

LITTLE 500

By JOHN TILLEY

After weeks of hard work and preparation by Wally Fedoryk and his staff, "Little 500" happened. After choosing a course, they had to cut the usual red tape and obtain permission for the closure of "La Tour de Campus" for Saturday morning. Of course, starters timers, course judges, lap counters, and other officials had to be briefed on race procedures. Hundreds of other small details also had to be taken care of before that fateful day. The success of this year's race can be credited to those people who worked before and on race day, at making the riding easier and swifter for all cyclists.

At 9:30 Saturday morning all the racers gathered in the gym for a short pre-race briefing regarding signal flags, passing procedures, pit stops, pit areas and about the racing itself by the clerk of the course, Mr. Selder. There was an intense feeling of excitement that morning as every person listened intently before proceeding to their pit areas for final checks on their bicycles and final instructions from the team coaches. Everything seemed ready - the race began promptly at 10:30.

The racers lined up in a grid start with commerce in the post position along with Law, and Dents in the front row. Engineering, Pharmacy and Education and Science occupied the second; Arts and Meds held down the eighth and ninth places. After a pace lap led by Wally Fedoryk the referee, the racers got off to a flying start with the Engineers in first place as the racers completed lap one. This was to be the story all morning - the Engineers first all the way.

The highly polished Engineer machine just rode everyone else into the ground. The team's first man, Elwood Sangster held a small lead which seemed to increase with every lap. The Engineers received no penalties for exchanges out of the pit area or for infractions on the course; and their speedy riding average speed over 22 mph as well as their lightning rider changes added to their lead in a most convincing engineering win.

However, this run-away by the Engineers in no way detracted from the excitement of the race as the competition between the other teams was intensely competitive and at times unbearably

gruelling. The Arts team ended the first lap in last position and the second in seventh place. The Meds team suffered the races only real crack-up on the South Street Loop, and this mishap cost the Doctors a couple of laps. Arts remained in their position for the next 10 laps and then began a very methodical run at every team in front of them.

Racing around the 3,400 foot course in a very consistent manner and incurring no penalties, the Arts team finally caught the second running Science team with less than five laps to go as the Lawyers, running a good second place had fallen behind on a two lap penalty for a registration infraction. However, time ran out before anyone could come close to the flying Engineers.

The race ended at 12:40 as Meds crossed the finish line 20 minutes behind the winning Engineers.

This event was one of the most exciting events at Dalhousie this year, and of course will be continued. Some organizational mistakes occurred but these will not happen again. "Little 500" was a Tremendous for both participants and spectators, and will return!!

