

MIDDY CHRON... 6/2/1980.....

Dateline Moscow

British basketball team have great chance to get to Olympic finals

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IF some athletes who hope to compete in the Olympic Games in Moscow have been guilty of burying their heads in the sand to the crisis in Afghanistan, the same could not be said about Paul Stimpson, an ace basketball player and student at Borough Road College who hopes to take his Bachelor of the Humanities degree in six months time.

Paul acknowledges the threat to world peace if the Russians stay on indefinitely in Afghanistan and he supports measures of protest by the rest of the world to get them to withdraw. If this meant a cancellation of the Games this year he would support such a move.

He freely admits that this would be a shattering blow as he has set his heart on appearing at the Games. Like other athletes, he does not consider a partial boycott a problem, except that victory would have a hollow ring to it.

Paul is a member of the 16-man British Olympic squad travelling soon to North Carolina for an intensive three-week training stint. Only 12 players will form the team representing Britain at the Olympics — if they qualify — and the Borough Road student is confidently expected to be one of the lucky dozen who then have to win matches at Lucerne and Geneva if they are to qualify for the finals in Moscow. This year Britain seems to have their best chance ever of making the finals.

Paul started playing basketball at the age of 12 at Glyn Grammar School in Surrey. Before that he had been a footballer and also played cricket for the school. He drifted into basketball and almost immediately into the county team.

Since then his career has been one long success story. He was a member of the Crystal Palace team that won the National Junior Championship and has been with the club ever since. They are the current holders of the national cup.

Since his arrival at Borough Road three years ago the col-

lege has gone from strength to strength, but he modestly attributes this to a strong influx of other players who started at the same time as him.

Borough are unbeaten this year in 21 games (league, cup and friendlies). After winning their area section they are through to the quarter finals of the British Colleges Cup and this is their main objective this season.

Being so successful in his sport has one drawback for

Stimpson. If all his basketball hopes are realised this year, the Moscow Games will clash with the finals for his degree, but the college have expressed a willingness to assist him where they can. He is prepared, however, to postpone his finals until next year if need be.

With the help of television, basketball is fast gaining in popularity. Sponsors are not difficult to find and it may soon become a semi-professional sport.

SPORTS Editor Léon Stork, who will be covering the 1980 Olympic Games, today sums up the week's developments in the crisis confronting the world over the Moscow venue.

Unbeaten

Borough Road 111 pts., Hamlets 84

BOROUGH ROAD maintained their 100 per cent record in the Capital League with another convincing win. Hamlets are near the top of the league and a win would have consolidated their challenge.

Borough Road led 37-12 after seven minutes and then added 13 points without reply to lead 50-12 in the 11th minute. At half-time they were 60-28 ahead. The second half was much more even but Borough Road finished winners by 27 points. Paul Stimpson was their leading scorer with 27 points, Dave Conway got 23 and Andy Ward 21.

Borough Road advanced to the quarter-finals of the Capital League Cup with a 112-65 win over Falcons. Paul Stimpson was again top scorer with 23 points followed by Adrian Cox on 20 points.



Paul Stimpson—a prolific scorer for Borough Road College.