

Concordia wins CIAU final

by Brian Lennox

Canadian university basketball is over for another season.

The CIAU championships have been held in Halifax the past seven years and once again they were a success. AUAA representatives St. Francis Xavier and Acadia carried themselves well last weekend. The X-men entered the tournament as one of the wild card entries while Acadia gained an automatic entry by winning the conference championship.

On Friday night both AUAA teams were in action. Both St. Francis Xavier and Acadia were on the same side of the draw. A possible semi-final matchup

between the Atlantic schools had tournament organizers drooling. St. Francis Xavier were seeded fifth; their opponents in the first round were the Concordia Stingers. Acadia were seeded eighth going into the tournament drawing the number one ranked Alberta Golden Bears.

The X-men came into Friday's semi-final in a slump. They had not been playing well, due in part to the injury Augy Jones sustained early in February. Jones played but he was clearly not as effective with his pulled hamstring.

In the first half of their game against Concordia, the X-men played very well, executing on

offence and building a ten point lead, 36-26. However, in the second half, Concordia played tougher defence and took the X-men out of their rhythm. The Stingers were especially physical with X-men shooting guard Wade Smith. Charlie Mason, a

his last year, wanted this game very badly. So did Skeeter Mower, another veteran in his final year. Acadia did an excellent job controlling Alberta's All-Canadian, Sean Chursinoff. Kevin Veinot led the way for Acadia, scoring 22 points and grabbing 10 rebounds.

tas destroyed Acadia inside, scoring 15 points. The second half saw Acadia make a great comeback from a 16 point deficit. With 6:22 left, Axemen guard Danny Steele hit a baseline jump shot to tie the game 66-66. Steele came back with 3:30 left to hit a shot

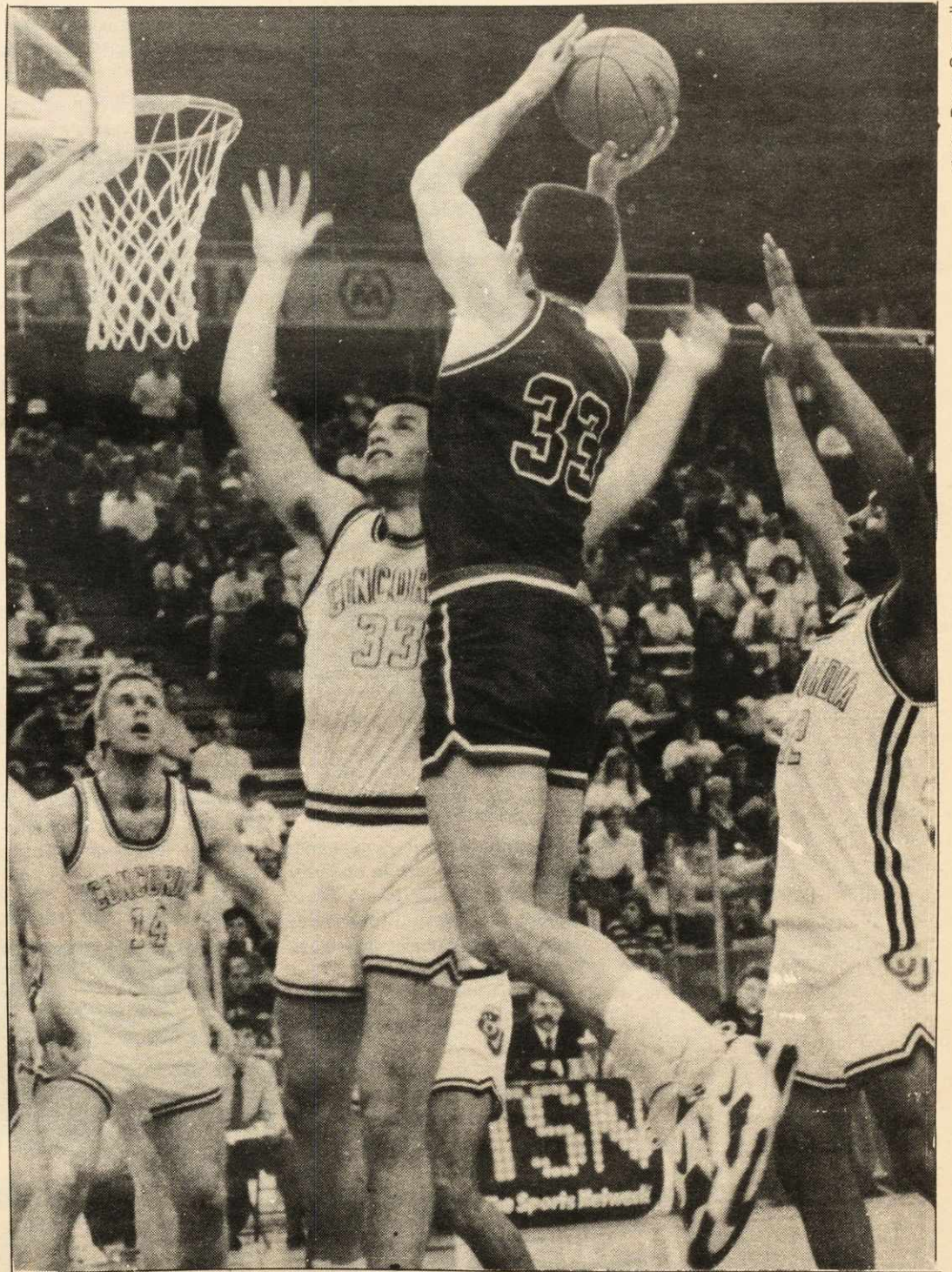


photo: Dave Caswell

Kevin Veinot of Acadia on his way to scoring 22 of his 30 points against Concordia.

Concordia guard came in the second half to push Smith around. Mason quickly picked up three fouls, but not before taking Smith and St. Francis Xavier out of their offence.

Concordia carried out their game plan and won the game, 78-71.

X-men coach Steve Konchalski was especially upset with the way Mason was allowed to play Wade Smith.

The Acadia Axemen and the Alberta Golden Bears played one of the best games all year. Acadia was considered the underdog in this game, but no one team was going to dominate the tournament. Kevin Veinot, playing in

With the victory over Alberta Acadia moved to the semi-final where they faced Concordia. This was a well-played game that came down to the final seconds.

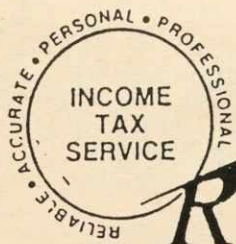
Unfortunately the conditions of the Metro Centre floor were terrible. The humidity on Saturday caused the ice to soften below the wooden floor. Soon after the game started the floor became very slippery. This was inexcusable considering this was a national semi-final. Later it was learned that the Metro Centre has not put down a sub floor under the playing surface.

In the first half Concordia jumped out to a 48-32 lead as game, scoring 30 points.

Concordia forward Nick Arvani that put Acadia ahead, 72-71. Acadia was down by one with the ball but, with 20 seconds left, Axemen forward Kevin Lee attempted a shot that was blocked by Arvanitas. Concordia sealed their win with two foul shots by Michael Cohee. Acadia forward Kevin Veinot had a brilliant game, scoring 30 points.

The final between Concordia and Guelph Gryphons was anticlimactic as Concordia whipped the Gryphons 80-62. Concordia took control of the game mid-way through the first half and never looked back. Guelph got to within 11 points but the Stingers were never really threatened.

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