

# VIEW FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

by Tim Lynch

When Canadians speak of a national profile in the world of sports, it is as diverse as our climate. The sentiments of the average sports fan with respect to professional sports vary greatly from coast to coast. The hockey, baseball, and football cities across Canada each place particular emphasis on a different sport.

Rather than starting on the east or west coast, we'll begin our journey down the Trans-Canada from Montreal. Historically, hockey has been the premier sport throughout the country. Montreal ardently upholds that history. After all, Canadiens' fans parallel their hockey comrades in the CCCP. That's because they love the game. However, they're demanding and knowledgeable followers, too. Montreal is also blessed with a true hockey shrine - the Forum. The mystique of the building is immense.

Montreal is also home to professional baseball. However, Quebecers do not follow the Expos with passionate, watchful eyes. Whether they're indifferent to the sport is not known. Witness the lack of fan support during Montreal's first-place stint in the NL East this past season.

The sport of football will probably never return to Montreal. Sports fans in the city displayed their fickleness during the days of the Alouettes and the Concordes. Even Nelson Skalbania couldn't generate much interest when he brought high-priced American talent to town years ago. The talk of an NFL franchise is just that - talk.

Quebec City and their austere Nordiques lack that *je ne sais pas* type of an aura which surrounds the Canadiens. The problem with the Nordiques is their lack of a provincial identity. Almost everyone loves the Habs. Hence team management's move to acquire Guy Lafleur in an attempt to emulate their provincial cousins. This is not to say that Quebec City lacks fervent hockey fans - because it doesn't. The Nordiques are also a powerful, magnetic franchise which attracts all of the anti-Canadiens fans within the province.

As we move east, we find no more professional sports at the major league level. Hockey, though, is present in several cities at the minor league level. Within the Maritimes, people's team preferences vary. The Canadiens definitely have a cult following in this neck of the woods. There are even some diehard Leafs' fans. Teams such as LA, Calgary, and Pittsburgh are gaining popularity exponentially.

The same situation is present in baseball in Atlantic Canada. With no team in the area, baseball fans have a common affinity for the Jays and Expos. The Jays, unfortunately, enjoy a slight edge in preference over Montreal according to Marty York of *The Globe and Mail*. The Boston Red Sox have countless loyal fans within this province. The once-mighty Yankees' popularity is eroding rapidly.

Perhaps the key to linking the Atlantic Provinces would be to follow an idea which was proposed years ago. Several Maritime entrepreneurs wanted a Halifax-based CFL franchise. They were to be called the Atlantic Schooners. If a proper stadium could be built and financed, the team would do wonders for the region. The only real concern then would be if this new team would suffer the same fate as other CFL teams - lack of attendance. It's an intriguing question indeed. In fact, it is paradoxical in nature. The present success of AUAA and high school football indicates that the CFL style of play is acceptable. However, at the same time, there are several football fans, especially in this area, who despise the CFL game. These people spend Saturday and Sunday afternoons glued to their television sets watching American college and NFL games respectively. They are football fans bred on cable TV. Perhaps, if a CFL franchise came to the area, their opinions may change. Regardless, a Maritime-based CFL club would boost Canadian nationalism.

The rest of the country - Ontario and the West - will have their pro franchises examined later. Until then, wait patiently as the World Series unfolds.



## CIAU RANKINGS

Football (M)	Cross Country (M)	Cross Country (W)
1. SMU* (1)	1. Manitoba (1)	1. Western (1)
2. Saskatchewan (2)	2. Queen's (3)	2. Toronto (4)
3. Western Ontario (3)	3. UBC (4)	3. Dalhousie* (2)
4. Queen's (4)	4. Toronto (2)	4. Waterloo (5)
5. Ottawa (8)	5. Western (5)	5. McMaster (6)
6. Calgary (7)	6. McMaster (7)	6. UBC (10)
7. Toronto (10)	7. Waterloo (6)	7. Victoria (3)
8. Guelph (6)	8. Windsor (8)	8. Guelph (8)
9. Acadia* (9)	9. Victoria (9)	9. Queen's (8)
10. Alberta (5)	10. Sherbrooke (10)	10. Laval (9)

  

Soccer (M)	Swimming (M)	Swimming (W)
1. UBC (1)	1. Calgary (1)	1. Toronto (1)
2. SMU* (3)	2. Toronto (2)	2. Alberta (2)
3. McGill (2)	3. Alberta (3)	3. McGill (3)
4. Laurentian (4)	4. Laval (4)	4. Montreal (4)
5. Victoria (1)	5. McMaster (5)	5. Calgary (5)
6. Toronto (10)	6. Manitoba (6)	6. Laval (6)
7. Western (6)	7. Victoria (7)	7. UBC (7)
8. UNB (8)	8. McGill (8)	8. Manitoba (8)
9. Sherbrooke (9)	9. UBC (9)	9. McMaster (NR)
10. Wilfrid Laurier (10)	10. Western (10)	10. Brock (NR)

  

Soccer (W)	Varsity Schedule
1. Acadia* (1)	<b>Friday</b>
2. Alberta (2)	Basketball (M)
3. Toronto (5)	UNB Fall Classic
4. McMaster (4)	3:00 PM Aitken Centre
5. York (3)	
6. UBC (7)	Basketball (W)
7. Memorial* (9)	UNB at Laval Tourney
8. McGill (NR)	
9. Laurier (10)	Soccer
10. Concordia (6)	McA at UNB
	3:30 PM Chapman Field
	Volleyball (W)
	UNB Invitational
	6:00 PM L B Gym
	<b>Saturday</b>
	Basketball (M)
	UNB Fall Classic
	3:00 PM Aitken Centre
	Basketball (W)
	UNB at Laval tourney
	Cross Country
	UNB at AUAA's at St. FX

## Raiders

by Kelly Craig

Poetry in motion? That remains to be seen, but the 1989 Red Raiders are looking awfully tough this season, even though the high expectations of the 1988 season turned to disappointment. This season promises to be a great season with quality basketball.

UNB is entering 1989 with a high motivation to be the best they can be. Though they are a young team, they have the experience and talent to be a major force in the AUAA. "The guys are in better shape than ever," said Coach Wright. With nine players returning from last year and four new faces in the line-up, UNB is ready for the AUAA.

UNB is a team made up of mostly sophomores. With thirteen guys on the team, there remains only one senior in the line up. The returning sophomores all played well last year as freshmen and Coach Wright is "confident" that they will pull through. Despite the number of players on the team all players will receive the chance to play. This is a new start for UNB as they look to rebuild the team with the present sophomores and freshmen.

Paul Watts is the team's co-captain. Being the only senior on the team, Paul brings four years of college basketball experience to the team. At 6'2", Paul will be slotted in the off-guard position. The other co-captain of the team is Yaw Obeng. Yaw is in his second year with the Raiders and will be playing the point guard position. Yaw started every game last year for the Raiders and was named team MVP. Yaw stands at 6' tall and will bring quickness and aggression to the guard position.

Leading the AUAA last season in rebounds was Bryan Elliott. Bryan returns for his second year with the Raiders. At 6'5" Bryan will bring well-needed height to the post position. Kirk MacDonald, a junior, will be playing in the forward position. This is Kirk's third year with the Raiders. Also returning to UNB is second year Raider, Steve Taylor. At 6'2", Steve will be slotted at the guard position. Tim Whittier, a 6'3" sophomore from St. Stephen, will be playing his second year for the Raiders. "Tim made a great contribution as a freshman," said Coach Phil Wright. Tim will be playing the post position for the Raiders this season.

Some good quality freshmen players have made their way to the Raiders this season. Duff Adams, a Fredericton native, is the top freshman recruited by UNB this season. Duff was a graduate from FHS and was a member of the New Brunswick AAA high school champions. Rounding out the roster this year for the Raiders are Pat Ryan, a 6'1" guard from NB; Rick Stubbart, 6'1" guard from Maine; Jamie Wait, 6'5" forward from Ontario; Roy Coccio, 6'6" player from Ontario; Roberto Fieg, a 6'5" forward from Ontario; and Vinod Nair, a 6'4" Fredericton native.

All these players have the talent for college basketball. Despite the young team, UNB knows what it takes to make it in the AUAA. This weekend is the

kick-off tournament of the Red Raiders 1989 season. The UNB Fall Classic will be played Friday and Saturday nights at the Aitken Centre. UNB will go up against terrific competition from Bishops College. "Bishops has an excellent team with two very strong players," Coach Wright said. Although UNB is not looking past the game against Bishops Friday night, Coach Wright does expect some explosive basketball play.

UPEI will play Husson College at 7 PM on Friday night. Fans should come out to watch this game as UPEI is the 1988 AUAA Champions and ranked 10th in Canada. Husson College is ranked 4th in the US among the small colleges. At 9 PM on Friday night the UNB Red Raiders will take to the court against Bishops College. This is a match up that is definitely worth staying up for.

Saturday is a jam-packed day with a lot of Red Raider basketball. Ten o'clock Saturday morning, the Raiders will play the UNB Alumni. Coach Wright expects over 40 alumni to be present for this game. Phil Wright is also hoping to make this an annual event. Then at 7 PM the consolation game will be played and at 9 PM the final game of the Fall Classic will be played. Who will play who? The games are up for grabs and all four teams are looking good. Coach Wright is expecting "good quality basketball, good competition, and student participation."