

HUSKIE HOOPS

A Newsletter for the Alumni, Fans, Families, and Friends of the Men's Basketball Team

Volume 3, Issue 3

July 2001

Welcome Huskie Alumni Fans and Supporters to the Post-Season edition of HUSKIE HOOPS for the 2000-01 season.

2001-02 RECRUITING CLASS TAKES SHAPE

The recruiting season has been an up and down season for the Dogs. The season has dragged on longer than expected and has seen many players move on and off of the Huskie radar screen. Despite this tumultuous period the Huskies are pleased with the players that have confirmed attendance at training camp in September. This year's class begins with the Huskies #1 recruit, **Matthew Greenberg**. Matt is a 6'6" 3 -man from Regina's Campbell Collegiate. He is one of the top 2 or 3 players in the province this year. He has 3-point range on his jump shot and has the ability to post up and "play in the paint". Matt is also a very good rebounder and he will help the Huskies increase their size and athleticism on the perimeter. Matt is a 90% student and is enrolled in the College of Commerce.

Stephen Galbraith comes to the U of S from Coronach, Sask. Stephen is coming off an outstanding high school career at Coronach. In his final season he led his team to the 1A provincial championship in Moose Jaw. Stephen is a point guard who brings excellent size, at 6'3", and athleticism to the position. His ability to score is matched only by his passing skills. He has the potential to earn a position on the roster in his first season. Stephen is enrolled in the College of Commerce. *(Continued on page 2)*

CAMPAIGN FOR EXCELLENCE TOPS \$10,000!!

The Huskie Men's Basketball Foundation is pleased to announce that it's First Annual Campaign for Excellence has surpassed the \$10,000 mark!

Although the original intent of the program was to assist with special travel and unfunded expenses, the coaching staff has convinced the HMBF executive that scholarship support for our Huskie basketball players is more desperately needed. The philosophy of the HMBF has evolved since the CIAU passed a resolution allowing athletes financial support equal to full tuition and compulsory fees. To remain competitive the need for your support has become greater than ever.

We are including with this newsletter a Campaign for Excellence brochure. We hope that, like the list of donors that follows, you too can find it in your heart (and wallet) to make a much-needed contribution. No donation is too small and all donations of \$50.00 or more will receive a tax receipt from the University. This is your chance to make a difference to "Dog" Basketball.

The Huskie Men's Basketball Foundation would like to take this opportunity to thank the following donors.

Mike Bischoff

Pat Casey

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Trent Folk, another Regina product, has decided to attend the U of S next season. Trent is a 6'6" power forward from Sheldon Williams High School. He is a good rebounder and scorer and he will compete for solid playing time next season. He attended the University of Alberta last season and was a medical red shirt but has decided to move closer to home this season. Trent is enrolled in the College of Engineering.

Mark Thompson is a local product from St. Joseph High School. At 6'4" Mark is the type of big perimeter player that the Dogs are looking for. He has excellent range on his jump shot and has the ability to take the ball strong to the basket. Mark is enrolled in the College of Arts and Science.

Kevin Langdon is the second local recruit. Kevin is from BJM High School. He is a 6'6" forward who brings plenty of athleticism to the court. He jumps extremely well and has good hands and very good strength. Kevin will likely be a red shirt on this years team and has the potential to be an excellent CIAU player. He is enrolled in the College of Commerce.

Jordan Cossette is from Holy Cross High School. He impressed the coaching staff during Huskie Spring Camp. He has 3-point range on his jump shot and good ability close to the basket. At 6'4" Jordan will have to make the transition from high school post player to university perimeter player. This transition will likely put Jordan in a red shirt role next season. Jordan is enrolled in the College of Arts and Science.

These players, as well as several others who played well at the 2001 Spring Camp, have been invited to the Main Camp in September for a chance to make the 2001-02 edition of the Huskies.

Two additional players **Adam Darrah**, a 6'1" guard from Australia, and **Nathan Nowak** at 6'6" power forward from Richmond, B.C. are still on the radar. ♦

FINAL 8 in HALIFAX

Sunday March 18

Carleton 86 Saint Mary's 67

StFX 83 Brandon 76 OT – Championship Game

Saturday March 17

RPI - FINAL

The RPI is a calculated ranking, an estimate of the relative power of all the teams in a league, like CIAU Men's Basketball. The software is quite complex, but the math is simple. Simply stated, the RPI Value is a total of:

- 25% of a teams' winning %
- 50% of their opponents' winning % against other teams
- 25% of their opponents' opponents' winning %

| Mens CHEERS RPI | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|----|----|------|-------|------|
| Rk | Name | W | L | Pct | Sched | RPI |
| 1 | StFX | 26 | 1 | .963 | .511 | .614 |
| 2 | Western | 29 | 3 | .906 | .529 | .611 |
| 3 | Carleton | 29 | 3 | .906 | .535 | .610 |
| 4 | McMaster | 23 | 4 | .852 | .514 | .593 |
| 5 | Alberta | 27 | 8 | .771 | .542 | .585 |
| 6 | Brandon | 31 | 4 | .886 | .483 | .582 |
| 7 | Victoria | 24 | 8 | .750 | .522 | .571 |
| 8 | Saint Mary's | 22 | 9 | .710 | .522 | .563 |
| 9 | Guelph | 18 | 12 | .600 | .566 | .561 |
| 10 | York | 26 | 8 | .765 | .493 | .556 |
| 11 | UNB | 16 | 14 | .533 | .537 | .529 |
| 12 | Acadia | 17 | 14 | .548 | .514 | .524 |
| 13 | Brock | 13 | 15 | .464 | .539 | .516 |
| 14 | Simon Fraser | 14 | 14 | .500 | .524 | .515 |
| 15 | Laval | 20 | 12 | .625 | .469 | .511 |
| 16 | Laurentian | 17 | 14 | .548 | .496 | .507 |
| 17 | Concordia | 19 | 15 | .559 | .481 | .503 |
| 18 | McGill | 19 | 15 | .559 | .482 | .502 |
| 19 | Ryerson | 17 | 17 | .500 | .502 | .500 |
| 20 | Lethbridge | 16 | 20 | .444 | .520 | .499 |
| 21 | Winnipeg | 17 | 22 | .436 | .507 | .491 |
| 22 | Toronto | 16 | 16 | .500 | .477 | .489 |
| 23 | Sask | 11 | 17 | .393 | .521 | .487 |
| 24 | Manitoba | 15 | 21 | .417 | .486 | .477 |
| 25 | UBC | 13 | 19 | .406 | .491 | .477 |
| 26 | Cape Breton | 9 | 18 | .333 | .520 | .476 |
| 27 | Calgary | 10 | 15 | .400 | .492 | .475 |
| 28 | Memorial | 9 | 17 | .346 | .506 | .474 |
| 29 | Regina | 9 | 24 | .273 | .546 | .472 |
| 30 | Lakehead | 5 | 17 | .227 | .563 | .469 |
| 31 | Trinity | 11 | 20 | .355 | .498 | .469 |
| 32 | New Brunswick | 10 | 15 | .400 | .475 | .467 |

HUSKIE HOOPFEST 2001

The Huskies Annual Identification Camp called Huskie HoopFest was held on April 21 and 22, 2001. Forty-five players were invited from around the province. The majority of the players were from grades 9 to 11. The goal of Huskie HoopFest is to give potential university players the chance to display their talents in a highly competitive setting and be identified as potential Huskies. The camp also gave the Huskie Program a chance to help enhance the skill level of the players who attended camp. The format of the weekend began with a crash course on Huskie Basketball, which was a discussion of what it means to be a Huskie from Coaching Philosophy to player expectations. The players were then divided into teams; 1 hour of drill instruction occurred prior to 2-hours of organized scrimmages. Three 3-hours sessions were held over the course of the weekend. The Huskie coaching staff hopes continue to provide opportunities for elite high school players to develop into Huskie Athletes. ♦

SPRING CAMP 2001!

Huskie Spring Camp was held this year on the weekend of April 28-29. The Spring Camp consisted of three – 3-hour practice sessions. Each practice session was made up of 1-hour of skill instruction and 2-hours of scrimmaging. Thirty-five players, including current and potential Huskies as well as top recruits, from around the province and as far away as Vancouver participated in the camp. The purpose of the camp was two-fold. First, the coaching staff used it as an evaluation tool. Current Huskies competed against top recruits and potential Huskies; it gave the coaching staff insight into the make up of next season's edition of the Huskies. Second, Spring Training Camp is utilized as a kick-off to the Summer Training Season. Each player is provided with a Training Manual at the end of camp that details expectations for the General Preparation period of the season.

COACHES CORNER

USING "JUNK" DEFENSES TO NEGATE TALENT DIFFERENTIAL

A High School basketball coach is often faced with what people term a "rebuilding" year. In this situation, the team may be made up of younger, lesser-talented players than in the previous seasons. It can also mean the team is made up of a different type of player altogether (short and quick players as opposed to tall and slow). Regardless of the change or difference, the coach is still faced with

HUSKIES 2000-01 SEASON

Season Overall: 11-17 vs below .500:10-7
 Conf Play : 8-14 vs plus .500 :0-9
 vs Own Conf : 5- 9 For : 2055,73 ppg
 vs Other Confs: 6- 8 Against:2148,76ppg

| DATE | OPPONENT | W- L | | SCORE | DIF | |
|--------|------------|-------|---|--------|-----|----|
| Feb 10 | Winnipeg | 17-22 | L | 67- 70 | -3 | |
| Feb 09 | Winnipeg | 17-22 | W | 91- 84 | 7 | |
| Feb 03 | Regina | 9-24 | W | 93- 72 | 21 | |
| Feb 02 | Regina | 9-24 | L | 73- 87 | -14 | |
| Jan 27 | Calgary | 10-15 | W | 81- 74 | 7 | |
| Jan 26 | Calgary | 10-15 | L | 80- 88 | -8 | |
| Jan 20 | Victoria | 24- 8 | L | 68- 71 | -3 | |
| Jan 19 | Victoria | 24- 8 | L | 59- 84 | -25 | |
| Jan 13 | Alberta | 27- 8 | L | 66- 70 | -4 | |
| Jan 12 | Alberta | 27- 8 | L | 71- 76 | -5 | |
| Jan 06 | Trinity | 11-20 | L | 77- 80 | -3 | |
| Jan 05 | Trinity | 11-20 | L | 66- 77 | -11 | |
| Dec 30 | Brandon | 31- 4 | L | 47- 70 | -23 | NC |
| Dec 29 | Winnipeg | 17-22 | W | 72- 71 | 1 | NC |
| Dec 28 | Manitoba | 15-21 | W | 64- 55 | 9 | NC |
| Nov 25 | UBC | 13-19 | W | 95- 87 | 8 | |
| Nov 24 | UBC | 13-19 | W | 70- 67 | 3 | |
| Nov 18 | Manitoba | 15-21 | W | 66- 61 | 5 | |
| Nov 17 | Manitoba | 15-21 | L | 72- 78 | -6 | |
| Nov 11 | Lethbridge | 16-20 | W | 79- 75 | 4 | |
| Nov 10 | Lethbridge | 16-20 | L | 79- 90 | -11 | |
| Nov 04 | Brandon | 31- 4 | L | 84- 89 | -5 | |
| Nov 03 | Brandon | 31- 4 | L | 72- 86 | -14 | |
| Oct 28 | SFU | 14-14 | W | 91- 71 | 20 | |
| Oct 27 | SFU | 14-14 | L | 63- 87 | -24 | |
| Oct 21 | Concordia | 19-15 | L | 68- 77 | -9 | NC |
| Oct 20 | Regina | 9-24 | W | 89- 76 | 13 | NC |
| Oct 19 | York | 26- 8 | L | 52- 75 | -23 | NC |

UPCOMING EVENTS

GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Huskie Men's Basketball Foundation will again be running the annual Golf Tournament. This summer the tournament will be held on **August 25th**. Space is limited so get your applications in early.

SUMMER CAMPS 2001

The Huskies are working towards the 2001 edition of the Summer Basketball Camps. This year four camps are being offered:

Main #1: July 16-20, Ages 12-17, 9am to 4pm daily
 Main #2: July 23-27, Ages 15-19, 9am to 4pm daily

CLUB BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT IN SASKATOON – JULY 13-15

CLUB BASKETBALL PART II - "THE RETURN"

The adventure in Club Basketball begun last year with the Saskatoon Selects Juvenile Team has, as we hoped, expanded this year, with a number of Midget and Juvenile teams being formed to participate in a tournament to be held at the U of S on July 13 – 15. We will have Alberta teams and perhaps Manitoba teams coming to provide some competition for the local guys. The Prairie Dog Classic (a new name for the club, reflecting its origin) will be the first local tournament in the expanding roster of club tournaments across Western Canada. With the Classic filling the second weekend in July, there is now at least one tournament for club players in Western Canada every weekend from the middle of June until the middle of August.

The emphasis is on Midget (under 15) and Juvenile (under 17) aged players at present; however, with the demise of the National Junior Championships next year, there will probably be room for some under 19 tournaments as well.

In spite of the fact that Basketball skill levels have come a long way in Saskatchewan in the last 20 years, we are still falling behind. The club programs in other provinces, notably Alberta, B.C. and Ontario; allow their potential elite athletes to play year round if they wish. If we are to even maintain our position relative to those provinces, we must follow suit. To put it another way, if we wish to be competitive with Universities in the rest of the country, we must make Saskatchewan ball players better. The only way (genetic manipulation aside) we can do that is to have them playing more against better competition. Club Basketball can do that. This year we will have Saskatchewan kids playing 4 to 6 tournaments in the summer against the best that Western Canada has to offer. Our hope is that from this pool of summer players we will be able to recruit a crop of potential University caliber players that will keep us competitive in Canada, West, East, and Abroad.

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WHY A "JUNK" DEFENSE?

Take Away One Player

The primary function of a combination defense is to take the opposing team's "star" player out of the game. By forcing the opponent's other players to score, the lesser talented team is making opposing players do things they are not accustomed to doing or have not practiced. In addition, the "star" player often becomes frustrated and resorts to taking bad shots in order to score the usual number of points.

As the coach of the lesser-talented team, consider rotating fresh defenders on the "star" player. This will wear the "star" player down, as they will use up a lot of energy just trying to get open. If the game remains close, especially late in the fourth quarter, you'll often see the other four offensive player sense their offense being off-balance, begin to panic and force bad shots because they realize scoring must come from different players.

Control Tempo

The second function of a combination defense is to control the tempo of the game.

If the lesser-talented team is forced to abandon its up tempo style of offense and slow down to work for a high percentage shot. This can be especially true if the "star" player is defended full court and denied the basketball.

By controlling the tempo, the opponent will get fewer shots. A premium is placed on the shots they take, their offensive motion may become broken, and they become stagnant and resort to one-on-one moves.

Once the tempo is controlled by the less-talented team, the opponent begins to play the clock, herein lies the old coaching adage: "keep the game close until there are only two minutes remaining and find a way to win."

Make Them Think

The third function of the combination defense is to confuse the opposing players and coaching staff.

As a coach, you should realize that it may take the opposing players and coaches two or three possessions to identify the combination defense you're employing.

Sometimes the defense doesn't have to be very good, as just the appearance of a "junk" defense is enough to confuse the opponent and create fear and apprehension.

Most teams do not practice against a "junk" defense. Many coaches use the philosophy of "we'll just use our man-to-man offense." While this may work sometimes, it's not a sure fire method, especially under the pressure situations of the end of the game.

Change Momentum

The fourth function of combination defenses is by using these defenses; you can change the momentum of the game very quickly. As the defensive coach, you can pick and choose when and for how long to use a combination defense, allowing you to capitalize on momentum swings. One of the best times to use "junk" defense to change momentum is late in the game. Often it causes the opposing coach to call a time out, or substitute unintelligently. The coach may lose their composure briefly, causing doubt in the

