

Dal Parachute Club gears up for another season

Many first time jumpers take a leap of faith

BY LEE PITTS

Jumping out of a perfectly good airplane at 3500 feet may not be everyone's idea of a good time, but for some 30 Dal students, it was an "adrenaline rush" that addicted many of them to the sport.

Members of the Dalhousie Parachute Club

especially since it was so costly," she said. "Everybody who jumped had a good time and those who didn't get to jump plan to go back again."

Watts said she was a little disappointed there wasn't enough time for all students to jump, but says most of the students will be back.

The Parachute Club's new members, along with others interested in the sport, spent five to six hours in ground school learning the ropes before they took their leap of faith.

The introductory skydiving course was offered by the Atlantic School of Skydiving, where instructors not only prepared first-time skydivers for their first jump, but also prepared them for possible malfunctions.

"Safety is number one," said Dave Williamson, an instructor and owner of the school. "Enjoyment of the sport is number two — a close second. The two go hand in hand."

And Williamson says he could tell from everyone's screams they enjoyed it. "Everyone had the mandatory 'yee-haws'," he added.

First-time jumper Rob Goulding agreed, saying he enjoyed the experience to the fullest.

"It was definitely an adrenaline rush," he said. "It was a thrill. It's something I'm definitely going to do again."

Watts says the parachute club intends to jump every Saturday and Sunday of the school year. The club has started another poster campaign to encourage even more students to sign up.

"There are between 125-150 [students] on our email list right now," Watts said. "We want to get others to join and skydive with us."

Williamson says his school

tries to create a relaxed atmosphere so people can get the most out of skydiving.

"Our goal is to not only introduce people to skydiving, but have them stay in the sport and have them become experienced skydivers," he said.

First-time jumpers pay \$135 for the ground school and the jump, while every other jump costs \$35.

"It's hard to describe the feeling when you first jump from the plane," Goulding said. "There's so much happening at once. You've got the ground rushing toward you and you've got to make sure your chute deploys properly and you

have to remember everything they taught you in ground school. There's a lot more going on up there than most people think.

"You feel like a different person after you jump," he added. "After each person landed they all walked away from the drop zone with the same look on their face that said 'I can't believe I just jumped from a plane'."

Those who completed ground school and experienced their first jump Saturday became registered members of the Canadian Sport Parachuting Association and are eligible to skydive anywhere in Canada.

Attracting American athletes

BY MIKE VAN NYE

WINDSOR (CUP) — Andre Mixon was a typical American high school football player.

During his senior year of high school, Mixon explored football scholarships at big-time U.S. colleges such as Brigham Young and Western Michigan. But then he made a last minute decision to embark on a different route than his teammates, many of who were headed for the football fields of major American schools.

Mixon came to Canada.

The rookie wide receiver decided to play in the Canadian

Inter-university Athletic Union (CIAU) for the University of Windsor — a league and a school his American teammates had probably never heard of.

Mixon's decision stands in stark contrast to the usual direction of cross-border athletic talent.

Each year, American college recruiters swoop into Canada, hand pick the best high school student athletes, and entice them to American schools with scholarship offers Canadian universities can't even begin to compete with.

But few American student athletes ever consider pursuing an education in Canada — and the

University of Windsor wants to change that.

It's trying to convince high school athletes in the Detroit area to consider playing in the CIAU.

"It could be a terrific avenue for us, with such a large number of athletes not far away," said Dr. Joanne MacLean, athletic director for the U of W.

Mike Morencie, head coach of the university's football team, says the push to recruit Detroit-area players will increase in coming years.

"It is something we really want to pursue," said Morencie,

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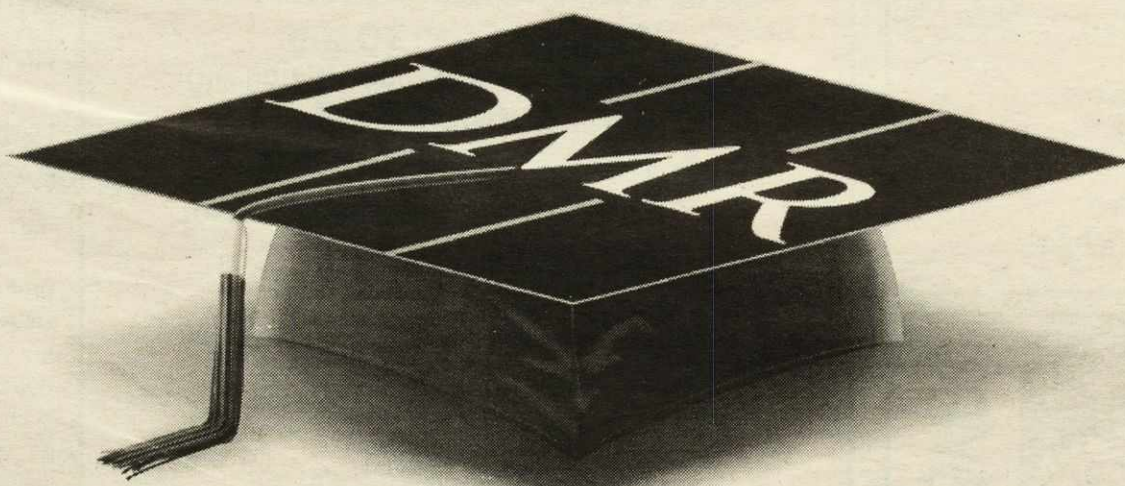
met Saturday at the Waterville

Airport drop zone for the first skydiving event of the season. Many new members jumped for the first time.

Dalhousie Parachute Club president Wanda Watts, who has more than 75 jumps under her belt, was more than pleased with Saturday's turnout.

"It was a good turnout for just two weeks into the school year,

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