

# HOLT ON SPORT

by Gary Holt

This is the first effort in what I hope will be a weekly sports column in which I will make an effort to comment on the current intercollegiate sports scene. The main emphasis will be to comment favourably, unfavourably, and I hope constructively about the efforts of the Dalhousie Tigers in the AIAA. (For those who don't know, AIAA stands for Atlantic Intercollegiate Athletic Association, and it is the league that Dal, SMU, X, etc. play in.)

## REGRESSING

I've been on this campus since 1965 and generally have seen a great deal of improvement in the caliber of teams which Dalhousie has fielded to meet the traditionally powerful sports schools of the conference.

In basketball, the trend has been to continued improvement and it has resulted in a very competitive team every year. In 1965-66 the team record was 7-5 and it has never worsened since then. In hockey I suffered along with everyone else until two years ago when the team gained some respectability and was extremely happy last season when they reached the Conference Championship game against SMU.

## FOOTBALL

Football looks like a different story. It appears we are going backwards this year. Last year, everyone on campus was very optimistic and on paper it

looked as if we had a shot at the title. But what a team looks like on paper often has little to do with their performance on the field. This was the case last year as the record fell from 2-4 from the previous year's 4-2.

This year appears even bleaker at this point. We are 0-4 with the two toughest opponents in the conference left to play. So it is 0-6 for 1971. Granted, there were a great many losses in personnel. This is to be expected when people graduate but the sad part is the failure to recruit new players.

At first glance the fault would appear to lie with the coaching staff but the rumor is that this is not the whole story. It seems that a number of marks transcripts were lost by the admissions office and as a result a number of good football plays decided to go elsewhere. The question is whether it was purely accidental or whether it is an underhanded way of de-emphasizing football at Dalhousie. I prefer to leave the question unanswered.

## REPUTATION

As much as the academics may disagree, a great deal of a University's reputation comes from its athletic endeavours. The biggest part of the reputation is a result of the football team. Wherever the fault lies it should not be allowed to continue.

## BRIGHTER THINGS

Looking on the better side of things, it would appear that

both the basketball and hockey teams have good chances to take conference honours. In hockey the only players gone from last year's team are Ted Scrutton, Sean Boyd and John Henry. In as much as both Boyd and Scrutton were fine hockey players, there seems to be more than adequate replacements in such players as Pierre Page and Ralph McCully.

The defence appears very solid with the additions of Charlie Barter and John McLeod. The only real question remaining is the goal tending. With Henry gone the job falls to Doug Farquahar. As backup netminder a year ago, he didn't see much action so the jury is still out on his ability. It is rumored that football player Brian Gervais is going to try out for the goal tending spot. If he is as good a goal tender as he is a football player, then the net will be very capably guarded.

## ROUNDBALL

Basketball will be helped by the return of two big boys in the persons of John Cassidy and Brian Peters. Losses from last year are Joe Leishman and Bruce Bourassa. The rest of the 1970-71 team, a team that had a 9-3 record, is back. Brock Savage, Albert Slaunwhite, Pete Sprogis, Steve Bezanson, and so on.

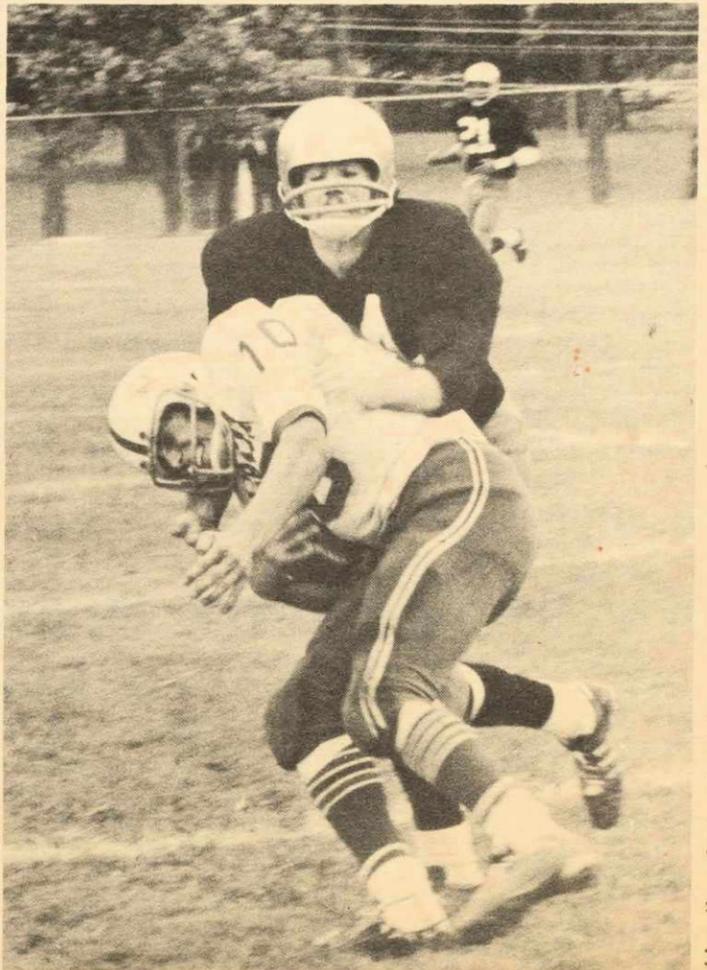
Again this year the teams will play in the Halifax Forum. It's a great place to watch a basketball game and this year we have a great team to watch. I understand tickets are

available at the Gym.

## TIGER TALES

This bit of gossip and opinion will continue in future weeks

and if you want things noted in the Gazette re upcoming sports events, let me know. It's Gary Holt, Howe Hall, or call at 429-2818.



(dorothy wigmore/gazette)

A Dal player manly tackles the Acadia ballplayer at October 23's game. Despite his effort, Dal lost 25-0.



## Interfac Roundup



by Chuck Moore

Many interfac sports have already started, and in some cases have champions. The "Little 500" bicycle race has been "run off", as have softball and golf. Soccer, rugby and

other sports have started.

The "Little 500" was won by the Meds, while the golfing championship went to the Dents. Softball had very good participation, although a couple of teams did default the early games. In the semi-finals,

Physical Education defeated Dents, and the Meds won against Law. Physical Education emerged the winners in the final.

Flag football teams from most faculties are in the middle of their season. Most of these teams are drawing enough players to have a full game. The Grads' strong team has some of last year's varsity players. There are at least two

teams that will give them a good game.

One of the recent games is being protested by Dents. It ended in a 6-6 tie with Engineers, who presumably scored a touchdown on a sleeper play. This is illegal in flag football.

Those who want to play interfac hockey should contact your faculty representatives. Some teams have already held

practices in the Dal rink. For new teams, practices can be arranged through the Department of Physical Education. Practice time is usually Monday evenings and some weekly noon hours.

Since the games are starting in a couple of weeks, I would again like to propose that this league become a "no body checking" one. The biggest reason for this is the number of injuries experienced last year. Some players don't wear enough equipment to protect an acorn. A player's education can also be hindered by injuries, like broken arms.

There are other ways to control a hockey game, the best of which is good calibre referees. There are not too many injuries in a well-officiated game.



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