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Famous trio buys Boatmen

by Suzy Kovinsky

The Canadian sports community was shocked recently when a famous trio from Los Angeles gave the Canadian Football League a much needed shot of adrenalin. Flamboyant L.A. Kings owner Bruce McNall, hockey superstar Wayne Gretzky and actor John Candy purchased the failing Toronto Argonauts from Canadian businessperson Harry Ornest. The new and improved ownership implies many positive changes for the Argos and the league as a whole. Toronto possesses the largest Canadian market in which to promote a CFL team and, according to many league owners, if the Argonauts can be successful in The Big City then the country will experience a sweeping change in attitude to the much abused CFL.

The high profile of the new owners can only improve the business and popularity aspects of the league. Bruce McNall is a well respected businessperson who has transformed a pseudo-hockey team into a strong and prosperous organization. He has convinced a city, who once thought that a face-off was a symptom of leprocy, that hockey is an exciting and worthwhile sport in which to invest their happy American dollars. With his newest endeavor, McNall has given the CFL a much needed element of credibility as a business investment that will be profitable.

Possibly no one has more influence over the minds and hearts of Canadians than does Wayne Gretzky. The Great One's partial ownership of the Argos will have a terrific impact on both fan support and advertising interest in the

CFL. Gretzky has pledged to attend and sign autographs at Argo home games and this will undoubtedly draw more fans to the often half-empty SkyDome. Advertisers will view Gretzky's participation as an assurance of new intrigue in, and support of the CFL across Canada.

Many observers of the deal doubt the sincerity of McNall and do not accept that he honestly plans to invest the time and money necessary in order for the Argos to flourish in a league on the road to destruction. His critics contend he is an opportunist who is merely anticipating the collapse of the CFL so he can then be the first owner of a Canadian National Football League franchise. McNall has vehemently denied such accusations insisting his motives are purely related to the en-

hancement and bettering of a much underrated and ignored Canadian sports phenomenon. Here, in McNalls defense, it must be noted that in order for him to own or operate an NFL team, he must first completely detach himself from his beloved L.A. Kings. John Candy calls this prospect "ridiculous and impossible."

McNall, Gretzky and Candy also intend to make attending a football game an exciting experience. They plan to make each game an event including half-time shows and increased fan participation. Jokingly, Candy added that during games when the temperature is low, they will leave the dome open in order to bring back that old feeling of Canadian unity which existed in Exhibition Stadium.

It remains to be seen if the proposed Americanization of Cana-

dian football will achieve the desired results or if it will serve to further alienate veteran fans who are already having trouble relating to games watched at the multi-million dollar microwave.

Dismissing all possibilities of failure, it appears that the risk taken by the L.A. trio will pay off for the investors, the Argonauts and the Canadian Football League. Proof of this lies in the fact that more interest has been expressed in the CFL, by all parties concerned since McNalls announcement in January, than has been detected in the hapless league in the last decade. All team supporters are hoping that the new management will allow the Argos to sail past the Montreal Machine and will in turn propel the CFL to new heights which were previously unimaginable.

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Tigers going to AUHC finals

by Tanya Millers

The Dalhousie Hockey Tigers breezed past the UCCB Capers last Saturday night by a score of 8-3, sweeping the best of three series and earning them a spot in the Atlantic Universities' Hockey Conference final.

Dal's first goal came just 25 seconds into the game as Kelly Bradley, unable to control a pass from Brian Melanson, just barely touched the puck, causing it to float past Capers' goalie, Darren Nixon.

The Tigers went up 2-0 at 7:03 when Derrick Pringle potted one in the Capers' net on assists by Todd Mondor and Alan Baldwin.

UCCB replied with goals by Ron Gaudet Jr. and John Lake to tie it

up but Dal's Ken MacDermid came back with a power play goal at 15:35, giving the Tigers a 3-2 advantage at the first intermission.

Second period action was slowed down a touch until Capers' Ron Gaudet injured his knee at just under four minutes of play, after which time things heated up a bit.

The third period again featured close-checking, defensive play by the Tigers, not allowing the Capers any room for offensive strategy. Left winger Alan Baldwin increased Dal's lead to 5-2 at 4:07, assisted by Paul Kleinknecht.

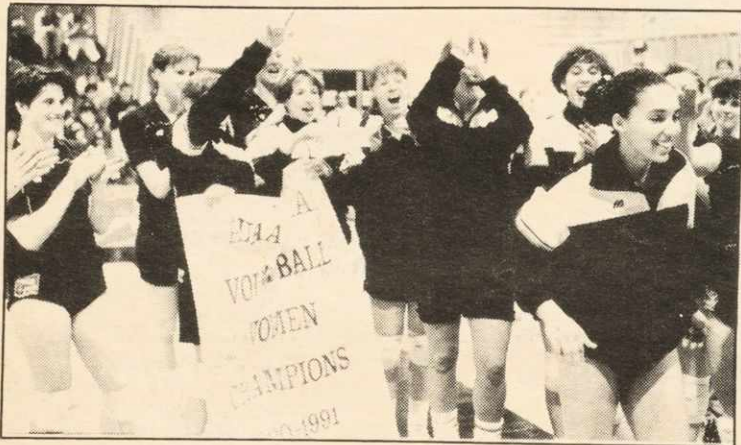
Three and a half minutes later, the Tigers went on the power play as Joe Suk was dragged to the ice by Capers' Benjamin Kirton. Unfortunately, this resulted in a short-

handed goal by Stephen Gordon, putting the score at 5-3.

Dal's final goal came with 2:48 remaining, when Joe Suk grabbed the puck in a faceoff to the right of the Cape Breton goal, and scored unassisted.

As the clock ticked down, a chorus of "Na Na Na Na, Hey Hey Hey, Goodbye" echoed through the rafters, and a very satisfied Dalhousie crowd went out celebrating.

If the Tigers win the AUHC final this coming weekend against the P.E.I. Panthers, they will then go on to the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union Championship, March 22-24 in Toronto.



Dal sweeps!

by Corry Hamilton

We are the Champions!

Both our women's and men's volleyball teams are off to the CIAU championships with easy 3-0 victories over their respective opponents.

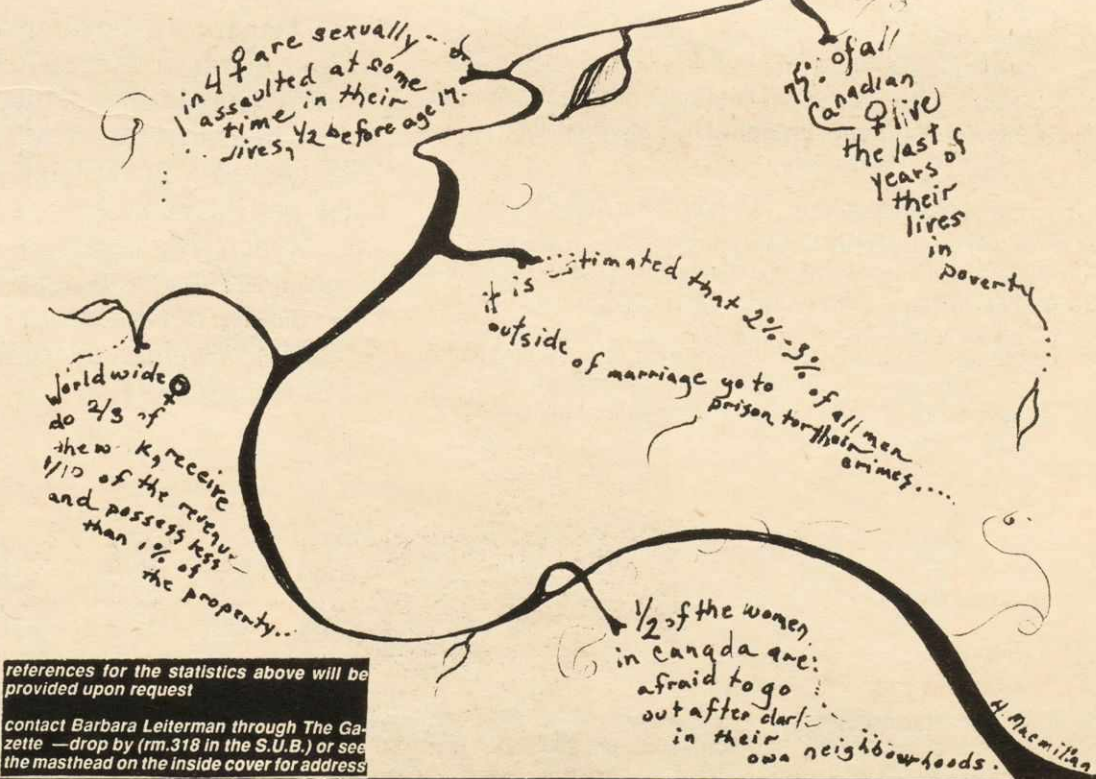
Dalplex was the place to be on Saturday. Around 200 vocal fans showed up to cheer their Tigers on to victory. In the women's final it didn't take long for Dal to dictate the pace of the game, taking an early 4-0 lead. The Tigers would not be denied on this day winning their first conference title in three years, beating the defending champion Mounties three straight (15-1, 15-10, and 15-6).

The game's Most Valuable Player (MVP) was April Delorme, though on this day the award could have gone to the whole team. They played well both offensively and defensively. When someone would start to get down, they were there to pump each other up. The team is now off to Calgary for the CIAU championships, which run from March 7-9.

The men should have warmed up to M. C. Hammer's "Can't Touch This". This song described the men's play on Saturday. The Tigers picked up where they left off on Friday night, easily destroying any hope the Rebels had of coming back to tie the series. UNB never had a chance. Dal easily dominated the Rebels taking them 15-5, 15-7, and 15-2. This was Dal's sixth straight conference title. The third ranked Tigers are now heading to Laval on March 14-17 to claim the CIAU title.

Not only did the Tigers dominate on the court, they also took home a good share of the AUAA awards. Tara MacIntyre, Christine Frail, Jody Holden (championship game MVP) and Deon Goulding were all selected to the all-star team. MacIntyre took home the rookie of the year award while Al Scott was awarded coach of the year (men's) and Scott Bagnell was the conference MVP.

Everyone at Dal wishes both our teams good luck and success in their bid for CIAU titles. Go Tigers!



references for the statistics above will be provided upon request

contact Barbara Leiterman through The Gazette — drop by (rm. 318 in the S.U.B.) or see the masthead on the inside cover for address