

# SPORTS

No goats here

## Rock climbing at Dalplex

BY ARAN MCKITTRICK

Recreational and competitive rock climbing have become increasingly popular over the past several years. Though enthusiasts of the sport have been climbing for several generations, it is only recently that groups have come together to develop climbing into a competitive sport. With the creation of this "competitive edge" came the idea of year round climbing and from this the idea of an artificial climbing wall.

Climbing walls, which are ideally found indoors, range in height from sixteen to one hundred and twenty feet and provide an authentic climbing experience in the comfort of a sports facility. The interest in indoor climbing or "sport climbing" has grown to such an extent that it has been accepted as a demonstration sport at the 1996 Summer Olympics.

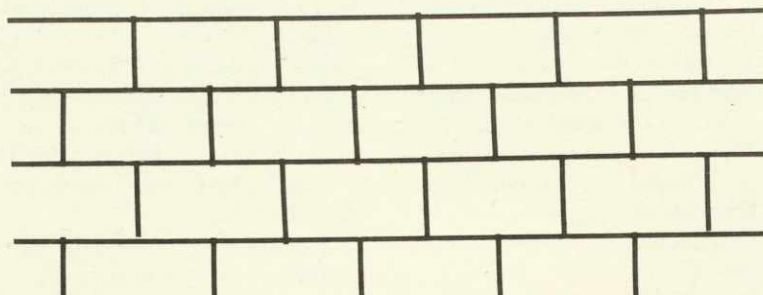
This interest in "indoor climbing" has also found its way onto the Dalhousie campus. A proposal has been put forth by Mike Sutton, a physiotherapist at the Dal physioclinic, and the Dalhousie Outdoors Club for the construction of an indoor climbing facility at Dalplex.

"Rock climbing is a new and exciting sport which can be accessible to everyone through the installation of such a facility," Sutton explained. He went on to say that with its construction many students will have the opportunity to experience "rock climbing" under the supervision of a qualified instructor at any time of the year, an experience they might not have anywhere else in the Maritimes.

The proposed climbing wall would be constructed of large sheets of plywood covered with a resin paint. The sheets would then be mounted on to a wooden frame and this would be attached to the western wall of the Dalplex. Modular rock holds of various sizes and shapes could then be attached to the plywood sheets by means of recessed bolts. Climb Nova Scotia having many experienced climbers and wall builders has agreed to help in the wall's design and construction.

"Rock climbing, especially 'sport climbing' in one of the safest sports around..." added Sutton. As well as being safe Sutton went on to say that a climbing wall of the proposed magnitude would take up minimal floor space, therefore no other sporting activity would be sacrificed. "Few regulations or guidelines are needed to ensure safety on the climbing wall and a 'relay system' of harnesses and ropes would be used to ensure peoples' safety," Sutton clarified, in referring to the safety and simplicity of the climbing wall.

A climbing wall is also very



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Kelly Division						MacAdam Division							
W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts.	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts.		
Dalhousie	5	2	3	50	40	13	N Brunswick	7	3	0	53	37	14
Saint Mary's	5	3	1	45	41	11	UPEI	4	3	1	38	30	9
Acadia	5	4	1	50	39	11	St. Thomas	4	5	0	35	43	8
Cape Breton	3	2	4	43	41	10	Moncton	3	6	0	34	43	6
St. FX	2	7	0	31	54	4	Mount Allison	2	5	0	25	36	4

#### MEN'S BASKETBALL

W	L	PF	PA	Pts.	
Cape Breton	2	0	170	143	4
Acadia	1	0	77	63	2
St. FX	0	0	0	0	0
Saint Mary's	0	0	0	0	0
Memorial	0	0	0	0	0
UNB	0	0	0	0	0
Dalhousie	0	1	63	77	0
UPEI	0	2	143	170	0

#### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

W	L	PF	PA	Pts.	
UNB	2	0	163	104	4
Acadia	2	0	129	114	4
St. FX	1	1	140	139	2
Saint Mary's	1	1	100	104	2
Dalhousie	1	1	122	129	2
UPEI	1	1	97	89	2
Memorial	0	2	103	119	0
Cape Breton	0	2	109	156	0

each of the modular holds could be rearranged to accommodate a more experienced or less experienced climber, as well as to create a different sort of climb for the indi-

vidual. Indoor climbing is also being considered by fitness clubs as a form of physical activity, not just a high profile sport for the physical elite!

Though a proposal has been put forth to the Dalplex Management Team, Mike Sutton and the Dalhousie Outdoors Club are looking for support to make this proposal a reality.

It is up to the student body to express their interest in such a proposal," Sutton said. Students can voice their interest by writing to or talking to the Presidential Advisory Council on Athletics at the Dalplex or by joining the Dalhousie Outdoors Club and voicing their interests through them.

For more information climbing and the proposed climbing wall contact Mike Sutton at the Dalplex, the President of Climb Nova Scotia, Sean Willett at the Department of Oceanography, or Victoria Wosk, the President of the Outdoors Club at Dalhousie.



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