

Loiselle brings new era in football to Dalhousie

by Tom Barry

Dick Loiselle, head football coach at Dalhousie, is an athlete and coach renowned for his ability to bring home a winner.

We saw it last year when he took on the job as J.V. basketball coach in his first full year at Dal and again this past fall when he led the Black and Gold to their best season in years on the gridiron.

Coach Loiselle acquired his post-secondary education at the University of New Hampshire and at St. Mary's University, he was noted for his abilities in football, basketball and baseball and only an injury prevented him from enjoying a pro career in the latter sport.

The successful rookie mentor is looking for an even better year in 1970 and for the first time in years-so are the Tiger fans.

Loiselle is preparing to recruit for the fall semester and the writer talked to him about his hopes for ensuing seasons...

BARRY:

This past year has been the most successful season in years at Dal and also one in which the best football was played. To what do you attribute your ability to win fan support and also football games?

LOISELLE:

This year, we set out with good personnel and a good attitude.

There is no one factor that made this year successful. We made a concentrated effort to sell the game - both to the players and to the Dal fans alike.

BARRY:

Many football players have told me that they enjoy playing under you more than under your predecessor, Harvey Scott. Yet you are known to work your boys harder than ever before. Is this part of your philosophy?

LOISELLE:

Yes, I do work my boys hard and there's a reason for it. I want my players to be ready to meet any situation they will ever encounter on the field. They must be ready for the fast, quick and tough action that is involved in a football game. In the past, I didn't think Dalhousie players were dedicated to any goal because of lack of success. This showed directly in their conditioning and inability to get ahead. My goal is to try to get a winning attitude instilled in the team as a whole and in the student body as well.

BARRY:

You have mentioned that you are in the process of recruiting players for coming seasons. Where are you looking at present?

LOISELLE:

Because of the lack of Canadian football in the Maritimes - only about 10 teams in New Brunswick

and Nova Scotia - I am forced to resort principally to Ontario. However, I do have my eye on a few players in the Moncton area and also a few good local boys. With gradual improvement in



Maritime high school football, we should be able to get more boys from the surrounding area.

BARRY:

You are a native New Englander, yet you refer specifically to the Maritimes and Ontario as your

source of football players. Why do you not go into New England?

LOISELLE:

I prefer Canadian players because they are more adapted to the Canadian game and generally I find that they work harder. They, as a rule, are easier to coach and can produce as well as anyone.

BARRY:

No one could say that this was not a successful year in football at Dalhousie. How could you summarize the boys success this past season and how will you try to improve for next year?

LOISELLE:

I was quite pleased with our four wins, two losses record this year and I felt we gained national recognition by our performance against the University of Manitoba. The mistakes we made this year were principally made by a new, young coaching staff. Although we were a young team I was never embarrassed by the way our squad played.

At present, I am looking for a good back with breakaway speed. We have good backs but still lack that player who can break a game wide open. A big 90 to 195 pound boy is what I would particularly like.

BARRY:

We are all aware of the fact that John Candotto was the

third-round draft choice of the Toronto Argonauts and also that Thompson was drafted by Saskatchewan. What does that indicate to you?

LOISELLE:

Better football players are coming to Dalhousie and will continue to come. As the calibre of play improves, I feel that our boys will be sought after more and more. We have always had pro-calibre personnel but the performance of the team as a whole was not conducive to their improvement. Expect more Dal football players to be drafted in the future.

BARRY:

How did the players feel about the support of the student body?

LOISELLE:

The players are grateful and appreciative of the tremendous support received this past season. They felt they were really playing for the student body and I could see how this improved both their attitude and their calibre of play. With the support that we got from the fans, I can only see more success in the future. The appreciation of the student was welcomed by all and we are hopeful it will continue.

Next year, we feel we will be the best and hope to bring the Dal fans an ever better style of football.

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COMING EVENTS

- Tuesday, Feb. 24th** - Dal Art Gallery
Lunch hour film.
- Intercollegiate
hockey (Acadia at Dal)
- Thursday, Feb. 26** - Dal Film Society
Yo-Yo (France)
- Friday, Feb. 27** - Dalhousie Honour
Awards Dinner 7:30 p.m.
- The Student Union
Ball - 9:00 p.m. McInnis Rm.
- Saturday, Feb. 28** - Women's basketball
(UNB at Dal.)

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