

E 6317 Contractor misses deadline for new Field House floor

By Gerry Klein
of The StarPhoenix

The Saskatoon Field House floor, long the victim of water problems, has been washed out by a rain in Victoria, B.C.

The three-week job of putting in the floor was to be completed Monday but, by Tuesday afternoon, the contractor had yet to show up to start.

Martin Surfacing Inc., a Seattle, Wash., company, was given the contract this spring but got caught up in rain while putting in sports flooring for the Victoria Commonwealth Games, said Peter Holdstock, the city's chief architect.

A company representative is expected to contact city officials today to discuss scheduling.

"If the material has left the plant in New Jersey, they will send a crew (from Seattle) to arrive in Saskatoon at the same time," Holdstock said.

"We don't know what to advise leisure services at this point," he said.

A number of organizations have had to put their programs on hold or be moved until the flooring is in, said Sandi Schultz, manager of program development in leisure services.

A delay to the beginning of November won't hurt but, if it goes on past that, it could cause Sask Tennis problems, said executive director Rory Park. Tennis and the public time the floor would be used are the most affected.

Until now, the tennis club has been able to reimburse people for the month of October but, in a month, the loss of training time will cause difficulties, Park said.

"If it's not done by Nov. 1, then we will start to worry big time," he said.

The Special Olympics and Saskatchewan Table Tennis have been postponed until after Nov. 1.

The Cardiac Rehabilitation Group, which uses the facility for its exercise program, has moved to the School For the Deaf.

"We aren't putting a dollar value on (the delay) just yet," Schultz said. "Our first priority is to get the contractor here and get the work started."

Ken Weinbel, the company representative responsible for the project, couldn't be reached for comment and didn't answer a phone message.

"We still think (the contractor) is on the up and up and we think he's coming," Holdstock said. "All indications are that everything is above board."

Saskatoon isn't a big player when it comes to sport flooring while the work for the 1994 Commonwealth Games will receive international exposure.

An attempt by Weinbel to come to Saskatoon this week to explain the situation was foiled when the Seattle airport was fogged in on Monday, Holdstock said.

The city's lawyers have been in contact with the company's bond agent to inform it of the delay, he said.

Whether Saskatoon will take action



SANDI SCHULTZ
... numerous delays

against Martin will be a matter for the lawyers and the politicians to determine.