

# NCAA hoopla overruns TSN

BY MATT THOMPSON

University students across Canada have been caught up in the hoopla of the NCAA University Championship tournament, and will continue to be so until the end of the month. The "Toronto Sports Network" (otherwise known as TSN) is again proving where its loyalties lie. Their cameras have been steadily focused on the sixty-four team road to the final four.

Some things about the American College game cannot be denied. It is a fact that there are more quality basketball players playing in the American system. Colleges with big dollars and shady spending habits invest thousands in the hopes of finding the next Air Jordan, or Shaquille O'Neal. The games attract 50,000 screaming fans. It's a tradition. Millions watch on television, millions of dollars are gambled, and hundreds of millions of dollars are made. I myself enjoy watching the road to the final four, but why is TSN focusing on this at the expense of

the Canadian product?

TSN is showing CIAU basketball's semi-final and final games from the Metro Centre. Maybe beggars shouldn't be choosers, and I should be happy with what I see. Unfortunately, I'm not. They should show games from the regular season. They do it for Canadian university football, and by doing so have generated a strong following — why not do the same for basketball?

Okay, maybe I have gone a bit too far. Bill Maden is not *that* bad, and if we want to watch local college hoops we can just turn to channel ten and watch either the Tigers or the Huskies play. We are not, however, going to see or hear anything about what is going on in other conferences.

All TSN has done to cover the CIAU conference play downs was list the teams that won their conferences, and whom they'd be playing in the final eight. In a recent edition of *Sportsdesk*, they spent just under thirty seconds on Canadian basketball — just enough to tell us a bit about their coverage — and five minutes

showing us NCAA highlights.

The only thing on TSN that could be classified as both "Canadian" and "college basketball" are features on Greg Newton. Newton is an Ontario native who rode

the bench for the last half of his senior year at Duke. He did not see the floor once in the tournaments, yet he gets a fifteen minute segment on *TSN Sunday*.

The CIAUs are traditionally a great showcase for the best basketball players in the nation. Halifax is lucky to have a class event such as this coming to town; the

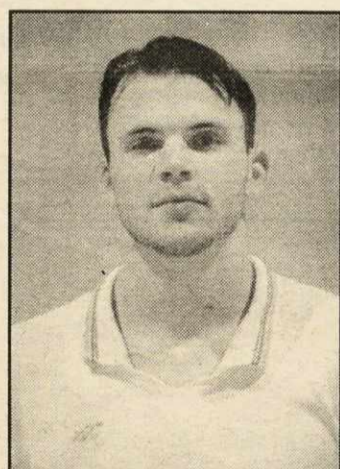
games are competitive and entertaining. I highly recommend that people go see the final eight for themselves, for if it is up to TSN there may be no other way.

TSN's slogan is "Proudly Canadian", but maybe it should read "Proudly Canadian, so long as it has something to do with the Leafs, the Habs, or the Jays".

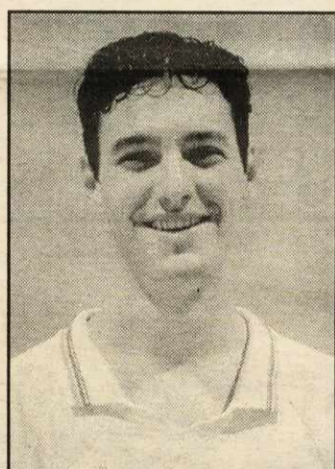
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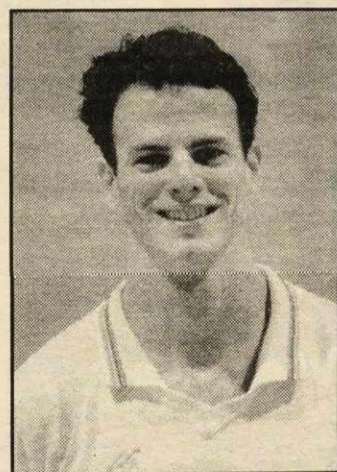
## Men's Volleyball AUAA All-Stars



John Hobin



Jamie Mallon



Eric Villeneuve

- Jeff Byrne (UNB)
- Floyd Davis (MUN)
- Darcy Harris (UNB)
- John Hobin (DAL)**
- Jamie Mallon (DAL)**
- Eric Villeneuve (DAL)**

- Rookie of the Year** — Russell Jackson (MUN)
- Coach of the Year** — Al Scott (DAL)
- Most Valuable Player** — Terry Martin (DAL)

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