

NEWS SPORTS COMMENT

A November Treat: Russ Cagers in Aud

By Evening News Sports Writer

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In the fanciful world of sports promotion the term, "dream game," has been applied to everything from free-for-all marble matches to catch-as-catch-can pinacle.

Wipe away the cloudy fingerprints of flippancy, restore the term's original gloss and it fits an attraction now being sought for the City of Buffalo.

If present plans work out, Buffalo will be the site of one of eight games to be played in the United States by the Russian national basketball team next November.



TOM MacKINNON

With the enthusiastic backing of Mayor Kowal, Herb Mols, president of the Niagara Association of the Amateur Athletic Union, and Tom MacKinnon, city director of recreation, are preparing Buffalo's bid for a place among the eight host cities.

Their original idea was to pit the Russians against an all-star team composed of players from Canisius, Niagara, St. Bonaventure, University of Buffalo and other Western New York schools.

From the viewpoint of the Niagara Frontier sports enthusiast, the Little Three historian, and the casual spectator, the chance to see such standouts as Bill O'Connor and Tom Chester of Canisius, Joe Maddrey and Kenny Glenn of Niagara, and Miles Aiken and Freddy Crawford of St. Bonaventure playing as a unit against the Russians would be a matchless basketball treat.

Practical considerations often get in the way of the ideal, however, and right now chances of arranging local opposition for the Russian team are quite slim.

Time is the chief obstacle. The Russians will make their tour at a time when United States colleges are preparing to open their regular season.

No one, least of all the U. S. State Department, wants to send a second-rate team against the Russians. WNY coaches feel that it would take a minimum of 2½ to 3 weeks to put together a unit with enough cohesiveness to make a respectable showing.

These coaches are understandably reluctant to have so much of their own practice time disrupted.

One partial solution would be permission from the National Collegiate Athletic Association for the schools involved to begin their regular practice a couple of weeks earlier than the usual Oct. 15 opening.

Coming so close to the season opener, the project still would require considerable sacrifice on the part of the players and coaches participating.

The temptation to insist that the sacrifice would be worth it is curbed by awareness of the fact that it's always easy to volunteer someone else for a difficult