

# Alberta crowned CIAU hockey champions

by Frank Denis

The University of Alberta Golden Bears captured the CIAU National hockey championship last Sunday with a 5-2 win over the Acadia Axemen in Toronto. The Axemen who were crowned AUAA champions the weekend before, earned a berth in the final following their 5-2 win over the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks.

The Golden Bears from Edmonton whipped the number 1 team in Canada, the University of Quebec at Three Rivers Patriotes to earn their spot in the final.

The Axemen played the tournament with three regulars out of the lineup due to suspensions received in AUAA league play and playoff action. Acadia forward George Dupont said losing the three key players was tough.

"The three guys we had out of our lineup are a big part of this team, but we knew we had guys who could step in and do the job. We knew we could do well in this tournament and I think we showed that."

Both Acadia and Alberta dominated the all tournament team. Named to the team from Acadia were, on defense, Kevin Knopp and forwards George Dupont and Duane Dennis. Alberta was repre-

sented by goaltender Derek Shybunka, defenceman Garth Premak and forward Adam Morrison. Premak also captured the MVP of the tournament award.

Prior to the tournament the all Canadian team was announced. Goaltenders were Denis Desbiens (UQTR) and Roydon Gunn (Saskatchewan). On defence were Ian Herbers and Premak both from Alberta, Wayne MacPhee (UPEI) and Mark Haamann (Toronto). Named as forwards were Shane MacEachern (UPEI), Craig Teeple (Saint Mary's), Morrison (Alberta), Martin Raymond (McGill), Rob Abraski

(Guelph) and Troy Edwards (Regina).

MVP of the CIAU league went to MacEachern from UPEI while Bill Liskovich from Regina, was named coach of the year. Darrin McKechnie beat out UNB's Chris Somers for the most sportsmanlike player award. McGill Redmen goaltender Patrick Jeanson, was named CIAU rookie of the year.

The Randy Gregg award which goes to the player showing outstanding achievement in hockey, academics and community went to Medical student Doug Cherepacha from the University of Toronto.



## Notes from The Nationals

Wilfrid Laurier forward Pat O'Leary was bidding to become the first athlete to win two CIAU National Championships in the same year. O'Leary won a football title with the WLU Golden Hawks in November. He was the team's punter and also played slotback. Last year O'Leary from Bramalea, Ontario was named Wilfrid Laurier's male athlete contributing most to the athletics program.

One has to hope that not all Wilfrid Laurier fans are this stupid. With 43 seconds left in the first semi final game and the Golden Hawks trailing 4-2, a Laurier fan threw a puck towards referee Darrin Lorass. Luckily no one was injured, but it did surprise not only Lorass, but all the players on the ice.

Last weekend's Nationals could be the last played at Varsity Arena. There are reports that next year's will be played at Maple Leaf Gardens. The championship game would be a bonus ticket to all Leaf season ticket holders. There are two benefits to do it that way. First of all attendance would be higher at the games and secondly the Leafs could guarantee a championship game to those buying season tickets.

Another idea with the format for future years would see the semi-finals being played in separate regions of Canada, the way it's done for the Vanier Cup football championship.

Attendance at the games was disappointing. The first semi-final game which saw Acadia defeat Wilfrid Laurier attracted fans about two thirds the capacity. The second semi between UQTR and Alberta had a sparse crowd. Even the final had a less than full house. However the Acadia fans made the arena seem full with their enthusiastic and supportive spirit. Well done.

Here's how *The Varsity* the University of Toronto's student paper previewed Acadia's chances at the Nationals. "Would you believe there are two divisions in the AUAA, the MacAdam and Kelly, each with a whopping three teams? Acadia won the Kelly, which doesn't mean much. But then again winning the AUAA itself is no reason to break out the vodka either. The Axemen do have good, balanced offense led by Wayne MacPhee, but with the limited talent pool in the Maritimes, it won't be enough."

First of all there are five teams in each division and it has to be considered one of the most balanced leagues in Canada. As well MacPhee is a defenceman for the UPEI Panthers. As far as the limited talent pool in the Maritimes, just look at how well Acadia did!

While the UNB Red Devils did not participate in the tournament, they were mentioned. Goaltender Chris Somers was one of the three finalists for the most sportsmanlike player in the country. Somers lost out to Darrin McKechnie from Regina. In announcing the winner the presenters listed Somers as the goaltender from the UNB Red Shirts. As well, in listing the previous winners of the CIAU MVP award, those in charge said John LeBlanc won the award in 1985-86 while playing for York University. As everyone knows Leblanc won the award with the Red Devils.



BY  
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Could the CFL be buying its way back into near distinction? Remember the late seventies when the Montreal Alouettes owner, Nelson Skalbania, tried to purchase a winning franchise by drawing upon big-name talents from south of the border. At that time players such as Vince Ferrayamo, Tom Cousineau, Billy "White Shoes" Johnson and the like were signed by Skalbania to huge contracts and expected to clinch Grey Cups in front of sell out crowds at Olympic Stadium. Of course, as you know, things did not turn out that way and the enormous investment in American superstars back-fired and essentially led to the demise of a once proud football organization. The Als folded and became the Condorces, came back as the Alouettes again then folded for good before the start of the 1987 season.

Well the game scenario could be occurring all over again out west. Doug Flutie who was the league's most valuable player last season, has reportedly turned down the British Columbia Lions' offer of about 1 million dollars per year. He is supposed to be seeking 1.2 million dollars per year and may get it in Calgary. Where Calgary get the money we are not sure. It does look like some CFL owner's eyes are getting too big for their pocket books.

It is kind of funny that at the CFL awards banquet Flutie thanked the CFL, the Lions and Canada for putting the fun back in football for him. We think he must figure he'll have even more fun when his wallet is bigger. Loyalty is so prominent these days.

Are the Ottawa Roach Riders kidding themselves or what? They are apparently going to sign former Dallas Cowboy Tony Dorsett - who is 39 years old. What is going on in sports? Is the 1990's the decade of old, fat, ex-superstars trying to make a comeback? These guys are embarrassing.

Why the CIAU continues to hold their national hockey championship at Varsity Arena in Toronto is baffling. This year's final was played between Alberta and Acadia in front of a crowd which only took up half the seats in the place. It is obvious that interest in Toronto is very low unless there is a southern Ontario team playing. There has to be better locations in this country that would take on the project and ensure its success. Moving the site every year has never seemed to be considered by the "top dogs" even though other national tournaments such as the Memorial Cup, Centennial Cup, Allan Cup and Air Canada Cup move every year and are continually successful. Kind of makes you wonder what some people are thinking, eh?

Shawn O'Sullivan returned to the boxing ring the other day to fight one of the Hilton brothers of Montreal. O'Sullivan is trying to come back from the last time he got humiliated in a fight and had to retire. By the look on his face after the fight, he should have stayed retired.

**Last week's Trivia Answer:** Ken Hammond has played for Toronto, Edmonton, New York, Boston and Los Angeles in addition to the two he played for this year - San Jose and Vancouver.

**This week's Trivia Question:** What is the 'nickname' of the expansion baseball franchise granted to Colorado?

In Uniondale, NY, hockey fans have had their share of disappointments this year in the NY Islanders. The Isles are battling for the final playoff spot in the Patrick Division with the Pittsburgh Penguins. Last Tuesday's win was sweet, 5-2 over Philadelphia, for coach Al Arbour. He became only the second coach in NHL history to win 700 games. To you this may not seem to be an astonishing note, but to NHL coaches who are in and out of cities like a traveling circus, this is quite a feat.

Congratulations to the Yeowomen who captured a recent indoor soccer tournament in Moncton. With a rise in women's soccer it wouldn't be surprising if this club turned varsity in the future.

We all have embarrassing moments in the sports world, we see them every Monday on plays of the week or this week's bloopers. One player who recently made all highlight clips is Dan Petryle. He didn't drop a fly ball, fall over the blue line or even take his pants off in the middle of a ball game, he fell. Not just anywhere, but on a winning draw by Kevin Martin, Alberta's skip at The Labatt Brier. It just goes to show that you never know when you're being watched.

UNB Red Stick, Tanya Whalen went to see the Rocket. Not the one that flies into space, but the one that flies down the football field in the CFL. Tanya travelled to Halifax last week to meet the Rocket and receive an award for combining athletics and academics. Congratulations Tanya Whalen, you're this week's Out in Left Field's performer of the week.

Make sure you're in this year's UNB Red Devil hockey playoff pool with two thousand dollars in prizes. You can get your playoff form from any Red Devil or by contacting the Red Devils hockey club.

**Red Devils**