

Too much infighting is one reason we trail Soviet athletes



BILL CAMERON

American amateur sports are in trouble because of a lack of centralization and money, according to Bill Cameron, who recently returned from a three-week tour of the Soviet Union's physical education programs.

Cameron, a former Livonia Family Y executive director and tennis instructor, said the Soviet government encourages and finances sports programs and puts athletics and physical fitness on a high priority.

He said amateur athletic groups in the U.S. are "all fighting and there is no central control of sports."

Parents in this country often experience a financial drain, he explained, just for wanting their children to take part in athletic programs.

In the Soviet Union, Cameron said, many athletes spend as much as 1,000 hours a year in training, including physiology and psychological research.

Soviet athletes are guaranteed better education, a college training, better housing and better jobs and travel opportunities through their specialties, he said.

He talked about his trip last week to members of the Livonia Rotary Club at their luncheon in the Livonia Elks Lodge on Plymouth Road near Merriman. He expanded on the talk in an interview.

Cameron was among 75 Americans and Canadians on the trip sponsored by the Institute of Comparative Physical Education, located at Concordia University in Montreal.

AN EXAMPLE of the importance the Soviet Union places on physical education and athletics—compared to American schools dropping or reducing sports programs because of mileage defeats—is the gymnastics program.

Cameron said he saw one class for 150 students with 20 coaches, three choreographers and four piano players.

There are also numerous sports clubs for youngsters and adults and the annual price for a family is "the same as two packs of cigarettes."

"You've got it made if you're an athlete," Cameron said of the advantages the government gives those students.

"They have a fantastic physical education program," Cameron said. "We can learn a lot."

There are no professional sports, like privately owned teams in this country, all amateur athletes are controlled by the government, he continued.

A promising youngster is spotted and encouraged to enroll in a special sports school, Cameron said, where he or she continues to get the traditional education with an emphasis on athletics.

For the extra-skilled youngsters, there are boarding schools with the students spending their weekends with their parents. Physical education majors in college receive a monthly income from the government and are guaranteed a job after graduation, he added.

All Soviet students are exposed to physical education from nursery, which starts at the age of two, through college," he said.

The sports clubs used by families are well used, Cameron said.

He displayed a series of one club which has seven swimming pools, five enclosed and two outside.

CAMERON WAS also critical of the level of American sports training for coaches.

"Most U.S. coaches wouldn't qualify in the Soviet Union—they don't have the training."

He said every physical education instructor in the Soviet Union is a "talent scout" and recommends students for the special athletic schools.

Cameron said the country's high priority on sports has been going on since the 1920's but has been stepped up recently to prepare for the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

IN GENERAL, comments about his trip, Cameron said he plans to bring along extra pairs of blue jeans if he returns to the Soviet Union.

The reason, he said, is a heavy blackmarket trade in that product with jeans selling for \$100 a pair.

Socially, the nation has many of the same problems as America, according to Cameron, including divorce, alcoholism (many people drink straight vodka) and birth control.

The abortion rate there is high, he said, because there are no birth control pills or family planning methods used.

There is a larceny problem, he said, an example of which is that Soviet drivers keep their windshield wipers and outside view mirrors inside their cars until they need them to avoid having them stolen.

"When it starts raining, there are big traffic jams when everyone stops and installs their windshield wipers."

"The Soviets have the same interests we do—peace and the good things in life, such as a car and television," he said.

But in sharp contrast to American cities, Moscow, with more than seven million persons, has only apartments and no single-family houses.

But there are some economic advantages, he added.

There have been no rent increases for apartments for nearly 50 years and food prices have remained stable for 10 years.

Michou Freeman
CLOTHES ARE EXCLUSIVE WITH US IN DETROIT

Copper & Copper
Clothing to Gentlemen
Somerset Mall David Whitney Bldg. Troy Detroit

THE BOARDROOM
For the most interesting ways to keep up appearances.

Somerset Mall • Fairlane Towne Center (Inside Hughes & Hatcher)

BRIGHT IDEAS FOR YOUR HOME

Michigan Chandelier Co.
... you'll see us in a better light!

BIRMINGHAM 6580 Telegraph at Maple
ROCHESTER 433 W. Main at University

the good stuff
Summer Sale
Englander Triangle

Two are better than one!

Apply for one, the other, or both at...

you ought to know a **DETROIT BANK** or **DETROIT BANK & TRUST**

11825 Mayfield Livonia
Agents for American Red Ball

Your next move should be with us!

Local & long distance moving
Trade shows • Exhibits

427-6350

Livonia Moving & Storage
11825 Mayfield Livonia
Agents for American Red Ball

MoTech
AUTOMOTIVE EDUCATION CENTER

Good Mechanics make good money!

Build a solid future as an Auto Mechanic.

Unlimited opportunities! Demand for mechanics! Exciting future! These are only three of the many reasons why you should consider a future as an auto mechanic or auto body repair person. Take the first step. Talk with the people at MoTech. They'll explain step-by-step the one-year five-day-a-week curriculum which teaches you all about all domestic cars. And you'll learn how the program prepares you to tackle the NASE tests. It's one of only two tests an auto mechanic can pass to become a certified professional mechanic in Michigan. Start on your future today. Call 522-9510 and you'll be on your way.

THE AUTO SERVICE INDUSTRY NEEDS YOU
Enrollments Now Being Accepted
CALL 522-9510

MoTech ADMITS STUDENTS OF ANY SEX, RACE, COLOR AND NATIONAL OR ETHNIC ORIGIN.

MoTech
AUTOMOTIVE EDUCATION CENTER
35155 Industrial Road, Livonia, Michigan 48150
(313) 522-9510

CHRYSLER INSTITUTE CHRYSLER CORPORATION

Enroll your children now to the area's fastest growing

INDEPENDENT CONGRESSIONAL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Kindergarten thru High School

CONGREGATION BETH ABRAHAM—HILLEL
5075 West Maple Road, West Bloomfield

Highly Trained and Qualified Staff for their

- Nursery Program
- Sunday School Program
- Hebrew School Program
- Judaica Seminar Program
- for Teens
- Teens and Pre-Teens
- Planned Youth Activities
- Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Graduation and Confirmation

ISRAEL I. HALPERN, Rabbi

Only a few more openings are available in some of the classes

FOR INFORMATION AND ENROLLMENT CALL 851-6880

Serving the Area For 22 Years

ABLE HOME BUILDERS
Licensed Builders Completely Insured

ADDITIONS • PORCHES
DORMERS • GARAGES
ALUMINUM SIDING
ALUMINUM TRIM
ATTICS • BATHROOMS
KITCHENS • REMODELING

FREE ESTIMATES • 5 YEARS TO PAY NO MONEY DOWN
Quality Workmanship Only

WE SPECIALIZE IN RESIDENTIAL WORK

Call **LO 5-9070**
8446 WHITEFIELD DEARBORN

BUICK

BUICK TOWN

The BUICK Open
at the FLINT ELKS GOLF CLUB
Sept. 1, 2, 3, & 4

What: A major PGA Tour event, where top pros and local golf celebrities will compete for \$100,000 in prize money. Where: The Flint Elks Golf Club, located off Maple Road, west of Irish. (See map for directions.) When: September 1, 2, 3 & 4. Tee-off time is scheduled for approximately 8 a.m. How: Advance tickets are \$3.00—\$5.00 at the gate. All tickets include free parking. To order, send a check to: The Flint Elks Golf Club, 7177 E. Maple Road, Grand Blanc, 48439; The Elks Lodge, 2715 Leonard, N.W., Grand Rapids, 49504; or The Elks Lodge, 5349 W. Main St., Kalamazoo, 49009. Tickets are also available from many of your local Buick dealers