

## Sports Comment

# Re-examine referees

by Greg Zed

With the Atlantic Intercollegiate Hockey schedule drawing to a close for a Christmas break, it is fitting to make an assessment of the so called "hockey officials" which are involved with the Inter-collegiate circuit. As a person who views all of Dalhousie's games I can honestly suggest that their ability to date needs evaluation, to say the least. I do not think that it is fair to suggest that all of the officials are terrible but it is certainly time to send several officials "back to school".

A few weeks ago when the Dal squad was involved in a tournament in P.E.I. a number of calls were highly questionable. Well, that is all part of the game, but what is the game and what is "turning a blind eye" to a situation in favor of a home-town call? The incident which I am referring to involved left winger Darrell MacGregor. He was speared in the face and required medical attention to the tune of five stitches. The referee Mike Kelly, was made aware of the circumstance by a member of the Dal hockey squad who was in the penalty box. The result - Mac Gregor was stitched, the player responsible for the infraction was free from any penalty and the penalized Dal player received a misconduct.

A week later the officials forgot to show up for the game in Mount Allison. I suppose it doesn't matter because the game can be officiated by some interested non-biased fan but is that fair to the hockey players??? Well the coach of Mount Allison contacted two linesmen from the Minor Hockey League to

do the Varsity game. It just happened that the officials couldn't keep up with the play. Is this fair to either team?

The last thing to spark the scene was Sunday's episode at the SMU rink. Don Whalen was up to his old tricks again. On two occasions a Dal player was speared by the opposition but nothing was done. Defenceman Rick Roemer was ejected from the game for protecting his goalie who was assaulted by an opponent. Nothing was said about the helpless goalie but Whalen couldn't miss Roemer's involvement. Fans on both sides were the first to make mention of the "home-town calls" as well as the lack of proper officiating.

It is beyond my understanding why officials let themselves get in "hot water". Many of the officials may have the papers but it is shameful to see how these officials use their power. In most games they show a lack of mature judgement and a lack of responsibility. Game after game there are a number of players who suffer injuries due to an infraction that occurs on the ice. It must be frustrating for coaches and players alike who share the dreadful and painful experience. Moreover, if they utter a word about the officiating they are called "cry babies." Personally I feel that it is about time someone called a meeting to discuss the caliber of officiating at the college level.

Thousands of dollars are invested in Athletics at the various universities to provide the participants with the equipment nec-

essary for involvement but monies are not allocated for insurance due to injury. Even if insurance were provided, it is necessary to protect the athlete from the weapon of a stick. Fines are imposed in the professional levels of hockey against those that "spear" players but it does not follow at the college level. The infraction results in a match penalty with a one game suspension but my purpose is not to expound on the rules of the game as much as point out that the league is headed for some serious problems.

The officials, who are well paid by anyone's standards are not performing an adequate service to the consumers. Fans, players, coaches, and administrators are being ripped off and nothing will be done until a player is permanently injured. Can we wait to react to a situation which is hanging over us. Administrators should consult with their coaches on all levels in all sports and see if the role of the official is being properly carried out. If not, the league fathers should step in and make the games safer to play. I would certainly re-examine my function if I were doing an inadequate job.

In short, it is not enough to try and get coaches' support because those officials will get you back but certainly it must be brought to the chair-person that the quality of officiating at the college level in the Atlantic region leaves a lot to be desired. One fan at St. Mary's put it this way:

"Maybe Pierre Page can re-direct his efforts for hockey schools towards a school for officials." Without a doubt Page has certainly done a great deal for the sport of hockey not only at Dal but in the community. Maybe he should teach the officials the rules so that his future hockey enthusiasts will not suffer from the inadequacies of poor quality officiating.

Comments and questions on this

or any other aspect on sports at Dalhousie are welcomed: Address all comments to Dalhousie Gazette, Student Union Building.

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and the 100 in 59.6 secs. - a new Dalhousie record. First year student Joann Duncan swam a fine 200 yard butterfly to win the event in 2:46.5 adding to her third place finish in the 200 freestyle. Anne Campbell placed second with valuable swims in the 200 I.M. and 200 yard breaststroke events.

Andrea Gillespie swam an improving backstroke to take second spot in the 200 yard competition. Divers Gail Stewart and Margie Barrow dove consistently to secure places in both diving events.

Dal swimmers and divers now face exams and then a trip to Florida over Christmas to prepare for the remainder of the 1976 schedule.

## Attention sailors

The Nova Scotia Sailing Association will be holding a meeting concerning the St. Margaret's Bay Race Week '76 and the 1976 Rothmans Fireball World Championship this Friday. The meeting will be held on December 5 at 8:00 P.M. in the auditorium of the Killam Library of Dalhousie University. All interested sailors and volunteers are invited to attend so planning may begin for these important events. Further details may be obtained from David Gough, N.S.S.A. Technical Director, at 425-5450.

## Curling continues till 12th

by B.J. Jones

I failed to mention in our first article on curling, when and where the Dal Curling Club meets. It all happens at C. F. B. Curling Club, Windsor Park, on Monday Afternoons from 3 - 5 p.m. and on Friday from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Often our ice time is interrupted by local bonspiels, so all curlers should keep an eye on the bulletin board by the SUB cafeteria for any changes in times. Last week the girls at Sherriff Hall didn't get any word on time changes and thus missed a late practice. It is rather difficult for our executive to contact all curlers about changes, which can occur within 24 hours, but it was suggested that one girl could be contacted and she would then spread the word to the others in the building. In any event, we hope it won't happen again.

This week, Dal Curlers salute the Grants Committee for the \$425.00 they threw our way. We also congratulate Virginia Jackson and

Alan Sutherland for successfully gaining berths to the Nova Scotia Provincial for the under 19 age group. Jackson and Sutherland will take their teams to Truro in December, where the best teams from all the Zones across the province will be competing.

There haven't been too many people showing up for practice in the past two weeks, but this is understandable considering the number of tests, exams, term papers, parties, etc. that the average student is facing. (Funny - the Law students are able to make it up to the Club: why can't we??) I think this trend will change, hopefully, after Christmas when the men's playdowns begin and the women start vying for positions on their team. As far as I know, practice will continue up until Dec. 12th and resume when classes begin in January.

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