

sports

Swimmers face nationals

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

university swimming program. For example, in 1989, when the CIAUs were held in Halifax, Alex Bauman set a world best time in the 400 individual medley. Mark Tewksbury, Olympic gold medalist in Barcelona, also has a distinguished record in CIAU competition.

Dalhousie's own Nancy Garapick, Andrew Cole and Lynne Patterson are also former CIAU medalists. The CIAU championships also serve as a method for selecting Canada's team to the World University Games. This year's meet is being held in Victoria, BC, one week after the Commonwealth Games Trials for swimming in Victoria.

Last year, the Dalhousie Tigers

sent a record 14 swimmers to the CIAU Championships. The swimmers managed to place ninth overall in the nation, showing Dalhousie's prominence in the sport. This year will see the number of qualifiers grow, especially with the addition of Francois Anctil. The total number of pre-qualified swimmers now stands at seven.

Many of the Dal swimmers see the AUAA championships as a stepping stone towards CIAU qualification.

"Qualifying for CI's has been a goal of mine since September. The AUAA championships will be where I hope to make my mark. I will be rested and by then, I should have the emotional and physical strength to achieve my goal," said first-year swimmer Alex Howard.

For veterans of the CIAU championship, such as Jason Shannon who will be attending his fourth consecutive meet, it is the intensity of the competition that makes the trip worthwhile.

"Knowing that the guy beside you swam in Barcelona gives you a surge of adrenaline that motivates you beyond any measurable scope. The swimmers that are in attendance from across Canada gives you a sense of the quality of Canadian swimming," says Shannon.

Day in, day out, the Dalhousie swimmers make their way to Dalplex attending as many as 11 workouts a week, swimming up and down the pool. With such a grueling training regimen that started in September, coupled with the extra burdens of being a student, it is a long road to the CIAU championships, but a road worth experiencing.

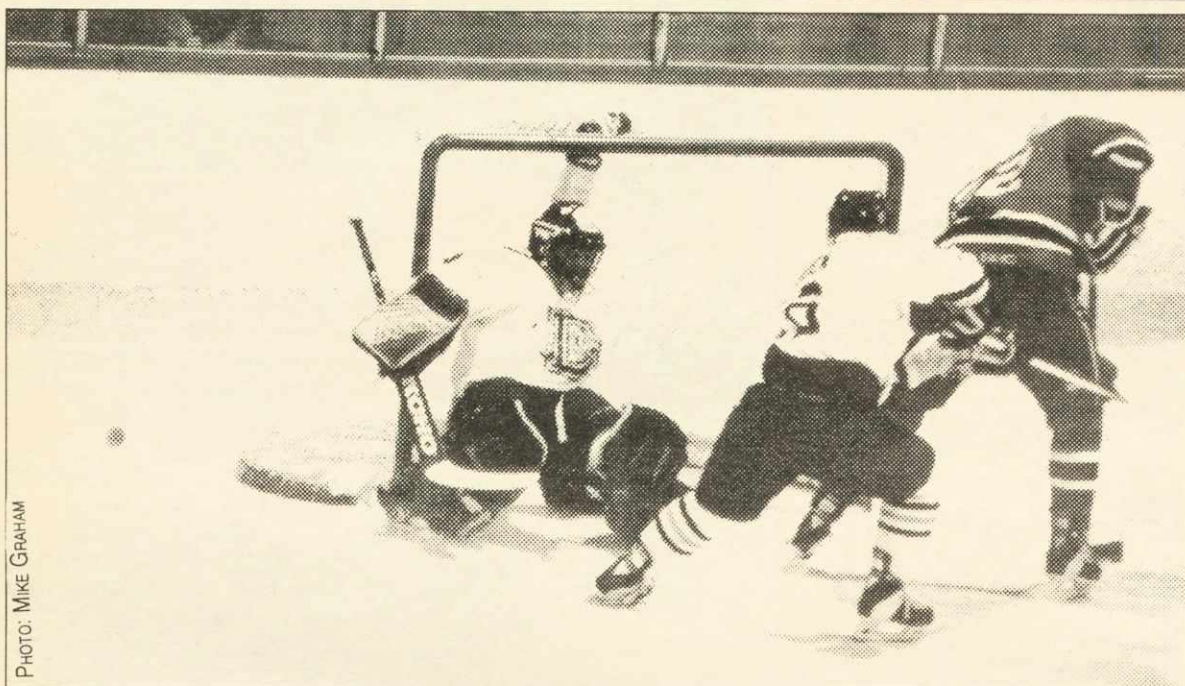
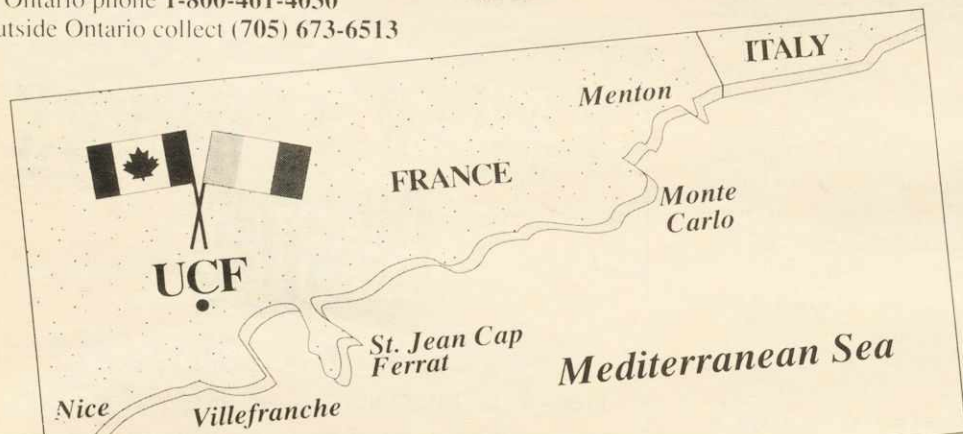


PHOTO: MIKE GRAHAM
Greg Dreveny makes one of his 37 saves in the Tigers 6-4 win over UNB Sunday at Memorial Arena.

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