

Expertise promising

Team Canada skier coaching at Dal

by Joel Fournier

The Dalhousie Alpine Ski Team is fortunate to have as their coach and fellow competitor Bill Honeywell, a twenty-four year old native of Ottawa, Ontario. In his second year of the combined MBA and L.L.D program this busy young man still finds time to coach and compete with what is rapidly becoming the outstanding Alpine racing team in Atlantic Canada.

Bill began his skiing career at the rather late age of eleven, but taking advantage of the excellent skiing conditions and instructional programs carried out in the Ottawa area he soon became proficient enough to enter local competitions.

In 1964 at the Canadian Junior Championships the young skier placed third in the slalom and fourth in the combined totals. This was only the beginning of what was to be an exciting future in national and international events.

1965 brought more meets and even greater rewards. Bill raced in the North American circuit (now Can-Am) finishing second in the slalom at Taschereau, second again at Mt. Oxford, and third in the highly competitive Quebec

Junior Championships.

His excellent showing quickly brought him to the attention of the Canadian Ski Team selection committee and he was chosen as a "Les Espoirs" in that same year. "Les Espoirs" are those skiers who are expected to develop to international class competitors and are groomed for future membership with the National A and B teams.

The top-flight training and coaching received with the team soon paid off. In 1966 at Taschereau, Bill took first place in the slalom and second in the combined. He was second at Madonna in the Quebec-Americans, and later in the same year at Laurentian Zone Junior Championships took first place in both the slalom and giant slalom.

1967 and 1968 were repeats of his past performances. First in the Thetford Mines slalom and combined, fourth in the Canadian Juniors combined, the Quebec Division champion, and first in the Giant Slalom at the Pontiac Cup Races held at Bromont. Quite a list of achievements for a young man who had been skiing only seven years.

Sandwiched between this

busy activity on the slopes, Bill found time to complete his high school education at Glebe Collegiate in Ottawa and receive a bachelors degree in Political Science from Guelph University.

Returning to competition in 1969, Bill found that he had been named to the National B team. His future looked brighter than ever and a berth on the A team seemed almost assured. But as so often happens fate intervened and Bill's career came to a jarring halt. While competing in the Downhill at Aspen, Colorado, during the Roche Cup Races, he sustained a broken leg in an accident that was to keep him off skis for the next two years.

An injury of this type (broken fibula and tibia) would have discouraged many young men, but a skier with the competitive drive that Honeywell possessed was not so easily put off.

In 1971 after the pins and plates had been removed and a year of exhaustive rebuilding of the leg muscles had been completed, Bill enrolled at Grenoble University in France for post-graduate work in Political Science. Obviously the academic program was not the only offering that lured him to

that part of the world. Georges Joubert, who is recognized by most knowledgeable ski buffs as the top coach on the skiing scene, just happened to be Alpine mentor at Grenoble.

Bill was good enough to be named a member of the university team, an honour that can only be appreciated if one realizes that the rivalry among skiers wanting to be coached by Joubert is intense.

The pattern of success the young Honeywell enjoyed in Canada was repeated at meets in Europe. He was fortunate enough to ski extensively throughout the continent, in places that less blessed skiers can only dream about.

Italy, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Austria and of course, France, are just some of the countries that constituted the F.I.S.U. ski circuit. Bill won the Giant Slalom at the Grenoble Cup meet, placed second in the University of Grenoble Championships and fifth in the slalom at Val d'Isere.

Once again luck ran out. While competing at Val d'Isere, he suffered a vertebral compression fracture and was out of skiing for the remainder of the year.

Returning to Canada, he taught high school in Ottawa on a "substitute" basis, and during the summer ran a day-camp for boys.

In the fall of 1971, he was accepted by the Dalhousie Law and Commerce schools as a candidate for the combined M.B.A. and L.L.D. program.

Unable to stay away from the sport that monopolized so much of his early life, he took over the coaching duties of the Dalhousie Alpine racing team. Anxious to pass on the many skills that he had accumulated over the years, he initiated an intensive training program designed to improve an already talented group of young Dal skiers.

The hard work paid off. At the Carleton Invitational, Bill had a personal best of second in the Giant Slalom and the Dal team placed third overall. Not bad work for a skier coming off a broken back the year before.

This season the outlook for the Dal team looks even brighter. A

concentrated dry-land conditioning program begun early in the fall under the direction of fourth year P.E. student Wally Fry, has the team in top physical shape. A week of skiing at Sugar Loaf and Owl's Head during the Christmas break, combined with sporadic ventures to Martock and Wentworth, has helped sharpen the mechanical techniques of the team. In addition, two fortunate team members, Mike Blaxland and Andreas Josenhans were chosen to attend a C.S.A. coaching clinic held at Cornerbrook.

Earlier this month races were held at Martock to select the Alpine team that will represent Dal at this year's Carleton Invitational. Choosing the team was extremely difficult because of the excellent showings of so many of the hopefuls. The final selection includes: Mike Blaxland, Bill Honeywell, Ralph Petley-Jones, Tom Vincent and Andreas Josenhans.

Coach Honeywell rates this team as good if not better than last year's edition, and feels they have an excellent chance to improve on the third place showing of last year. A tall order seeing that many of the top skiers east of Manitoba will be in view.

In view of the past performances of some of the Dal team, one can only speculate as to how far some of our local skiers would go, if they had the facilities that are available at places such as Mt. Tremblant in Quebec, Rosalyn, B.C. or the Blue Mountain region of Ontario.

Well, conjecture is one thing and performance is another. The Carleton Invitational on the ninth and tenth of February and the Atlantic Intercollegiate at Cape Smokey on the fifth and sixth of March will tell the tale for the Studley team. Don't be surprised to see Dal walk off with top honours in at least one of these meets.

If indeed this prediction should happen to come true, it will be due in no small part to the hard work of a group of highly skilled young men, and in particular to their dedicated coach, Bill Honeywell.

Badminton better

by Ted Scrutton

This season the varsity badminton team is much stronger than in the past. Various competitors have won events at the Antigonish Round Robin and J.L. Illsley Round Robin. In the Nova Scotia team championship the team defeated Stadacona B before Christmas but lost to Stadacona A on Thursday, January 11.

The intercollegiate schedule consists of one round robin

tournament to be held at U.N.B. on February 24. At this meet the team consists of 3 men and 3 ladies comprising one doubles and singles team each. The players trying out for these positions are Debbie Reardon, Tok Lerg Toy, Kim Tai Tee, Beryl English, Sheila Spencer, Jim Foulds, Kathie Moules, Brian Hubley, Reg Mac-Michael, and Derrick Morris. The athletes returning from last year's team are Derrick, Reg

and Beryl.

Unfortunately, with the poor facilities at Dalhousie, we are forced to practise at 9:00-12:00 a.m. on Sundays. But we have recently acquired Nova Scotia Technical College's gymnasium on Friday nights from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The coach is very optimistic about the team this year and looks forward to a good showing at the intercollegiate championship.

Car rally to be held

The Dalhousie Student Union invites you to enter the first annual Dalhousie Student Union Rally, Sunday, February 4, 1973.

This rally is not a rough, dirt road rally. It is open to any Dal student. No special equipment or previous experience necessary. Novice class only. Location of start/finish: Parking lot at rear of SUB. Length: Approx. 80 mi. — 3½ to 4 hours driving time. Entirely within greater Halifax-Dartmouth area. 98 percent paved.

Time: Registration — 10:30-

1:30 a.m.; Driver's briefing — 11:30 a.m.; First car away — 12:02 p.m.

Entry fee: \$2.00 per car which includes dash plaque for all entrants (driver and navigator) and aftermath in Grawood Lounge at finish — coffee, donuts, music, etc.

Driver and/or navigator must be members of Dalhousie Student Union. If under 19 years of age must have written permission of parent or guardian.

Entry forms available at SUB enquiry desk. Prizes: dash plaque for all entrants. Annual trophy for 1st, 2nd and 3rd

overall. Recommended equipment: clipboard, paper, pencils, watch, full tank of gas.

Any further information may be obtained from the Organizers: Steve Manley — 425-5544 or Dave Hyson — 422-2882

424-2055 or at the Driver's briefing.



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