott and the Jabba guy were pretty good. We also had this guy, Bernardo, a surfer type who was there for comic relief.

So we made it to varsity,

and the team still sucked. But Scott and Jabba were good enough to make All-League. See, even though Scott is usually wrong, he can still play some ball. Being wrong doesn't mean that you can't play football. I guess that's what Pops meant when he said, "If you can touch it, you can catch it." Or maybe that's not what he meant. Who knows?

Now, here we are, in college. We still play football, although it's back to intramurals. It's like we came full circle: intramurals to high school to intramurals. It's like a life analogy or something.

But sometimes, when we're out there playing ball, Storke Field fades away and I'm back in my backyard and Pops is drilling the ball at me. Then I snap back to reality, and the ball is coming at me, and I drop it, and Scott yells at me, even though he's wrong.

And then I think, good thing Pops isn't here.

HOCKEY

Continued from p.4A
will knock you off the puck and there are still speedy forwards that will blow past you on a breakaway. Even off the ice, the game is an intense experience.

But it can also be a painful experience. Slashes, bashes, checks and trips —

all part of the game — can take their toll when you are playing hockey week in and week out. Bruised fingers, pulled muscles, a generally sore body; they all come with the territory. Floor hockey is not for the weak at heart.

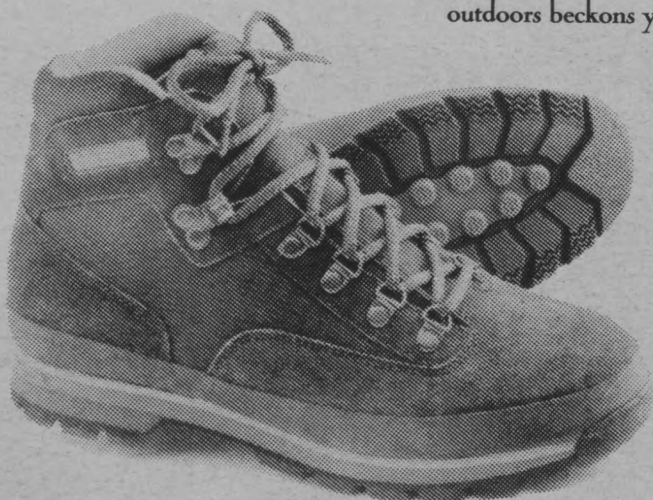
However, neither televised NHL games nor the Rob Gym experience can take the place of pure ice

hockey. Opportunities for you to participate in ice hockey events in the Santa Barbara area are — to say the least — extremely limited. Even if you never get an opportunity, lace up the skates yourselves, though, consider turning out for some floor hockey or even attending a NHL game. Hockey is the hottest sport on ice, and it is definitely worth the time.

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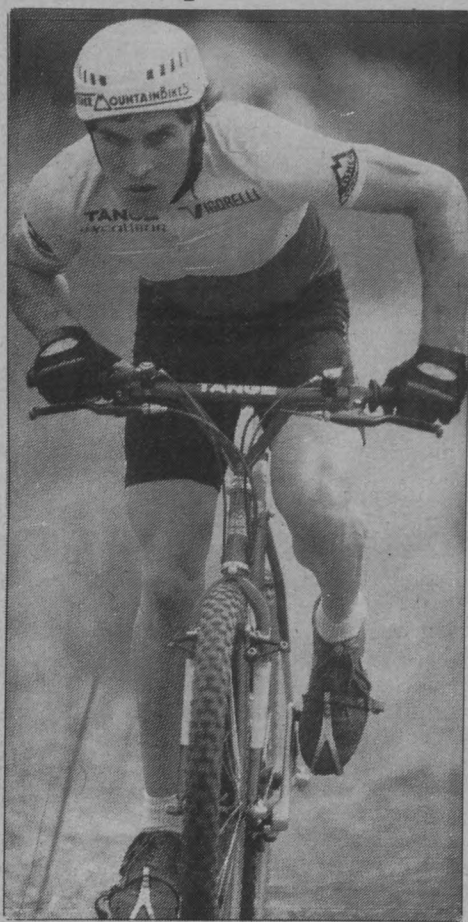
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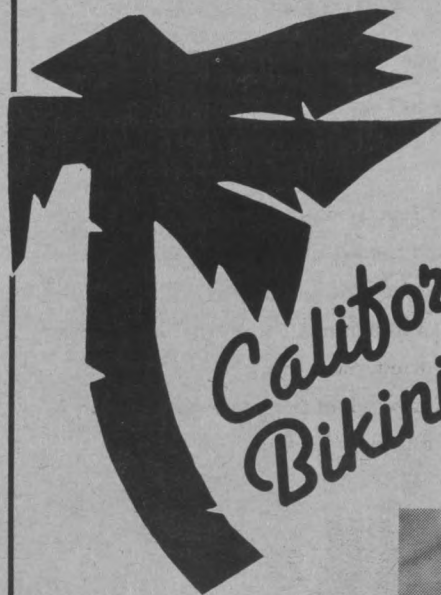
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