

Canada Winter Games box-off highlights Albion boxing card

By Steve Goodwin
For The Advocate

Albion Boxing Club is hosting an amateur card Oct. 1 that will feature a box-off that includes club member Noah Thompson.

Thompson will box in a 57-kilogram bout against Josh Cull of Citadel Boxing Club in Halifax to decide who will join Team Nova Scotia's boxing contingent for the 2023 Canada Winter Games in P.E.I.

He is among nine of the 10 competitive club boxers on the card. It resumed training for the 2022-23 season earlier this month. Fifteen other boxers are training for a possible chance to compete. That's as many boxers as the coaching staff can handle, coach Walter Linthorne said.

"We're full," he said. "The boxers are looking good."

Erin MacGregor has also returned to coach the boxers, while former club boxer Jay Martin has become a coach.

Both MacGregor and Linthorne boxed in the Canada Games.

"They're doing great," she said. "This is the earliest we did a show. We're training hard and they'll be ready."

MacGregor has also coached at the Canada Games level and is currently a Winter Games associate coach with Boxing Nova Scotia.

"I love coaching," she said. "It's been a great experience."

Club president Jim Worthen

said he's anticipating a top-notch boxing season. He said amateur boxing in Nova Scotia is in good hands.

"I'm really happy with the club and looking forward to the card," he said. "I'm just thrilled with the way boxing is going in the province. Erin and Walter are proven coaches, and Jay Martin is moving through the ranks of coaching."

Worthen praised Thompson and club heavyweight Ian MacLeod for their gold medal performances at the 2022 Brampton Cup in July. MacLeod has already qualified for the Winter Games.

"If Noah wins, he'll make the team," Worthen said.

Worthen noted the opportunity the club has to host a card May 27 next year to help it mark 35 years.

"We're really happy with that too," he said.

The club continues to offer a non-competitive boxing program for women directed by Al Archibald.

The program starts at 6 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday for an hour before the club's other boxers begins training that includes exercises, as well as sparring for the competitive boxers.

Albion Club's card will precede cards scheduled for Oct. 8 in Sydney, Oct. 15 in Oxford and Oct. 29 in Glace Bay. Others include Citadel club in Halifax on Nov. 5, New Waterford on Nov. 15 and Eskasoni on Nov. 26.



Noah Thompson, left, evades a punch thrown by Nolan Walsh during a sparring session at the Albion Boxing Club. (Goodwin photo)

Clyde Fraser fondly remembers Summit Series after 50 years

By Steve Goodwin
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Memories of a titanic hockey series are flowing back for Clyde Fraser.

A view of the contents of a suitcase emphasizes what it meant for Fraser to attend five of the eight games between Canada and the former Soviet Union in what has been called the Summit Series, including the last four games in Moscow. A diary he kept helped him remember the trip vividly.

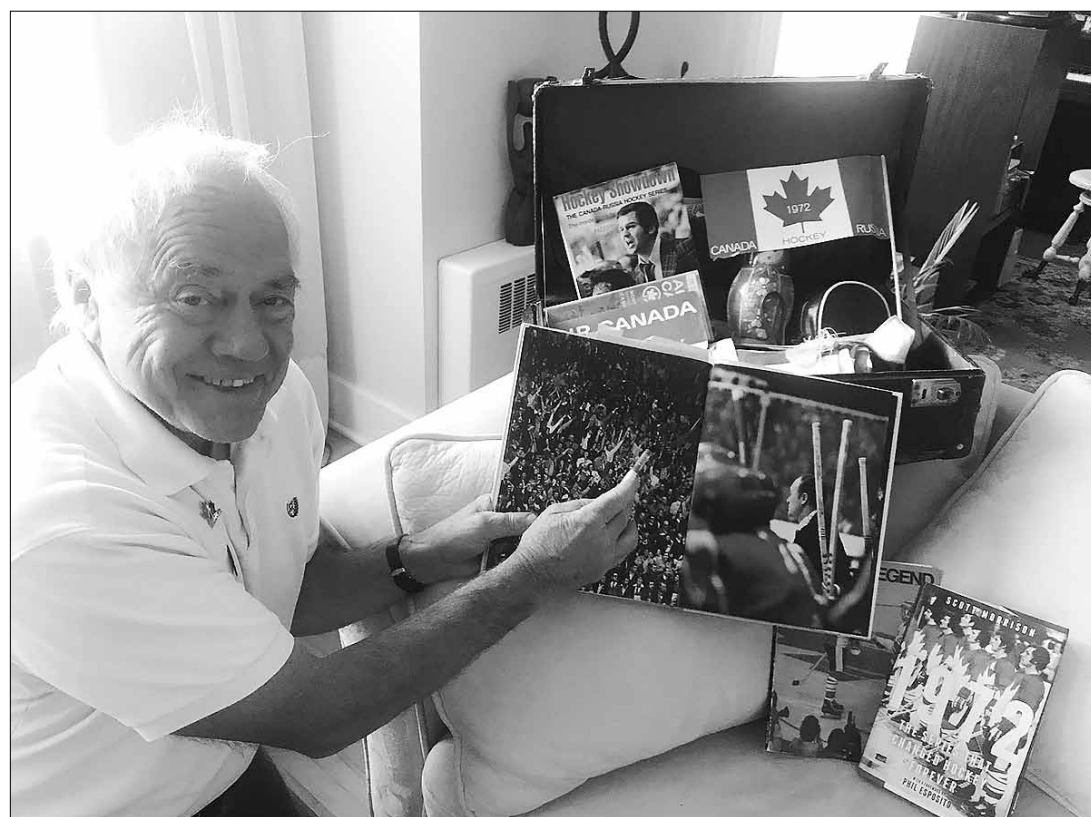
Canada won the series with a 6-5 victory in the final game Sept. 28, 1972 - 50 years ago.

Fraser is a retired educator who had been teaching for three years when he attended the first game. Canada won, 4-1, in Toronto after its shocking 7-3 loss in the series opener in Montreal. The Soviets tied Canada, 4-4, in Winnipeg and won 5-3 in Vancouver.

He had not planned to attend the game in Toronto but was offered a ticket if he could travel there.

"I thought, 'Why couldn't I trade places?'" he said, referring to the game in Montreal. "I'm glad I didn't. I left here at 5 a.m. and got there at 6 p.m., an hour before the game," he said. "I flew back to Halifax the next day. It was just a fluke that I got to Toronto."

Fraser needed to take two



Clyde Fraser shares a view of a suitcase full of memories from the 1972 Summit Series.

(Goodwin photo)

weeks of unpaid vacation from teaching to attend the last four games in the Soviet Union. Upon his arrival, he was astounded by a society that seemed so different from Canada.

"They'd give you just about anything to get a pair of jeans," he said. "We wondered, 'Where's all the traffic in a city of seven

million people?' We saw women dressed in coats sweeping the streets with corn brooms. These were two entirely different lifestyles coming together."

Among the suitcase's contents are the tickets he bought for the four games at the Luzhniki Ice Palace in Moscow.

The on-ice tension was

matched by the loud and sometimes raucous contingent of some 3,000 Canadians witnessing the action, compared to the remaining, mostly stoic, Soviet fans. They would show their displeasure with whistling.

"We outshouted them with 3,000 people," Fraser said. "We'd drown them out."

Fraser remembered how Soviet fans tried to cheer them up after Canada blew a 4-1 lead in the first game in Moscow and lost 5-4. Then things changed.

He noted someone had composed a cheer that contained the Russian translations for 'yes' and 'no', which the Canadians roared with great fervour: "Da Da, Canada; Nyet Nyet, Soviet."

The cheer coincided with Canada winning the other three games and Soviet fans were not pleased.

"We didn't do anything that endeared ourselves to them," he said.

The series was in two parts, with two weeks between the four games in Canada and the four in Moscow. Fraser said he found it prophetic for Team Canada.

"I felt maybe after two weeks of preparation they'd be in better shape," he said. "The conditioning was missing before, and so was the confidence."

The last game was especially tense for the Canadian fans, with police and military personnel mounted on horseback and lining the route to the rink.

"It felt really intimidating," he said. "We were wondering what would happen if we won."

The eighth game had its moments. It almost completely

unravelled in the first two minutes when Canada was assessed several penalties, and Canadian forward J.P. Parise became so incensed when given a penalty that he swung his hockey stick at referee Josef Kompalla.

"We thought it was going to be a riot," Fraser said.

They got to see Canadian representative Alan Eagleson rescued by Canadian players from authorities after he became angry when the goal judge was slow to turn on the light to indicate a Canadian goal in the third period.

"That was right down in front of us," Fraser said. "You couldn't get away with that in the free world."

Canada eventually won the game with Paul Henderson's famous goal with 34 seconds left in the third period.

The Canadian fans were isolated from how much of Canada became increasingly galvanized by the series and how the Team Canada was rallying.

"We didn't know how the whole economy had stopped to watch these games," he said. "Everything had come to a stop."

Two things bother Fraser. One is the eight Canadian players and the 15 Soviet players who have since died. The other is the limited response to the anniversary due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Albions capture U-13 Atlantic title

The Stellarton Albions U-13 boys' baseball team came home recently as Atlantic champions.

The Albions captured the title with a 5-0 record, as well as compliments as the most polite and friendly team others have met.

Stellarton opened the Atlantic tournament with an 11-1 win over the Jays, followed by a whopping 20-5 win against the CBS Raiders.

In the Albions' third game, this time against the Paradise Phantoms, they came out with a 20-4 win.

They defeated the Cornwall Cougars, 13-8, followed by a 17-7 championship win over the CBS Raiders.

Stellarton's Ashton Chislett and Evan MacIntosh placed first and second respectively in the home run derby.

Team members include coaches Ian MacIntosh, John Bungay, Greg Park and Leigh MacLennan, as well as players Matt Kennedy, Jack Cameron, Chase Comeau, Ashton Chislett,

Chace Campbell, Noah Fitt, Evan MacIntosh, Brody MacLennan, Nicholas MacKenzie, Lincoln Bungay, William Butland, Max Barry and Liam Park.



Members of the Stellarton Albions U-13 boys' baseball team celebrate after capturing the Atlantic championship title.

(Submitted photo)



The Stellarton Albions U-13 boys' baseball team kept a 5-0 record to bring home the Atlantic championship title recently.

(Submitted photo)