

# *Tradition and Excellence Combine at Hoop Championships*



At nationals, Atlantic teams have done favourably. Saint Mary's Huskies have won four Canadian championships - 1973, 1978, 1979, 1999, with the 1973 team inducted to the Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame. Acadia has taken three national titles - 1965, 1971, 1977, with all three inducted, while St. Francis Xavier has also been a three time winner - 1993, 2000 and 2001.

Will the CIS drought end in 2012? Fans hope so as they flock to Metro Centre for what is always a heart-wrenching week of tense, competitive and very close basketball.

The time-proven "home of Canadian University basketball" will show its proud tradition in March when the Atlantic University Sport title hunt will be followed by the CIS Final Eight at Halifax Metro Centre.

The AUS championship will be played March 2-4, followed the next weekend, March 9-11, by the always-eagerly-anticipated CIS championship.

The history of both events in Halifax is storied.

Upsets and close finishes have always been prevalent at the regional event. Just last year, University of Cape Breton, 19-1 in the regular season, was upset



in the semi-final round by Acadia Axemen who went on the play for the CIS championship. Always powerful St. Francis Xavier lost to upstart Dalhousie in the other semi with the Tigers advancing.



Halifax and AUS complete the second year of a two-year hosting contract in 2012 but rabid fans will remember the 24-year stretch between 1984 and 2007 when Halifax proved itself as the Basketball Capital of Canada, drawing in excess of 25,000 fans to the three-day, five-session event each year, including seven years at more than 30,000, topped by 39,000 in 1991 when X won the crown.

## Hall News and Notes

- **SARAH CONN**, the newest addition to the Hall of Fame staff, brings an impressive pedigree of business management and marketing – as well as a deep understanding of sport as an athlete and team leader – to a position that will show her vivacious and enthusiastic personality in developing education and marketing programs at the Hall.



Sarah was heavily involved in the Halifax 2011 Canada Winter Games assisting in the organization of over 5,000 volunteers that were required to make the Games a success. Sarah also worked with the Department of Energy where she was worked with their marketing team and was responsible for The Pengrowth-Nova Scotia Energy Scholarship Program.

During her University career, Sarah played for the Mount St. Vincent University women's basketball team where she claimed an Atlantic Championship title and was captain of the University of King's College women's basketball team.

- **COLLEEN JONES** (inducted 2011) won her 27<sup>th</sup> Nova Scotia championship February 5<sup>th</sup> when she took the Senior Women's title for the second year in a row. She's won six Canadian Ladies championships, two Mixed titles and two World Championships as well as a score of provincial ladies titles.



- Professional golfer **SCOTT HOCH** has ties to Nova Scotia. His father, Art, is a member of the Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame, inducted in 1980 with the 1951-52-53 Stellarton Albions teams of the H and D League.



Art was an All-American baseball player at Wake Forest University in North Carolina, from where Scott also graduated after playing golf for the Demon Deacons. Scott was born in November 1955, when his Dad was home between H and D seasons, at a time when Art was playing-coach with Truro and then Halifax. Not sure if Scott spent infant summers in Nova Scotia.

- Long-time Hall supporter **RAY BRADSHAW** of Global Television has removed his full-time hat as a sport telejournalist and moved into Global's news department. His dedication to local sport in the province is legendary as he was seen at many events, from the youngest level of amateur sport to the top competitions in the area. He has always been available to cover Hall events, from media gatherings to events the Hall has managed.

- **BRUCE RAINNIE**, well-respected evening news host for CBC-TV in Charlottetown, is also a noted sportscaster for the national network. Bruce has done three play-by-play NHL telecasts for Hockey Night in Canada and has a couple more scheduled for early March when he'll be rinkside host for a NY Islander at Montreal game and play-by-play caller for Ottawa at Philadelphia. He's also the voice of CBC's Spruce Meadows equestrian series and has done play-by-play curling for CBC as well. He tells **On The Go** that the evening newscast is the highest-rated, per capita, news program in North America, quite a feat. The PEI program also draws a 78 share in PEI, meaning 78 per cent of TV households watching at that hour are tuned to Bruce and his news crew.

- The annual Sport Hall of Fame golf tournament will be held Wednesday June 27<sup>th</sup> at the New Ashburn Golf Club in Windsor Junction. It sells out each year. Contact the Hall for registration information.

- **MARK SMITH** (athlete 2002) has new responsibilities in the coaching field. Formerly director of sport development at Sport Nova Scotia (SNS), Mark has become director of coaching at the Canadian Sports Centre Atlantic. He splits time between offices at SNS and the Canada Games Centre where he works with coaches from the provincial to national level. He's responsible to ensure coaches have the opportunities for professional development to become the best they can be for their athletes. "My primary role is to help improve the level of coaching in the province for local coaches and in the region for high performance coaches," Mark says. He continues to serve as chairman of the Selection Committee of the Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame.



Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame

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## *Where Are They Now?*

**M**any Hall of Fame members, inducted as hockey athletes or builders, continue to be very active in their chosen sport.

**DAVE ANDREWS** (builder 2006) is in his 18<sup>th</sup> season as president of the American Hockey League, guiding that 30-team circuit to unparalleled success as the sole primary development league for the National Hockey League. The AHL has achieved record levels of attendance (with more than 6.2 million fans annually) and exposure while expanding its geography across the United States and Canada. He was general manager of Cape Breton Oilers when they won their only AHL title in 1993.

**RICK BOWNESS** (athlete 1997) now associate coach with Vancouver Canucks, has been an NHL head coach with Boston, New York Islanders, Winnipeg, Ottawa and Phoenix. He played six years in the NHL with Atlanta, Detroit, St. Louis and Winnipeg, then turned to coaching where he was a head coach in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League and American Hockey League before advancing to the NHL where he held assistant and head coach jobs.



**FABIAN JOSEPH** (athlete 2002) is an assistant coach with Moncton Wildcats of the QMJHL. As well as playing minor pro hockey for several years, Fabian played for two silver-medal winning Canadian Olympic teams, captaining the 1992 squad in Lillehammer. He coached Dalhousie

Tigers of the Atlantic University Hockey League for seven seasons.



**DON KOHARSKI** (builder 2007) is an NHL officials' advisor and instructor after 32 years as a referee and linesman in the NHL and WHL. He retired after 2008-2009 after officiating more than 2,000 regular season and playoff games, including 11 appearances in the Stanley Cup finals, plus Canada Cup and World Cup.

**AL MACINNIS** (athlete 2008) is vice president of hockey operations for St. Louis of the NHL. A Stanley Cup winner with Calgary in 1989, winner of the James Norris Trophy as best defenseman and Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP, MacInnis played 11 years with Calgary and 10 years with St. Louis and is in the Hockey Hall of Fame.

**PAUL MACLEAN** (athlete 1995) is head coach of Ottawa Senators of the NHL, after being an assistant with Detroit, Phoenix and Anaheim. He played 11 years in the NHL with St. Louis, Winnipeg and Detroit. He also played a year with Dalhousie Tigers and one with Team Canada.

**CAM RUSSELL** (athlete 2011) is general manager of Halifax Mooseheads of the QMJHL, for whom he coached for three years before moving upstairs in 2010. Cam played 10 seasons in the NHL with Chicago and Colorado.

**WENDELL YOUNG** (athlete 2007) is general manager of Chicago Wolves of the AHL, for whom he was a goaltender for seven years and an assistant coach for four. He played 10 years in the NHL. He is the only player to win championships at four levels of hockey – junior (Memorial Cup) and professional (International Hockey League, AHL and NHL).

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## *Morrissey Dunn Named 2011 Volunteer of the Year*



**M**orrissey Dunn of Truro has been a long-time valuable volunteer at the Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame.

The long-time broadcaster, voice-over artist and motivational speaker, was honoured at Induction Night 2011 for his unselfish contribution to the Hall

as an emcee and jack-of-all-trades at many major events.

He's hosted various morning shows through his long broadcasting career, currently running his morning radio show on BIG DOG 100.9, based in Truro. He has voiced TV and radio commercials, and manages a team of producers and technicians in his own professional recording studio. His deep, rich, confident and easy-to-listen-to voice is familiar to people who have attended the Hall of Fame Golf Tournament, Digby Golf Classic and Gold Club events in Halifax and at Fox Harb'r where he has been emcee and auctioneer.

# Remembering Babe Ruth's Trip to Halifax in '42

Sixty-two years ago, Don Johnson of St. John's, NL had a diamond day with the immortal Babe Ruth. Johnson has lived in Newfoundland for nearly half a century and is one of the province's best-known sports figures, having once been president of the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association.

But it was while growing up in Halifax that Johnson – known as Joey Johnson in those days – found himself tossing baseballs to the Bambino.

Ruth's trip to Nova Scotia in August of 1942 was not his first to that province. He had often visited the Maritimes to hunt and fish, but on this occasion, seven years after his retirement as a player, he was in town on other business.

"As I recall, he was there to help sell war bonds, but mainly to help open the Wanderers field," said Johnson, who was the 12-year-old bat boy for the local Navy team, which featured some outstanding ballplayers.

The Wanderers ballpark, located between the Public Gardens and Camp Hill Cemetery, had been reconditioned as part of a new navy recreation centre and to serve as home to the Navy Baseball League. The first game at the spiffed-up field was between the Toronto and Halifax navy teams

and rumours were flying that the 47-year-old Ruth would suit up with the home side.

That didn't happen. Ruth didn't take part in the game, which drew more than 5,000 fans, but did make an appearance at the plate during a break in the action to put on a batting exhibition.

Reports had Ruth, dressed in a light-coloured suit, with shirt open at the top and dress shoes on his feet, hitting the first pitch out of the park. Others say he missed a couple of the offerings, then hit one into right field and two down the first-base line. That's the way Johnson remembers it.

It was decided Ruth would hit balls to youngsters in the outfield and sign the ones they caught. Johnson recalls, "They brought out a bucket of balls and since I was with the (navy) team, I was picked to give the balls to the Babe and then he would hit them out."

As the two got into a rhythm – the balls tossed up by the youngster to Ruth, him catching them and then batting them into the outfield, Johnson observed the Babe. "He was always pretty heavy when he played, but I remember he was even bigger then," said Johnson, "and if you saw his swing, it was never what you would call pretty, but you could see where the power had come from, even then, after he was finished playing.

"But mostly, I remember being awestruck. I mean, in my day, there was him and Joe Louis, the guys that everybody knew about and here I was, giving baseballs to Babe Ruth.

Ruth was pounding the ball into the outfield and happy youngsters were shagging them - "kids were pretty orderly in those days, so it worked out," recalled Johnson – but by now, the young bat boy wondered how he could get one of the balls.

"The Babe must have been thinking about it, too," said Johnson. "Near the end, he asked me, 'Do you have one of these, kid?' and I said, 'No.'"

Ruth hit a couple more and then tossed one up and swung through. The ball fell to the ground.

"That one's for you, kid," said Ruth.

Where is the ball? "Our house burned down that winter and I lost it in the fire," Johnson informs.

Parts of the story are from an article by Brendan McCarthy in the St. John's Telegram.

