Dal, Acadia, St. FX and SMU to square off

Lobster season opens Feb. 1

by Chris Murray

The four mainland Nova Scotia University hockey teams; Dal., Acadia, St. FX and SMU will play a sudden death tournament Feb. 1 and 8. The tournament is called the Lobster Pot and is fashioned after the Beanpot Tournament held in Boston each year. The concept caught on in Boston 37 years ago with four Boston area universities, and is held in the Boston gardens in front of sell-out crowds. This prompted a group of alumni from the four local universities to try to stage such an event in Halifax at the Metro Centre. Tom Lynch, a Dal. Alumni, explained that attempts by the alumni themselves to find sponsors failed, but with some help from a company that specializes in such things, their problem was solved. They were put in touch with General Motors of Canada who agreed to become the main sponsor of the event.

The tournament will open with Dal. playing Acadia in one game and St. FX playing St. Mary's in the other on Feb. 1. The winner of these two games will meet for the championship game on Feb. 8 with the losers playing the consolation match on the same day. Game times for both days will be at 5:00pm and 8:00pm. The first game between Dal and Acadia counts in the regular season standings and is free to students from the two universities. If you are a Dal student wishing to see the other game there is a fee of seven dollars for adults and four dollars for children. The price for the two final games is the same but students must pay the fee as well. The admission for the finals covers both games.

During a new's conference held at the Nova Scotia Sports Heritage Centre, there was a cautiously optimistic view expressed by those on the organising committee about being able to sell out the Metro Centre, but they realised this is asking for a lot. With the wide variety of events occuring in the city at any one time it is almost impossible to fill the Metro Centre, a fact the Halifax Citadels know all too well. The coach of the SMU Huskies, Randy Nesbitt, said "The tournament might not catch on quickly, but the alumni will gradually support it". John Carter, an alumni of St. FX explains the long range goal as a result of the tournament. "While presently many of our young men are heading to American schools to play hockey, we feel if the Lobster Pot concept can continue to grow and attract larger audiences and interest over the years, these young men will be staying at Atlantic Universities." Coach of the Dal Tigers, Darrell Young, echoes this statement, "Before this idea we had to go to the States for good hockey tournaments. "Another point brought forth was that of the four teams in the Boston tournament, three of them had an excess of 50% Canadian players on their rosters.

The University College of Cape Breton had also expressed an interest in joining and although it would make the organization of the tournament more difficult, the organizers are considering it for future Lobster Pot tournaments.

The tournament will definitely put a spotlight on our local teams and will serve another purpose for the players and coaches involved. Coach Young says "It will provide a good picture of how the teams involved look heading into the playoffs and what to work on until then." Regardless of the results in the tournament it will be an exciting event and one to look forward to in this year's hockey schedule.

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Athletes of the week

Graham Stanley — Hockey
Nov. 27 - Dec. 3

Graham had an outstanding weekend for the Hockey Tigers on their two game road trip.

On Saturday, he netted four goals and added an assist to lead the Dal squad to an 8-1 victory over St. Francis Xavier. On Saturday, he upped his totals with a goal and an assist as the Tigers took Cape Breton 5-2.

Graham is a fourth year winger from St. Catharines now studying education.

Other nominee: Brian Rourke — Volleyball

Kathy MacCormack — Basketball

Kathy had an outstanding weekend for the Basketball Tigers in their own Centennial Women's Basketball Tournament.

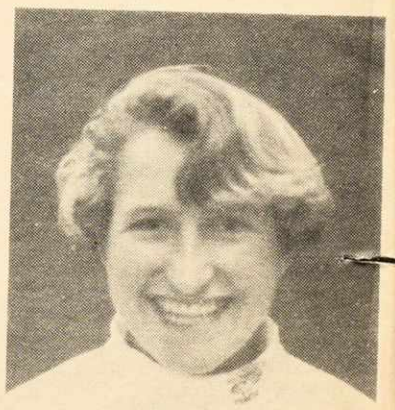
In Friday's 122-37 win over Maine Machias, she sank 28 points and was named player of the game.

Saturday, the women defeated York University 80-50. Kathy netted 35 for the Black and Gold to lead them into the final. She was again, named Player of the Game.

Kathy was named to the tournament all-star squad for her efforts as the Tigers finished second to the University of Prince Edward Island Lady Panthers.

Kathy is in her fifth year of eligibility. Having played a year for UCCB, she is a fourth year Tiger. She is now in Texas on a tour with the national women's team which she had been a member of for the past two years. Now studying public administration, Kathy has completed a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology.

Other nomination: Lori Welsh — Volleyball



Lucy Smith — Cross Country
Nov. 27 - Dec. 3

Lucy continued her winning streak on the national circuit in Vancouver over the weekend. she defeated Canada's top runners in the National Championships with a time of 16:47 over 5 kilometres.

She was hoping to finish in the top three, however she surpassed those expectations to many people's surprise.

The win earned Lucy a spot on Canada's national team which will compete in Norway next March in the World Championships. She also qualified to represent Canada in the Ekiden Relay which will be held in Japan in mid-December.

Lucy is a third year arts student from Bedford.

Other nominee: Sandra Rice — Volleyball

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