

Rugby comeback in Nova Scotia

Rugby is making a rapid comeback in Nova Scotia, taking its place alongside established sports like Canadian football and soccer.

Rugby is an 80-minute running game, with a five-minute half-time interval. A team consists of 15 players with two injury replacements allowed per game. It is a game of stamina and fitness.

Two Halifax high schools formed rugby squads last year and have maintained their enthusiasm. In addition, Saint Mary's University has entered a new team in the senior provincial league.

The sport has had a chequered career at Dalhousie. In the past, it collapsed due to lack of support and players. However, last year's team made it to the final playoff in the Nova Scotia senior league, only to lose to a strong Saint Francis Xavier squad.

This year the league will consist of six or seven teams — the Dal Hornets, Dal Braves, St. F.X., SMU, Halifax, New Glasgow, and one other which is undecided. A record turnout this year indicates that Dal stands a good chance of placing both teams in the finals.

Six players from last year's Dal team made the Nova Scotia representative squad in games

against New Brunswick and Ontario. Five of these are active again this year. Wing three-quarters are a strong point. Nova Scotia representative Dave Walters is as fast as ever. Several other good candidates are Mark Sadler, Louis Dixon, John McLeish, Murray Rich and Warren Zimmer from Western Ontario, as well as Dave Matthews and Paul Mariawi. Centres are team captain Ron Leitold, track champion Dave Bird, Dave Hawkins, and Leon Livingston. At the halfbacks position, there are N.S. reps Terry Reed and Harry Alexander at scrum half, with Western Ontario's Gord Greenwood and John Mersereau at standoff.

The club lacks an established fullback, so Dave Drinkwater, a converted winger from Western Ontario, will start in this position. Robin Stuart and Bill Leslie are other strong contenders.

High-calibre tight forwards are abundant. Props and second rowers include Lloyd Haggerty

from last year's squad, Cliff Sargeant, Gerry Mason and Joel MacDonald from St. F.X., Iain Bruce from St. Andrew's University, Scotland, ex-navyman Tom Bell, Quebec's Ross Stuart, Bob Beaulac, and several newcomers such as Peter Davidson.

Loose forwards are an experienced group, with reps Tim Milligan and Andy Baker, British Columbia rep Mike Bird, N.B. all-star Andy Alexander, Don McFadgen, and South African Howard Haysom. There are also two fast-striking hookers in John MacIntosh from B.C. and Tom Bell. The team has many newcomers who are expected to make their mark before the end of the season.

Those interested in participating should contact club president, Tim Milligan (429-1176), or coach Howard Hume (Oceanography, Rm. 3640).

The next game will be held October 9 at 2:30 p.m., when the Dal Hornets play New Glasgow at Studley Field.



Dal's Guy Walsh (No. 9) hams it up before game with Mike Bowser (Dorothy), but as RMC soon found out their voyage here was no Oz trip. Dal demolished RMC 29-1. But in their next game, the Tigers ran into the Wicked Witch of the West and lost 47-9 to Bishops. (photo by Bob Jeffries)

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