

TORONTO DAILY STAR SPORTS

'Year of hell pays ...

... for Hungerford, Jackson

Olympic rowers win Marsh Trophy but lack of cash may split up combo

By PAUL RIMSTEAD

Place equal parts of George Hungerford and Roger Jackson in a rowing shell, add water, and you have instant success.

At least, it seemed that simple last October at Tokyo when Hungerford and Jackson startled the sports world by winning an Olympic gold medal as a rowing pair.

"But, what people don't seem to realize," says Hungerford, "is that we went through a year of hell, rowing and training."

And today that year of hell paid off again. The two unlikely heroes have been named co-winners of the Lou Marsh Trophy for 1964.

The award, in memory of

the late Lou E. Marsh, a former sports editor of The Star, is presented annually to Canada's top athlete — amateur or professional, male or female.

Judging is done by a five-member committee of sportsman headed by Harry "Red" Foster of Toronto.

Other members of the committee are Charles Ring, donor of the trophy, Charles Higginbottom, Donald Ross and Oscar Pearson.

Also rating high with the voters were Bill Crothers, last year's winner and a silver medal winner in the Olympic 800 metres; Canada's four-man bobsled team which won a gold medal at the winter Olympics; jock-

ey Ron Turcotte, and Doug Rogers, silver medallist in heavyweight judo.

Hungerford and Jackson, students at the University of British Columbia, were probably the most unlikely medallists at Tokyo. They flashed into prominence and now it looks as if they're going to flash out.

Jackson, a Toronto boy, is faced with having to retire from his short career for financial reasons.

"It's simple," says Hungerford. "Roger hasn't got a bean to his name. That means he'll probably have to start working and that will be the end of rowing."

Hungerford is an aspiring young lawyer in his fourth year of an arts course and Jackson, a grad-

uate of the University of Western Ontario, is mastering in physical education.

To refresh your memory, these were the fellows who entered the pairs competition at Tokyo as complete unknowns. Other Canadian rowers sat in the stands praying their buddies wouldn't be humiliated.

Hungerford had been a member of the powerful UBC eights until felled by mononucleosis last August. That put him out of the picture except as a substitute and that's how he happened to team up with Jackson.

"Winning took us completely by surprise," smiles Hungerford today. But no more than they took everyone else by surprise.

If they do stay together — that is, if someone figures out how Roger can exist without an income — the boys will row at London in the Henley Royal Regatta in 1963. Again, they have to iron out a few financial wrinkles.

Other competitions, if they can get there, are the European championships in 1965 and the world championships at Yugoslavia in 1966.

The British Empire Games are at Jamaica in 1966, but rowing has been dropped from the program because of a lack of facilities.

However, things don't look bright for the future.

It may well be that their fling in Tokyo will have to last them a lifetime.



ROGER JACKSON (LEFT) AND GEORGE HUNGERFORD
Olympic gold medallists take Marsh Trophy, too