

## Moncton upstarts win CIAUs

by Josh Rubin

For the first time in eight seasons, the CIAU men's hockey champions are from Atlantic Canada.

The Moncton Aigle-Bleus, seeded fourth going into the nationals tournament at Varsity Arena last week, outthrustled and outskated the second-seeded Laurier Golden Hawks to take the national crown.

The Hawks were weary coming into this game, having narrowly escaped defeat at the hands of the UQTR Patriotes in their Thursday night semi-final. In that game, Laurier goalie Rob Dobson (later named tournament

MVP) stopped 41 shots *en route* to a 2-1 Laurier victory.

The plucky Moncton side came into Saturday's final on a roll. In the second semi-final match they stunned the top-ranked Calgary Dinosaurs 5-4 in overtime. It was a game in which, despite being outshot 47-21, Calgary still took a 4-2 into the final two minutes.

A pair of Moncton goals sent the game into overtime, where, at 2:51, Sylvain Lemay finished the incredible Aigle-Bleus comeback.

Saturday afternoon saw both teams come out flying, with the Golden Hawks battering Moncton's smaller forwards.

The Hawks, however, were disorganized in their own end and midway through the first period, Moncton went ahead 1-0 on a powerplay marker by Thursday's hero Lemay.

Just over two minutes later, however, at 11:17, Laurier tied the game up with Moncton's Louis Melanson sent off for slashing.

By the second period, the Moncton team looked disorganized. Intimidated by Laurier's physical style of play, the Aigle-Bleus played tentatively.

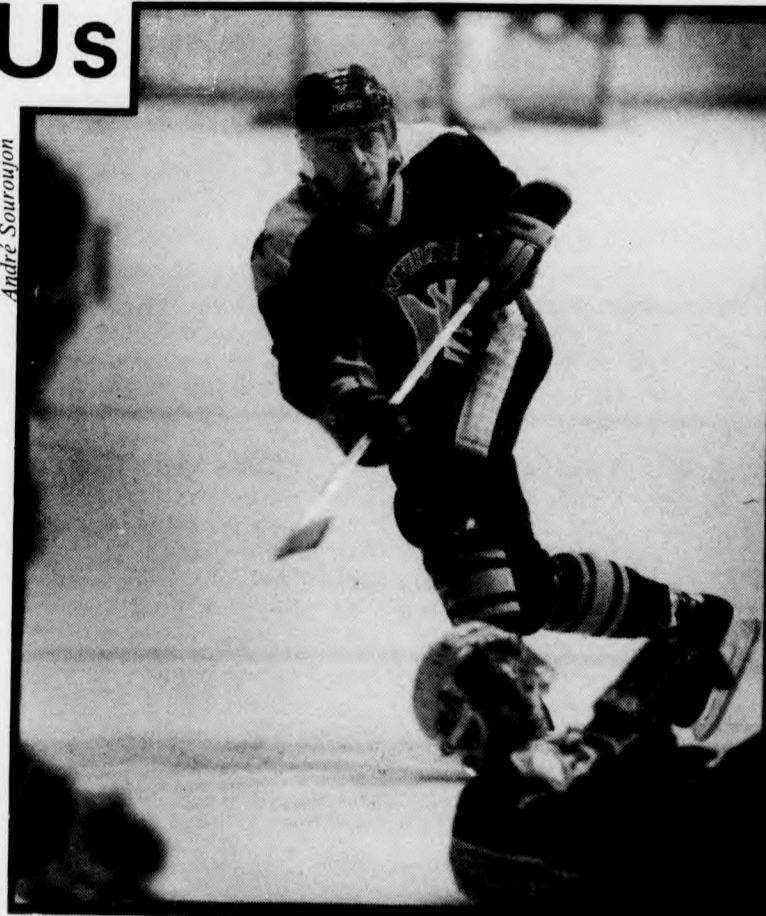
For some reason that will remain forever unknown, the Laurier team stopped hitting.

The Aigle-Bleus welcomed their new-found freedom, outshooting the Golden Hawks 11-7 in the second frame.

Both teams were pumped up for the all-important third period.

But with the Golden Hawks still not hitting, Moncton's Mathieu Beliveau put a rebound past a beleaguered Rob Dobson for the game winner at 10:16.

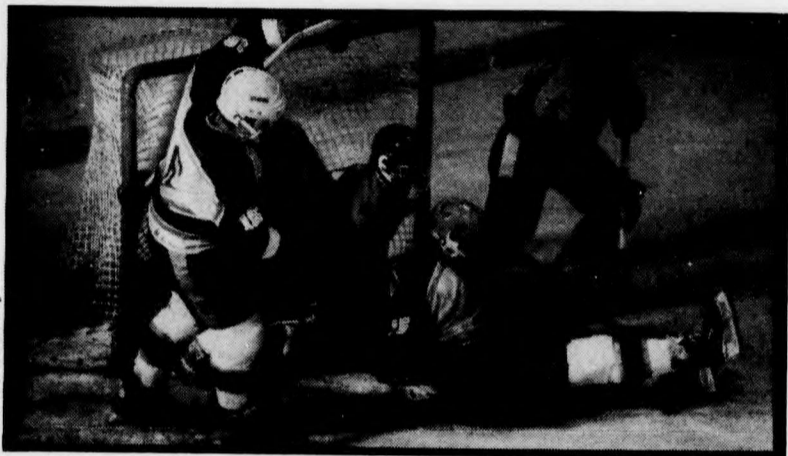
Nine minutes and 44 seconds later, pandemonium broke loose as Moncton took the national title back to the Atlantic Universities Athletic Association (AUAA) for the first time since the 1981-82 season, when the Aigle-Bleus both hosted and won the tournament.



Another shot for beleaguered Laurier goalie Rob Dobson.

Among other things, the Moncton win was sweet revenge for Friday night's awards dinner where some Laurier players tittered as Moncton captain Claude Gosselin accepted the most gentlemanly player award in French.

Moncton coach Len Doucet, in his fourth season with the team, summed everything up best as he basked in the limelight. "They said it would take a miracle for us to win, so we had to prove a lot of things, especially to ourselves."



Moncton beats 'em blue.

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