

SPORTS

Proposed facelift for Studley Field

BY MICHAEL MACDONALD

Dalhousie University is intensifying its efforts to improve the well worn Studley Field. Last year a surface to be placed on the roof of a one storey, 600-car parking garage. This plan proved impractical, but with the field deteriorating daily, the need for a new one has greatly increased.

During the months of October and November a feasibility study will be undertaken to determine if financial support exists amongst the alumni to replace the well-worn field.

"[The Field] will have to be funded externally, since we are not able to fund it through operational revenue," said Henry Eberhardt, Vice-president External in charge of raising the needed cash.

Alumni support will determine the extent of the renovations and will also play a role in the time of the renovations. The sooner, the better, as far as the athletics department is concerned.

"Hopefully we can make it a reality in a couple of years," says Tony Martin, Director of Athletics. Martin said over 1500 intramural participants, as well as both men's and women's varsity soccer teams, and men's rugby are putting a tremendous strain on the field.

The latest proposal calls for an area the length of two soccer fields end-on-end to be covered by a synthetic sand in-fill surface, with the varsity playing field located in the middle of the complex. Fixed

bleachers with a seating capacity ranging from 1500 to 3000 would be built along the education building-side of the field. Parking for approximately 200 cars would be located under these seats. Movable bleachers, similar to those at Dalplex would be positioned at the ends and could be moved to accommodate the surface in use.

The synthetic rug is necessary on a field which is used so frequently. "A school like Acadia with the Dyke Fields has the potential for several playing surfaces, some for practising, others for games. However, city school such as Dal, do not have this potential for expansion, and one field has to be used for everything from practises to championship soccer matches," said Eberhardt. A natural-surface field is impractical because it would require almost daily maintenance.

"We can't commit to a natural grass surface," said Martin. The sand fill-in surface is a relatively new form of Astro-turf which incorporates a mat of woven nylon grass and silicone sand. The mat is laid down and the sand is forced in between the grass, creating a surface which is as close as an artificial turf can come to a real grass and dirt field. This type of rug is the only artificial surface approved by the International Soccer Federation. Every few months, a small machine is used to replace and even out the sand.

Unfortunately, the nasty carpet burns one gets playing on Astro-turf will be just as severe on this surface since the grass is still plas-

tic. This may force the rugby team to play its games elsewhere. Martin said this factor will have to be considered before a final decision is made. However, the benefits of a synthetic surface are great, and the field will probably pay for itself through rentals, exhibition games involving international and professional teams, and lowered maintenance costs. There is even the possibility that Studley could be-

come home to the Canadian Soccer League's Clippers.

All these plans are just hypothetical until the feasibility study is completed and the actual financial support is determined. Until then, and for the next few years while plans are finalised and construction completed, Dal's sports teams will continue to slog away on an almost embarrassingly poor Studley Field.

Men's soccer

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Bermuda contingent helped during the half-time festivities.

Good hockey saves by sub keeper Sean Pederson kept the visitors in check. But Moncton's barbaric defense negated great attempts by Wheeler, Clark, and Craig Janc, and with any other officiating their Viking mentality would have drawn a flurry of penalty kicks. Still, four yellow cards went up, but it did nothing to help Dal, as it remained nil apiece after 90 min-

utes.

In other conference play, Acadia (6-2-2) defeated Moncton in a 1-0 brow-raiser, and UNB (4-0-6) defeated Mount Allison (5-2-3), also 1-0, to likely claim the West division title. This leaves Acadia as the big rival threat, UNB as the darkhorse contender, and Mount Allison as the tenacious pretenders to their defending championship, which is precarious at best. Off to SFX on Oct 26 for their season finale, Dal's quest to regain that crown begins in New Brunswick the week after.

Dal hockey

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with a power-play goal, but an early whistle nullified the point. Justice was served, however, on the resulting faceoff when Ken McDermid found the top stickside corner of the net on assists by Joe Suk and Greg Smyth.

Less than a minute later, the Axemen took one back and again went ahead 4-3. With 2:48 left in

the third, Joe Suk tied it up with a goal that was executed almost exactly like McDermid's previous one. The score remained tied at four apiece at the end of regulation time.

Overtime was short and sweet as Dal was on a Power play due to a high-sticking penalty the Axemen received with sixteen seconds left in the third. Ken McDermid scored his second of the night just 56 seconds in, clinching the Tigers' first victory.

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