

## Overtime Athletes of the Year

by Mark Alberstat

The Canadian Press announced their male and female athletes of the year in late December, naming Carling Bassett as female athlete of the year and who else but Wayne Gretzky as male athlete of the year.

A few days later, the Sports Federation of Canada gave out their amateur athletes of the year awards to Louis Grenier and Lynn Chornebrooke. The winners of the CP awards are determined by different sports editors across Canada. The Sports Federation awards are decided by a 10-12 person committee of their top executives.

Chornebrooke is far from a household name among Canadians, and yet Carling Bassett's name is relatively well known. What it may come down to is professionalism vs. amateurism and which gets more ink in this country. Canada should be paying more attention to our amateurs and giving them due credit.

Chornebrooke is the World Champion in the Modern pentathlon - a sport traditionally dominated by the Europeans. The sport consists of fencing, running, riding, swimming, and shooting. She has won every event she has been in this year and yet her name remains obscure.

Carling Bassett, on the other hand, enjoys her talents in professional tennis, a high profile sport where to be noticed all one has to do is have the money to fly to the different tournaments. (Bassett's father owns the USFL franchise in Tampa Bay.)

I will admit that Bassett did reach the quarter final of Wimbledon, something you don't do just with a note from your mother. The point is that Bassett has done little for her sport and Chornebrooke has done marvels for hers.

I have little complaint with the Great Gretzky being named athlete of the year. He either shares or holds 34 NHL records and is assured of winning his fourth successive NHL scoring title.

What I would like to see is a bit of imagination. Gretzky has had the award and will have it in the future, so why not let a Steve Podborski or a Warren Moon win the award. Both are of course superb athletes, but then again neither of them have been compared to Bobby Orr or, believe it or not, Joe DiMaggio - two sports personalities Gretzky has been compared to.

## AUAA prep party at SUB Green Room

A pre-game party for the AUAA men's basketball championships will be held this Friday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. in the Dal SUB. The event, which is sponsored by Dalhousie Sports and the Student Union, has been designed to give students the opportunity to celebrate the start of the AUAA basketball games at the Metro Centre that evening.

The slate of games is an exciting one. At 7:00 p.m., St. Mary's tackles the University of Prince Edward Island while at 9:00 p.m. Dalhousie takes on St. Francis Xavier. The AUAA championship game between the winners of Friday evening's match-ups is set for 2:00 p.m. on Saturday afternoon.

The party in the Green Room will feature a variety of events, including prizes for best noise maker, best banner, and best group cheer. Door prizes will also be awarded to lucky participants who wear black and gold. The festivities will also include presentations to the Dalhousie Athletes of the Week since the Christmas break. Admission is free and refreshments will be available with the proper identification.

Following the party, at approximately 6:00 p.m., a march to the Metro Centre will take place for Dalhousie fans going to support the Tigers in their quest for the AUAA and CIAU titles.



## Looking Back The eligibility question

by Lisa Timpf

With eligibility controversies arising fairly frequently in modern day intercollegiate sport, the problem of who should and should not be allowed to play on a given university's team is perceived as being very relevant. Although the question of eligibility was early recognized as a source of concern in United States college athletics, the problem is sometimes perceived as being a fairly recent occurrence on the Canadian intercollegiate scene.

However, Dalhousie's intercollegiate teams, and the Dalhousie Gazette, became concerned with the question of who ought and ought not to be allowed to wear a Dalhousie sweater as a team representative as early as the turn of the century.

At Dalhousie, the use of graduates on university teams was questioned by the student paper. Although in city league games there was clearly no question but that graduates were eligible to play (Gazette, December 17, 1906), their presence on Dal teams was objected to on a number of grounds. First, there was a feeling that the teams bearing the Dalhousie colours were not representative of the "best of the players who had turned out for practise during the season" (Gazette, December 17, 1906).

The players who had been consistently showing up for practises were often supplanted by graduates in important games (Gazette, December 3, 1914), although these graduates had not themselves been attending the team scrimmages.

It was felt by some that the students of the present should field a team of their own. Although such a team might not be likely to win as often, it would be a more honest representation of "Dalhousie" athletics, and would afford an opportunity for more students to play (Gazette, April 12, 1907). Further, it was felt that the

use of graduate players discouraged freshmen from trying out for the teams (Gazette, December 3, 1914). The playing of graduates was seen as an infringement on the principle of amateurism, as one reason for their participation was that of "helping the team keep a trophy which it feared it might otherwise lose" (Gazette, December 17, 1906).

However, this negative attitude toward the playing of graduates was not shared by all those involved in Dal athletics. A motion was placed to the Dalhousie Amateur Athletic Club meeting in 1907, that: "only bona fide students shall be allowed to play. The term bona fide student to mean one who is enrolled on the books of his college or university, and has been in attendance at lectures in at least three full subjects from the opening of the second term" (Gazette, January 25, 1907).

The resolution was defeated, on the grounds that the majority of the club members felt that Dalhousie's showing in league play would be hampered by the loss of her graduate players (Gazette, April 12, 1907). Thus, the club members were more concerned with ensuring the competitiveness of the team than with encouraging more participation by present-day students.

The policy of using graduates as players led to conflict when Dalhousie met with other universities to attempt to set up intercollegiate leagues. At a 1907 meeting of the Maritime Intercollegiate Hockey League, Mt. Allison and Acadia favoured the institution of a rule banning degree-holding players from intercollegiate games. Dalhousie and St. Francis Xavier were opposed to the introduction of such as restriction (Gazette, January 25, 1907).

In the 1920s, the attitude held by Dalhousie was that if eligibility rules were to be enforced, they ought to be uniform for all institutions (Gazette, February 13, 1924). By 1924, both Dalhousie and University of New Brunswick were prepared to withdraw from intercollegiate play unless uniform eligibility rules were drafted (Gazette, February 13, 1924; October 15, 1924).

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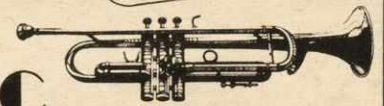
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