

Poulin Leads Baby Habs

By Luke Peterson

The Fredericton Canadiens pulled one out of the fire Monday evening, managing a goal with just over two minutes left in the third, to defeat the Halifax Citadelles 3-2. Rookie center Charles Poulin blasted a twenty-five footer past Halifax goalie Paul Krake, to give the Canadiens a lead that they protected in the dying minutes of the final frame.

Pierre Sevigny and Craig Ferguson netted the other Habs goals, both of which came on the power play.

I had the opportunity to talk with Poulin Tuesday after the Canadiens practice, about some of the difficulties young players have adjusting to professional hockey.

At the age of twenty, Poulin is a newcomer to the American Hockey League, having played his previous three seasons for St. Hyacinthe of the Quebec Major Junior League. Poulin accumulated a total of 290 points throughout his junior career. In his final year, he scored 38 goals, led the league with 97 assists and was selected as the Canadian Major Junior Player of the year.

Poulin is quick to admit that the pro game is a big step up from the junior ranks. He admits that coming into the Canadiens training camp, he had high expectations.

"Having played a lot on the first line and the power play in junior, I needed to adjust to a lesser role this season".

He says Coach Paulin Bordeleau has told him to be patient and take the time to mature as a player. Says Poulin: "The Coach told me, 'look Charles, you're only twenty years old, take your time, and one day you'll have your chance.'" Certainly, the Baby Habs can use the services of another playmaking centre, with Jesse Belanger and Paul Dipietro now playing with the parent club.

Poulin is currently taking correspondence courses in math and statistics, from a college in his home province of Quebec. Upon completing these courses, he will be eligible to apply to any university, however he doesn't see a university degree in his immediate future. He concedes that his correspondence courses are primarily intended to give him a better insight into running his finances; something many pro athletes should learn to do.

Poulin spends his off-seasons in his hometown of Magog, Quebec where he trains every day from 9:00 til 10:30 each morning and then relaxes in the afternoons by playing golf. The 6 foot, 172 lb. centre has a steady girlfriend from Magog, she lives here with him during the season and also takes college correspondence courses. Poulin says she may choose to enroll at UNB next year.



Charles Poulin, after being named Canadian Major Junior Player of the Year last season, is adjusting well to life as a pro.

Photo by Kevin G. Porter

Basketball Nationals

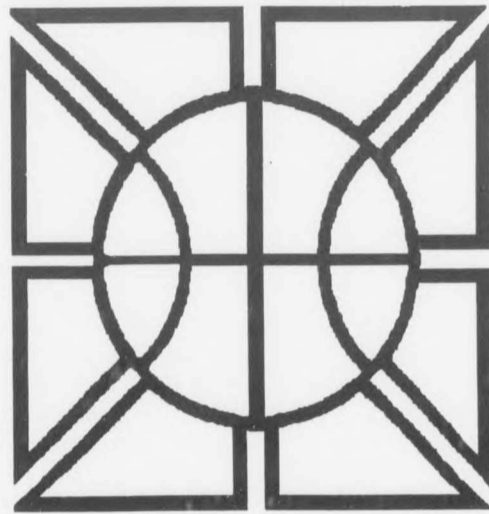
by Bruce Denis

Far away from the cold and storming east, the best female university cagers gathered in sunny and warm Victoria, BC, however they weren't enjoying the weather. Eight teams took part in the National Championships which began one week ago and ended last Sunday.

With temperatures soaring to 15 degrees in the March sun, the AUAA Champion UPEI Panthers bowed out early after losing two straight games. Such was not the case for the University of Winnipeg Wesmen who breezed their way to the finals.

Much to the delight of the hometown crowd, the host University of Victoria also made their way to the final game which promised to be an excellent display of Canadian talent.

Early on Sunday afternoon, the Laurentian Lady Vees beat the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns 85-57 and clinched the consolation final. This set the stage for the Championships.



Wesman Sandra Carroll stole the show with 20 points leading Winnipeg to victory in a thriller that ended with a score of 70-63. Carroll was named tournament MVP.

Today, on the other side of the country, the men's cage nationals get underway at the Metro Centre in Halifax.

Tonight's games feature number one ranked Concordia University versus

number eight ranked University of Western Ontario, University of Winnipeg versus the University of Ottawa, University of Calgary versus St. Francis Xavier who won the AUAA Championships last weekend, and Brandon University versus McMaster University.

The tournament promises to be a good one. The championship final is scheduled for Sunday afternoon.

Celtics and Bruins were worth the trip

Pilgrimage to the 'Gahdens'

by Kevin G. Porter

A couple of months back my best friend asked me if I would be interested in going to Boston on Spring Break. The reason behind the trip was because he had a couple of tickets to both the Celtics and Bruins game. The Celtics were playing the Portland Trail Blazers while the Bruins would face the Montreal Canadiens. The prospect of seeing both an NHL game as well as an NBA game was enough to surpass the projected expenses of at least \$100 per night for a hotel, over \$30 per game ticket as well as spending money.

Neither of us had ever been to Boston so we had to allow for time to get lost in the process of finding the hotel (about 1 hour). That hour was spent in Sunday traffic, although it seemed like rush hour and only involved a couple of wrong turns.

When we finally arrived at the hotel the "valet" parked the car and a feeling of relief hit me (I Hate Driving Around Big Cities!). We had just enough time to grab a sandwich at the "World Famous Stage Deli" before catching a cab to the Celtics game for 7pm. The cab took us to the Boston Gahdens which is in a rather old, run-down part of town and let us out directly in front of the main door in a huge crowd under the train over pass.

The game itself was not as exciting as I anticipated despite the rapid action and close score. The Trail Blazers led for the first half maintaining at least a 3 point lead and forcing several fouls on the Celtics. The Celtics "Cheer-Leader" tried desperately to arouse the sleepy crowd with his antics and noise signs but with little effect until the second half. Before the Celtics and the fans woke up the crowd was entertained by the "Bud-Light Acrobats" for a

half-time show. Their mix of humor and basketball managed to rouse some emotion out of the rather sedate crowd. This new found emotion seemed to rub off on the Celtics as they came out a little more lively, grabbing the lead in the third quarter. This lead was held, with only intermittent release, for the rest of the game which ended in a final score of 122-110.

The major casualty of the game was an injury on the part of Clyde Drexler in the fourth quarter which may have helped the Celtics maintain their lead to win.

Upon completion of the game, with souvenirs in hand Jeff and I headed for the street in hopes of catching a waiting cab. We chased one down and were safely returned to our hotel.

The following morning we awoke and found our way to a store specializing in university clothing called the 'Alma Mater'. Believe it or not they had some clothing with UNB on it.

After a long day we made our way to the Gahdens again in time for the Canadiens-Bruins game.

We arrived at the Gahdens with time to spare this time and found our seats without incident in time to see the end of the warm-up.

The hockey game began with Montreal exploding with a couple of quick goals and then settle into their usual game plan. Boston continued to put the pressure on and proceeded to outshoot the Canadiens the entire game.

Montreal seemed to be able to turn it on or off at will scoring three more goals and only allowing Boston to score twice. Montreal's game plan worked perfectly as the team could seem to rest for their next onslaught by allowing Roy to take on the Bruins himself. Patrick played brilliantly despite what the Bruin

fans' shirts said (Canadiens Suck; Roy Eats Shit).

The action also involved a rather vigorous fight on the ice as Mario Roberge of the Canadiens (of course) managed to pummel his opponent. Roberge not only closed the guy's eye but managed to get a game misconduct due to a technicality over some tape on his fingers (picky, picky).

This fight seemed to set the tone for the night as several (at least 5) fights broke out in the stands during the game with one involving at least six people. As another fight proceeded I heard on a security guard's radio that "two grown men just split each other's heads open over a \$3 puck", what a couple of idiots.

The emotions were running very high as the beer flowed freely, not a good combination. These fights, and repeated taunts at the Canadiens really made us feel a little uneasy as we are both Canadiens fans. Feeling like lambs in the "Bruins" den we held our cheering in check and did not delay in our exit.

We arrived at the main doors and were greeted by a guy accosting a hot-dog vendor telling him to get his "F*!in' cart out of there" as he proceeded to knock it over in the street. With this in mind we grabbed the first cab we saw and headed for the hotel. Finally our last taxi ride with yet another unfriendly taxi driver got us to the hotel where we patronized the pub before going to our room to rest up for our long trip home.

We arrived in good old Fredericton glad we had gone, but happy to be home, with little if any desire to go to Boston again. If you like navigating big cities, are a Boston fan, or a brave Canadiens fan then Boston is the place to go, if not watch it on TV or go to Montreal. But that's another story!