

SPORTS

Ward works toward achieving NHL goal

BY STACIE SAUNDERS

Originally from Edmonton, Alberta, Ed Ward, the Halifax Citadels' 6'3" right winger, grew up with the dream of being a hockey player in the NHL. Though being of Irish descent, with no hockey players in his family, Ward began playing at the age of four. Ironically, his favourite team was the Quebec Nordiques, whose farm team he now plays for.

Ward received a full hockey scholarship from Northern Michigan University, and was drafted during his first year. While he is depending on hockey right now for his livelihood, he also realizes that the average hockey player in the league only lasts about five years. Many players lack university degrees, but Ward's education provides an alternative to fall back on. "To play one game in the NHL would be fine with me," he says. "I could say, 'Yeah, I played there,' and I'd be happy."

After being with the Citadels for only one season, Ward has settled in and is becoming accustomed to the rigors of the AHL life.

"The guys on the team are really close," he says. When asked about coach Clement Jodoin, Ward replied, "He's a good coach. He knows that we're a young team and we make mistakes."

The travelling is one factor which is hard on the players. "Out of the last six months, I've spent most of the time in hotels. Right now, I'm living out of suitcases," he says as he gestures to a suit bag, a couple of duffle bags and some shoes scattered on his floor. "I haven't seen my parents in a year."

The Citadels, currently in last place in the Atlantic division of the AHL, have suffered numerous setbacks due to Quebec's continuous shuffling of the players between the two teams.

"It is damaging," Ward comments. "I mean, you're happy to see

teammates make it up there, but it is troublesome for our team down here."

The Citadels are playing hard, trying to win a spot in the playoffs. Their offense has improved so greatly, that in their last few games their shots on goal have almost doubled the opposing teams'. When asked if he thought if the team could keep up its intensity, Ward smiled and replied, "I hope so, but it won't be easy. We have six games in the next nine days, and we get tired."

With notable team members such as Ken McRae and Kevin Kaminski in Quebec, it's even harder to win. "McRae is a good offensive and defensive player," Ward says of the veteran. He adds that Kaminski is another player who is well respected by the team.

It isn't easy for any other player on the ice. They must concentrate and remain alert at all times. "Everybody has their own job to do, and you want to do your job the best that you can."

Ward also said a player must constantly look for openings, and things move so fast that he doesn't even have time to think about what he does.

hard time during their next game, Ward said, "Oh, definitely. It's just their way of sticking up for their teammates."

The only fortunate aspect of this type of situation is that the crowds love it. Though the cheering is important in boosting a team's moral, it is often the case where people get more excited about a good brawl than they do about goals.

Right now, with either practices or games every day, and his hectic road schedule, Ward finds it hard devoting time to anything else but his game. "I'm just getting into golf," he laughs. Then again, what hockey player isn't?

From a young boy who spent hours in the rink every day, to a man who loves his sport, Ed Ward skates as hard for his team as he skates for himself. He's working towards his goal, and if he is as persistent as he seems, there is no doubt he'll capture it.

Ward's education provides an alternative to fall back on

Accidents happen as well, such as what occurred between Ward and Rob Mendel in the game of Jan. 19, Halifax vs. St. John's. "It was a clean hit," Ward says. He claims he checked him shoulder to shoulder. "I don't know what happened." Apparently Mendel hit the metal partition between the boards and glass, coming away with severe facial injuries. When asked if he thought that the St. John's team would give him a



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VOLLEYBALL


WOMENS' STANDINGS

	MP	MW	ML	GW	GL	PTS
DAL	9	9	0	27	0	18
MTA	10	9	1	27	4	18
UDM	9	7	2	22	6	14
SMU	11	6	5	20	17	12
MUN	12	6	6	21	23	12
UNB	9	3	6	11	22	6
ACA	10	2	8	13	27	4
PEI	10	2	8	10	27	4
SFX	12	2	10	8	33	4


DALHOUSIE ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



JACKIE HEBERT - BASKETBALL JAN. 20 - 26
4th year guard Jackie Hebert was instrumental in Dal's win over arch town rivals Saint Mary's. Jackie scored 24 points earning the Tigers 2 more points in conference play as well as clinching the Pepsi Crosstown Challenge. Jackie is a B. Sc. major and last year earned Academic All-Canadian honours.



JASON SHANNON - SWIMMING JAN. 20 - 26
The Dalhousie men's swim team swam to a second place finish in the Mt. Allison Invitational this past weekend. The Tiger's Jason Shannon won the 100M and the 200M backstroke. Jason is in his 2nd year and is working towards his Bachelor of Commerce degree.



Varsity Action this Week...

<p>SWIMMING Dal vs ACA Friday, Jan. 31 7:00pm</p>	<p>HOCKEY Dal vs SMU Wednesday, Feb. 5 7:30pm *Varsity Promotion "Bucks for Pucks"</p>	<p>MEN'S BASKETBALL Dal vs ACA Wednesday, Feb. 5 8:00pm</p>
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* Full-time Dal students admitted FREE with valid I.D.

FOLLOW THE TIGERS!



AUAA BASKETBALL

Men's				Women's			
	G	W	L P		G	W	L P
St. F.X.	9	8	1 16	St. F.X.	10	8	2 16
Cape Breton	10	8	2 16	Acadia	9	7	2 14
St. Mary's	8	6	2 12	UPEI	10	7	3 14
Dalhousie	10	4	6 8	UNB	11	7	4 14
Acadia	8	5	3 10	Dalhousie	7	3	4 6
UPEI	11	4	7 8	St. Mary's	10	3	7 6
UNB	10	3	7 6	Memorial	8	2	6 4
Memorial	10	0	10 0	Cape Breton	11	1	10 4