

HOLT ON SPORT

by Gary H. H.

Congratulations must go to the football team on their 2-1 win over St. F.X. last week. Unfortunately I didn't see the game but I was told that the defence did one hell of a job. With that score they must have.

Despite ending the season on a winning note, the sober fact of a 1-5 season must be faced. It is going to be better next year? Unless recruiting is improved, the prospect is for an even more dismal year than this one.

The point I want to make is that a team should either be competitive or get out altogether. If there is an underhanded move in the administration or some other part of this University to de-emphasize football then the decision should be made in the open.

It is basically a question of having a team which can compete or no team at

all. Do not force this university to be humiliated on the playing field because it does not have players comparable in ability to the rest of the schools in the Bluenose Football Conference.

Long gone is the day when the sports team which does no recruiting can compete with let alone defeat, a team from a university which does recruit.

The administration must face it; recruiting is a fact of life in intercollegiate sports. In some cases the mere fact of recruiting is not enough; there have to be other persuasions.

One cannot go on hiding one's head in the sand. There is only one answer. Either do as everyone else is doing or get out completely.

The question of getting out must not be left to some button pusher in the administration, either. The students are the ones who should make the decision. Do

you want competitive athletics at this university or not?

The question should be put to the student body in a referendum. The result should be honoured. If they vote "no" then the university gets out of athletics. If they vote "yes" then the administration backs that decision and also backs the efforts of the coaches who are trying their best to provide competitive teams.

To go back a bit, I repeat that it should be a student decision. They are the ones who benefit from athletics either directly as participants or indirectly as spectators, which includes the ability to brag that Dal beat SMU or St. F.X. in this sport or that.

I do not mean to convey the impression that Dalhousie should become what is commonly known as a "jock" school. One can have a very competitive athletic program and still maintain a very good academic reputation.

So many people often think that if athletics are good then the academics must be bad. This is not true. This university has a very great reputation as an excellent academic institution. The fact we might win a hockey or basketball championship this year will certainly not hurt that reputation.

Dr. Hicks and others are often crying about how they need money for this building or that project on the academic side. They are always after alumni to cough up the dough. I think it could be just a little easier for Joe Alumnus to fork over a little cash, if he can brag about the fact that his old alma mater, Dalhousie, just whopped SMU to win the Lobster Trap.

A championship in one of the major sports would do wonders for this university.

HOCKEY

Dal lost to SMU 8-4 in the semi-finals of the Nova Scotia Hockey Tournament in Antigonish last weekend after downing UPEI in the quarter final 7-6.

It's very early to get too worried about a loss in an exhibition tournament but I heard two comments about the game against SMU. The first was that the team quit in the third period, the other was that they ran out of gas. In any event they were outscored 5-0 in the third period.

I didn't see the game but I find it hard to believe that they quit. As far as running out of gas in concern, that is nothing that a little hard work in practice on conditioning won't cure. I just hope that the team doesn't get the impression that they have so much talent that work is not needed. There is no substitute for hard work.

BASKETBALL

The team saw their first action against the Halifax Alpines last Friday and came away with an 86-66 win. Pete Sprogis led Dal scorers in the game with 23 points. Brian Peters had 20 and John Cassidy added 18.

Cassidy was the most impressive player on the floor as he played all but the last five minutes of the game. He controlled the boards, blocked shots and didn't get into foul trouble.

One should not get too optimistic from the team's performance in this game, however. The Alpines have some fine ball players but they certainly haven't had the advantage of the practice time Dal has had. But for the first time out the Tigers looked good, although sloppy at times.

Next game is Saturday, Nov. 13, against Dowling College of Long Island. Game time is at 4:30 p.m.



Interfac Roundup



by Chuck Moore

The first Interfac Hockey games are scheduled for November 14. Approximately two hundred players and fourteen teams are expected to participate this year. Some new rules are being initiated this year. The first is that a match penalty brings a dismissal from the league for the season and the second is that a player involved in a fight automatically draws a game misconduct and will be suspended for the next game. A second fight will be cause for that player to be reviewed in front of the Athletic Committee, which could result in suspension.

Incidentally, several players of the various sports have discovered that towels and soap are not available this year unless a fee of two dollars is paid to cover costs, etc., to the Phys Ed Equipment Stores. In other words, don't get caught in the shower without a towel!

The winter sports, such as basketball, are now signing up players. If you intend to play, please sign up now!

Flag football has finished a successful season with the Meds taking the championship. Dents, despite finishing in first place, were defeated in a sudden-death play-off. The Meds victorious came up with a strong performance against a favoured Grad team to defeat them 18-6. Comments on the game indicate that it was an excellent one. One girl, attending her first flag football match, wondered if they were all this good.

The Cross Country Race was taken by Meds who always come on strong in that sport. So far this year, the Meds have won several sports. The larger faculties, such as Arts, should be able to produce winners in sports just beginning if the players participate.

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