

# Ken Fultz — hard at work for athletics

by Mark Alberstat

In basements across the country, there are many cottage industries and offices of volunteer organizations. Few of these basement offices have a direct hand in the operation of athletic associations.

The basement of Ken Fultz's house, however, does. Along with his wife, Diana and their two children, Fultz runs the only office the Atlantic Universities Athletic Association has known since 1977.

Ken Fultz's position as Executive Secretary entails taking and producing the minutes of meetings, paying the bills and receiving all the money for the AUAA, making all the travel arrangements for teams going from the mainland to Newfoundland as well as hotel and motel arrangements, paying sport officials, working on the annual Atlantic Bowl committee, and now working on the CIAU Men's Basketball Championships, which the AUAA will be hosting for another two to three years.

In 1970, Fultz went to work part-time for the then AIAA, the Atlantic Inter-Collegiate Athletic Association. "At the same time I was working full-time as a federal civil servant in the Naval Engineering Unit. When I retired from the civil service two years ago, it is alleged I continued to work part-time for the AUAA. It's actually a good eight to ten hours a day most days of the week. I also give my wife a hand with the statistics on the weekend," said Fultz. "Statistics won't work in an office. You've got to have somebody who is prepared to work approximately eighteen hours a day when they are needed,

regardless of whether you have a computer or not. You are getting continuous calls until press time by the various newspapers in the region. If you tried to put it in an office setting, you are going to have someone working in a corner by themselves long hours. The AUAA simply does not work on a phone-answering system."

In 1977, Ken Fultz had a back operation which did not allow him to go to the regular AUAA office, which was in Scotia Square at the time. This incapacitation led to the office's move to his house. "We just moved it into the rec-room at home, put in a table and a chair, and away we went from there, and it has progressed from that. Instead of being in a corner of a room it is now half a basement with a computer and all the rest right there. There is also a storage area there for all the banners and trophies. It works well, and if I want to do something, I'm right here. If they (the universities or the media) want us there's usually somebody there."

Stephanie can answer most questions about statistics, knowing where to find the proper information, while Terry will also field calls.

The 57-year-old Fultz was born and grew up in Halifax. He lived in Halifax until his marriage in 1962, after which he moved to Dartmouth. It's strange that Fultz would be so active in college athletics, considering he never played at the varsity level, spending most of his sports time as an official. "I played football at St Mary's high school for two years and then I was manager for the

teams. I started refereeing football at the same time, in the inner-faculty league at St. Mary's College."

Fultz then progressed to refereeing in the senior league about 1946, when he was still playing highschool football. Around the same time he officiated hockey in the local area but found it too time-consuming and dropped it after five years.

"I gave up working directly with the football officials a few years ago. I still work hand-in-hand with the Referee-in-Chief, but most of the work I do is financial. I also work with the three provincial assigners in hockey. When the playoffs come around, the decision of who's going to officiate is made by the chairperson of hockey and usually myself.

There are not a lot of people out there who want to be officials in the AUAA. The officials that are out there do their officiating in their own association and work their way through their own level system," said Fultz.

Fultz has seen several changes in the present AUAA, but most of them have been name changes. In 1969 there were actually two athletic associations, one for men and one for women. The men's half was called the MIAA, while the women's was called the WIAA. In 1974 the two groups combined to form the present-day AUAA.

"When I went to work for them in 1987 there were the present ten universities. The organization has not changed radically. It's still ten athletic directors as an administrative sort of committee, twenty people in total made up of the athletic director and a second delegate from each university. Now there will be an added sys-

tem by the spring which will mean the board of Directors will be the president of the ten schools as a committee. That's new and that's the main change in 15 years."

In many parts of Canada the Atlantic region lacks respect other areas of the country receive. This, however, is not the case for university athletics, according to the Fultz. In fact, the AUAA was looked at with envy by other varsity athletic associations for its organization and experience over the years.

"We were the best for a long time, and I'm not saying that we are not now. We were probably better-organized than most, and that was particularly evident when we went to the CIAU annual meetings. Everyone in our contingent knew what everyone else was thinking and we rarely did any caucusing.

Now the others have caught on and realized, 'Hey, those guys are organized,' and have gotten

themselves organized, which tends to speed everything up."

Fultz now attends the CIAU annual meetings only as a resource person for the AUAA representatives. Normally, if the meeting is relatively close, each Atlantic university will send two delegates. If the meeting were to be held on the west coast, only one delegate would go.

One would imagine that after working in college athletics for so many years, Fultz would remember more than a few humorous incidents. This is not the case, however, as the only he remembers happened in the mid-1950s.

"It is a football escapade that happened in Fredericton when both teams were wearing exactly identical red and white uniforms. Three officials arrived to do the game, me being one of them, but there were supposed to be five.

"What happened was, St. Dunstan's (now UPEI) had the ball

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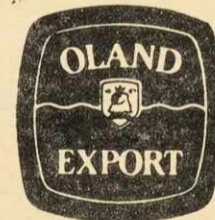
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