



X-men's Chris Sellitri and Waterloo's Randy Norris jump for a rebound during the opening game of the Final Four. Photo: Pat Jordan, Dal Photo.

Who X-pected the X-men to be there?

By DWIGHT SYMS

ONE UNEXPECTED ENTRY in this year's CIAU Men's Basketball Championship held this past weekend in Halifax was the team from Antigonish, the St. Francis Xavier X-Men.

The X-Men were only ranked twelfth at the end of the season and had made no exceptional mark with their 11/9 win/loss record in the AUSA Conference.

At the CIAU Eastern Regionals held at Antigonish on March 8th and 9th, the "X squad" showed

that their fate was not to be decided by rankings or record.

In their first game of the regionals St. F.X. faced the Saskatchewan Huskies. The X-Men came from behind to tie the Huskies and went on to win 78-71.

Their second game was against number one ranked Acadia Axemen. This game also went into overtime before the X-Men pulled a 75-74 victory to the elation of the X team and audience.

The driving force behind the X-Men's successful bid for a CIAU Final Four berth was AUSA All-Star Brent Baker. A 6'3" guard from Middleton, N.S., he played a spectacular game both against Saskatchewan and Acadia.

"Brent Baker did a great job defensively," said St. F.X. coach Steve Konchalski.

Baker also did well offensively scoring 24 points against the Axemen.

Konchalski was elated about gaining entry to the Final Four. He felt the twelfth place ranking did not reflect the X-Men's ability.

"The rankings are based on scores; styles of play are not taken into consideration," said Konchalski.

He says the Atlantic region has been traditionally very competitive.

"We were losing to UPEI and Acadia (top ranked teams) by only 1,2,3, points," he said.

At the CIAU Final Four, St. F.X. gave strong performances but lost both their games to the Waterloo Warriors and the Manitoba Bisons.

As far as next year goes the St. F.X. squad will lose only one player, veteran Chris Sellitri. Sellitri has had an outstanding five years with the X-Men. Konchalski is concerned about the loss of Sellitri. According to the X-Men coach his talents will be missed.

Levy an All-Canadian

By LISA TIMPF

WHILE THE FOCUS OF attention in Halifax sporting circles was on the CIAU Final Four for men's basketball, a CIAU event of another sort was taking place at York University in Toronto last weekend.

The first CIAU indoor field hockey tournament, a pilot project, gathered teams representing four regions (British Columbia, the Prairies, Ontario-Quebec, and the Atlantic) to contest for national honours.

Team Atlantic, representing Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, PEI, and Newfoundland, and guided by regional coach Joyce Slipp of University of New Brunswick, defeated the Ontario-Quebec contingent in the final to

take the national title.

The final could not have been much closer, with the score tied at four-all after regulation time, and five-all after the overtime period.

It took penalty strokes to determine the final outcome, as Team Atlantic squeaked by 6-5.

The Prairie and British Columbia squads were left to contest for third and fourth spots.

All-Canadian selections included three Atlantic players: Kathryn MacDougall of New Brunswick, Darlene Stoyka of St. Mary's University, and Dalhousie's Claudette Levy.

Levy turned in an outstanding performance in goal to anchor Team Atlantic's efforts.

Other Nova Scotia players on Team Atlantic included Annelie Vandenberg and Angie Banks of St. Mary's University.

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