

SPORTS

Page demands excellence

BY GORDIE SUTHERLAND

Former Dalhousie hockey coach Pierre Page should be able to motivate the Quebec Nordique players to achieve a higher level of play, say two former Tigers.

Page, 43, took over as Quebec's head coach early last week, replacing the fired Dave Chambers. Page also keeps his position with the team as general manager.

Current Dalhousie coach Darrell Young played for Page from 1977 to 1979. He says Page demands a consistently high level of performance from his players.

"He doesn't expect it, he demands it and there is a difference there," says Young. "I think Pierre with his fiery nature will motivate a lot of players to achieve."

The Nordiques, under Chambers, stumbled through their first 18 games, compiling a record of 3-14-1. Quebec newspapers suggest Chambers' dismissal resulted from his inability to motivate the players.

Can Page provide the required spark?

Halifax Junior 'A' coach Jim Bottomley also played for Dalhousie during the Page era. He recalls how Page drew out every morsel of talent the Tiger teams possessed.

"He instilled a never die and a never quit attitude," says Bottomley. "We were just a good, hard-working hockey team. We may not have had the talent of some of the other teams but Pierre

had us working and as a result we won championships with him."

Page coached at Dalhousie for a nine year period ending after the 1979-80 season. In his final season, Page guided the Tigers to a first place finish in the Kelly Division. He completed his coaching career at Dalhousie with an overall record of 89-85-9.

The last time Dalhousie won the conference title was under Page in 1978-79. Both Young and Bottomley played on that team

**He
may
have
inherited a
sinking
ship**

which finished second at the national championships, losing to Alberta in the final.

After coaching at Dalhousie, Page became an assistant coach with the Calgary Flames. He then moved on to Minnesota where he was the head coach from 1988 to 1990. Page is credited with molding the North Star team which appeared in last season's Stanley Cup final.

Young says Minnesota's success is another example of Page's ability to get the most out of his players.

"Guys like Dave Gagne and Brian Bellows in Minnesota started the best part of their careers under Pierre," says Young, also a scout with the Washington Capitals.

The first test of Page's discipline came last Tuesday when forward Owen Nolan objected to the way Page juggled the lines. According to the Quebec media, Page took Nolan off the ice for a one-on-one discussion. The story writes, "On his return there was a great deal more spring to Nolan's step."

Both Young and Bottomley recall times when Page pulled players aside for discussions of a similar nature.

"He wouldn't put up with a sub-par performance from anybody," says Young. "Whether it was the 20th or the number one player on the team, he didn't think twice about pulling someone aside and telling them exactly what he thought."

Page lost 7-3 in his debut on Monday Nov. 18 to Pittsburgh. His team also split two games with the Montreal Canadians last week, winning the first 5-2 in Quebec and losing the second 5-3 in Montreal.

He may have inherited a sinking ship but Bottomley says Page can bring his Minnesota magic to Quebec.

"He's very dedicated, he wants to win and he knows what it takes to win," says Bottomley. "There's no question, he'll come in and do a good job in Quebec."

AFRICAN LEGENDS ART CALENDAR 1992



Calendars
Available
Only \$9.99



Artczar Gallery
1903 Barrington St.
Granville Level
Halifax, N.S.
492-3332

Cash for Books

We buy the widest range of books.
Hard or soft cover—whether used on this campus or not.
Sell them at:

**UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE
DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY**

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 11th 9 am - 5 pm
THURSDAY & FRIDAY DECEMBER 12th & 13th 9 am - 4 pm**

Sweaters - Scarves - Back Packs - Slippers - Cotton Knits - Hats

- Designer Clothes - New Designs in Alpaca and Wool -

AMOS & ANDES
I M P O R T S

**Christmas Merchandise
has Arrived!!!**

Leathers have Arrived !!!

5475 Spring Garden Road Halifax 492-0061

3rd Level Mic Mac Mall Dartmouth 466-9920

2nd Level Hfx. Shopping Centre
Halifax 455-1249

Congratulations to Jelena Erstic, Last month's sweater draw winner

*** BONUS COUPON ***

**RECEIVE 10% OFF
ALL IN-STORE MERCHANDISE**

Use this coupon on your next purchase on any in-store merchandise at Amos and Andes, Spring Garden Road and receive a 10% discount!

*** Sweater Draw ***

Amos & Andes, Spring Garden Road are holding a monthly Sweater Draw: Fill out the ballot and drop it off to the Spring Garden Road location and you may become a proud owner of an Amos & Andes Sweater

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

No purchase necessary for entering the draw.

- Alpaca Sweaters - Jewellery - Leggings - and Much Much More..

Clip & Save

Clip & Save