

Reid leads Tigers through tough times

BY GORDIE SUTHERLAND

Defenceman Gord Reid can't remember the last time he captained a hockey team. Now he finds himself assuming the role for the first place Dalhousie Tigers.

Dalhousie coach Darrell Young says Reid has shown himself to be worthy of the position.

"His maturity, his dedication and his work ethic have all come through in a lot of tough times," says Young. "That's one of the reasons we picked him."

fill. The Tigers lost eight players from last year's team, including captain Craig Morrison and assistants Derrick Pringle and Brian Melanson.

Reid says his experience working with people off the ice helps him carry out his duties as captain.

He volunteers for a number of organizations throughout the year. Reid participated in the Terry Fox Run and now he works with a youth group at St. Thomas Aquinas Church on Oxford Street. Every

Friday, Reid helps run a recreation program there for over 25 kids in grades five to seven.

Despite his volunteer work and his commitment to hockey, Reid, a second year dentistry student, still finds time to excel academically.

Coach Young says it's important to have someone like Reid to act as a role model for the other student-athletes.

Dalhousie rookie Keifer House agrees.

"It just shows how committed you have to be when you're here," says House, one of eight players

new to the team this season. "Gord can work towards his dentistry and play hockey at the same time. That's a really good example of leadership."

At 5'9" tall, Reid is the smallest player on the team. He skates well and is one of the team's top penalty killers. Reid says what he doesn't have in ability, he tries to make up for with desire.

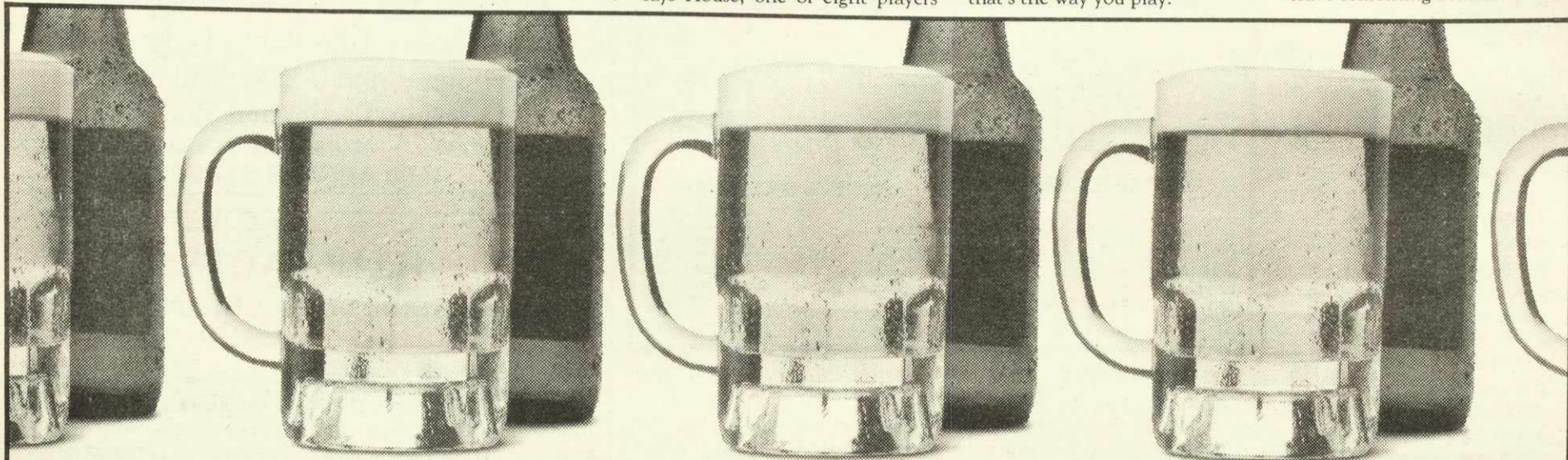
"I'm just the type of guy who goes out there and works hard in practices and games," he says. "When you're not overly talented that's the way you play."

House says that even Reid's style of play is a type of leadership.

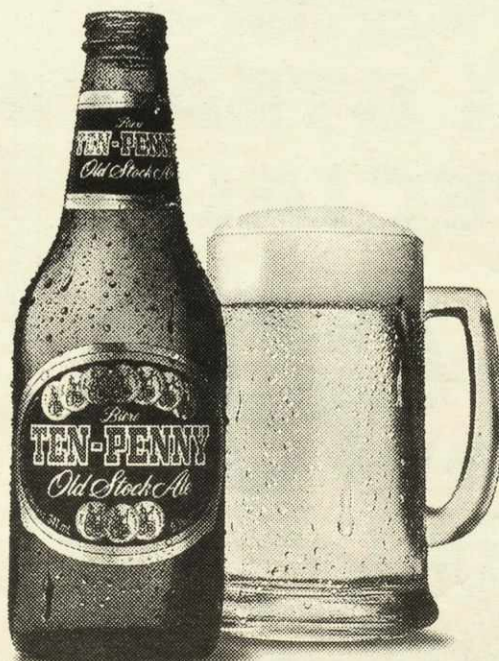
"He's a real grinder," he says. "He's always moving and keeping up with the play. If we have a couple of bad shifts he can go out there and turn the game around for us with his hard work and hustle."

Since Reid is in his final year of eligibility, he says he wants to do more for the team than just wear the uniform.

"I'm trying to do things to help with the program," says Reid. "This is my last year and I would like to leave something behind."



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