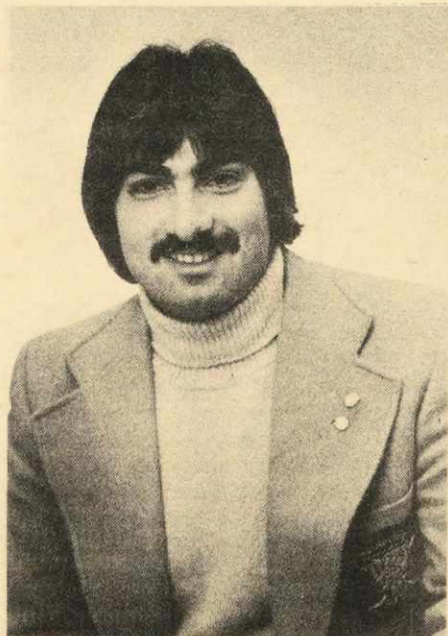


# Sports comment

by Greg Zed

If you have heard the phrase that Dalhousie University has begun to recruit athletes to make a better showing in the areas of basketball, football, and hockey, chances are you have the wrong idea. No player on any team at Dalhousie is being paid to play the sport. What is available to the athlete, however, is the opportunity to work for the university for the "going rate" that a job offers. Such jobs include Campus Security, Dal Bar Staff, Dal SUB Staff, as well as jobs around the rink and gym. It must be noted that jobs are NOT created for the athletes, nor do they get a preference. To top it off, many of the players are involved in their particular sport to such a degree that employment is virtually impossible. To say the least, Dalhousie athletes are ordinary non-status individuals participating for the intrinsic value of the sport.

The big question yet to be answered is what has the Athletic Department done to get "high quality" players to come to Dalhousie? Up until three years ago, Dal coaches held organizational meetings at the beginning of their respective seasons to see what students at Dalhousie were interested in playing for Dalhousie. There was absolutely no recruiting of players and certainly no inducements whatsoever. Students came to Dalhousie for academic purposes first — playing the sport was secondary. This "Puritanical" ap-



proach might have worked for a few years, but it certainly could not work over a long period of time. Something had to be done.

This year marks the beginning of the Athletic face-lift so badly needed on campus. In speaking with Dr. M.J. Ellis, Director of the School of Physical Education and Athletics, he suggested that a proposal for change be drawn up and taken to the Sports and Recreation Council of Dalhousie. The Council has accepted PHASE 1 of the Program. When asked about the reaction to the proposal, Dr. Ellis replied, "The Council was very willing to sit down with us and

discuss our needs. Their support this year and in years to come is indicative of the support we need."

What is Phase One? Phase One is designed to promote the entire program offered to the student. Upon graduation, the young rookie who wishes to continue participating in sports on a Varsity level and pursue a career along the university lines has to decide which university he/she wants to attend. In essence, if the athlete is undecided, he can be influenced either by his peers, or other means such as personal contact with coaches or inducements. Inducements along the financial avenue are illegal, but most of the Atlantic universities find ways to "pay" players whether it be a payed meal-card, or a waive on university fees, or full room and board. Whatever the case, players are being "paid" to play.

Dalhousie opt not to do this, but with Phase One they have put additional money into their Programs to make them not only attractive, but beneficial to the players and fans alike. For example, Dalhousie is hosting an Invitational Tournament, October 24th and 25th with Brandon University and Laval Universities participating. This provides strong competition, as well as exciting hockey for the Dalhousie students to see.

Secondly, Dalhousie has given the coaches in the three high exposure sports more time and money to travel to talk to players. In essence, it is the coaches' role to spread the word about the entire Dalhousie Program. As Dr. Ellis puts it, "We have to influence the young athlete by spreading Dal's philosophy with regards to sports, as well as the educational benefits." This, of course, means very little to the individual who cannot see past the dollar sign and in essence, the individual has very little in terms of education after his eligibility is up.

In essence, Dalhousie has given the coaches more money and time to talk to athletes interested in an university career. What happens if Dalhousie attracts the player, however, the player quits after the season or during the year? To put it bluntly, Dr. Ellis suggests that, "we

have failed ourselves and this is something we don't want."

All in all it appears that the face-lift at Dalhousie is promotional strategy that is beneficial to all. In terms of cost, the Sport and Recreation Council has given Athletes monies to cover inflation as well as a grant to help develop a better sports program. This year the focus is on the three high velocity sports of hockey, football, and basketball, however, the long range plan is to rescue the other sports. It must also be noted that Dalhousie has the best coaches in the Atlantic region to say the least. Both Bob Thayer and Pierre Page have been selected as "Coaches of the Year" since joining the staff a few years ago. So it does appear that the wheels are in motion to make Dalhousie, not merely a contender in the Sport World but in due time with this Phase One into high gear the building stage has begun. It is only a matter of time in which an accurate assessment can be made but credit must be given to Dr. Ellis and his colleges for supporting the facelift.

## Big test for Tigers

by Greg Zed

The Dalhousie Varsity Hockey Tigers, who opened camp to some eighty hopefuls have ended what most observers have termed the "most successful in years". It began September 20th with an organizational meeting which saw the Tigers' coaching staff of Pierre Page and Dr. William Shannon brief the hopefuls on their outlook for the year. Then came the one week land training camp that was geared to help better condition the players as well as improve muscle endurance with hopes of reducing injuries. The camp which was claimed by many to be a great addition to hockey at Dalhousie, ended with a six minute mile at the Dalhousie track.

The Dalhousie club hit the ice lanes on September 29th and for most it was the real test. Emphasis

was on scrimmaging and it was a real challenge for all participants if they wished to land a spot on this year's club. In fact all the veterans "put out" because their position was on the line. This was further suggested by coach Page when he said: "we are looking for a fresh start., a new attitude on this campus... a new spirit."

Sunday, October 3rd was the big test, the Black and White inter-squad game. When the final buzzer rang, Mike O'Connor's White club defeated the Black squad handled by Greg Zed by a score of 7-6. The game which was marred by sloppy play was the last test for most of the remaining hopefuls. It also showed a tremendous come back by the Whites, who at one time trailed by a score of 4-1.

## Soccer teams win

by Brian Hawkins

Dalhousie Varsity and J.V. teams travelled to Antigonish on Saturday to play against St. F.X. Both teams were triumphant, each bagging two points. In closely contested matches, the Soccer Tigers defeated the X-Men 2-1 at varsity level, and 3-2 at J.V. level.

**Dalhousie - St. F.X.**

Dalhousie after a cautious start soon began to dictate play, and a fine inter-passing move created the chance for Ray Riddell to open the scoring after ten minutes. Riddell volleyed home a fine cross from Chris Coleman. However, things didn't go the way Dal planned, and after a defensive mistake, Archer equalised for F.X. The first half was dominated by Dalhousie's midfield supremacy instigated by ex-British College and Carnegie player, Dave Houlston and his partner in crime, Len Vickery, also a British College representative.

In the second half, the game became increasingly more physical

due to some vigorous challenges by F.X. players. This approach resulted in the referee having to send off Hutchinson (F.X.) for retaliation. Down to only ten men, F.X. defended staunchly. One rare F.X. attack saw Willett in the Tigers goal make a brilliant point-blank save. Pressing continually for a winning goal, the Tigers eventually scored with a back header from Mayo. As the game drew to a close, Dahn fired in 3 shots and Bates hit the post after a fine overlapping move. **Dal. J.V. vs. F.X. J.V.**

The Tigers J.V. team emerged deserving winners 3-2 over F.X. in a game which suffered from poor officiating. At half-time, the score was 1-1, Heyliger scoring for the Tigers; Field equalising for F.X. In a second half marred with strange refereeing decisions, Cook put F.X. into a 2-1 lead, only to see Dal-level through Cogan. With ten minutes left and tempers running high, Clark scored the winning goal for continued on page 20

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