

SPORTS

Oh Canada . . . in Laurinburg?

By Jason King
Sports Editor

Ah yes . . . hot dogs, apple pie and baseball . . . it can't get any more American than that. However, at St. Andrews, when one thinks of baseball, Canada comes to mind . . . You say, "wait a second . . . there's no baseball in Canada! Just hockey . . . and maybe a little football!"

Well, for the most part, that's correct. In Canada, baseball isn't even offered in high schools. Any interested athlete has to venture out on his own and join summer league teams to obtain experience. Due to the cold climate in Canada, baseball can only be played in the short summer months. So why does St. Andrews have such a strong showing of Canadian baseball players?

"Recruiting," says Head Coach Gary Swanson. "In the past four years, we have had 15 ballplayers from Canada. When I played minor league baseball for the Montreal Expos, I met a Canadian player named Cam Walker. While I was coaching at Northern Iowa, Cam had recruited a couple of Canadian baseball players for me. When I moved to St. Andrews, the trend continued. Fortunately, another good friend of mine, Bernie Beckman, happens to be the head coach of the Canadian

Olympic Baseball Team. Through Bernie I receive information on possible prospects for St. Andrews."

This year, St. Andrews has five Canadians on their roster. I asked sophomore Brad Pederson (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan), why he chose to play baseball in a land clearly dominated by hockey? "I chose baseball simply because it was fun! In Canada, hockey becomes much too serious at a very young age. When I was a kid, I didn't want the pressure, so I chose baseball. Canadian hockey was like work, and baseball was like 'having fun'."

Sophomore Lee Gogol (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan) chose baseball for a different reason. "I came to St. Andrews to fulfill a childhood dream of playing baseball in the United States. Since baseball isn't offered at high schools or colleges in Canada, it became a challenge of mine to see

if I could compete at a high-caliber school like St. Andrews."

Freshman Matt Winder (Corunna, Ontario) commented on the fact that the fundamentals of baseball are rarely taught in Canada, "You learn most about baseball basically from just watching the major league games on T.V."

The Canadians travel from up to 3,000 miles away to play baseball in North Carolina. I asked junior trans-

fer, Jeff DeRosa, about the differences between Canadian and American lifestyles?

"Well, living in Canada is like living in one big state, as far as the languages and the culture. This is the third state I've lived in, in the U.S. (I attended colleges in Washington and Iowa) and I've found that each state has a clearly defined personality. Where in Canada, everything seems like one big state, every state in the U.S. appears to be its own small country."

If you have ever witnessed a St. Andrews baseball practice, you'd wonder why these players would travel such great distances to physically work so hard, and do it daily. Sophomore, Dan Chlebus (Sault Ste. Marie) commented on the rigorous rituals of American baseball.

"To be honest, I wish I was playing hockey! Just kidding! Actually, I came to St. Andrews with aspirations of being taught the fundamentals of baseball. So far, I've made great strides and many great friends, and I look forward to our team's drive toward a National Championship."

After winning two out of three games in a triple header against Methodist College and dominating in a combined one hitter against Francis Marion College, the Knights are well on their way!



NEIGHBORS OF THE NORTH - Members of the St. Andrews Knights Baseball team from Canada include Matt Winder and Lee Gogol, kneeling; and Danny Chlebus, Jeff DeRosa, and Brad Pederson.

Swim Club Proposed

Although the pool at St. Andrews is four inches too small for competition, that didn't stop sophomore, Robin Murzynski from initiating a Swim Club at St. Andrews.

"Our goal is to have a full fledged club, ready to compete, by the spring term."

Robin co-founded the club with senior, Dana Kuebler. Together they are working with Director of Admissions Joe Rigell to promote their team. A major obstacle they face is the lack of interest from male stu-

dents at St. Andrews. Freshman Ian James is the only man currently working out with the team. Murzynski commented, "We have twelve women and one man. If we could equal out that ratio and record individual times, we would have the potential to compete nationally."

Robin crosses her fingers with anticipation and stresses the fact that the team needs more support. If any swimmer is interested in joining the swim club, contact Robin Murzynski at ext. 486, suite 6, Concord.

Cross Country Underway

The St. Andrews cross-country team ignited its season this year by travelling to Pembroke State on Sep-

tember 8 to participate in an invitational meet open to all divisions of colleges. The field of runners were not only out-numbered in attendance but also in talent. Our individual runners finished remarkably well for the beginning of the season. The following weekend, September 15, was another on the road expedition to compete at the UNCW Invitational

meet. Again, the athletes ranked high in degrees of condition and spirit. Our finishers proved to be quality challengers to this intense field. The team's next adventure was

Saturday September 29 at Methodist College. Other dates for cross-country are as follows:

- October 2- Francis Marion and High Point (home)
- 6- Belmont Abbey Invit. (away)
- 10 Pfeiffer College (away)
- 20- Francis Marion Invit
- 27-CIAC/NAIA District (home)
- November 17-NAIA Nationals at Kenosha Wi.

Good luck to Tripp Whitener, Eric Eubank, Ward Sokoloski, Ralph Powell, Holten Siegling, Rob Woodyard, Raylene Kaufman, and Becky Loffert to a continuous healthy and successful season.

Equestrian Team Successful

By J.K. King
Sports Editor

The St. Andrews Equestrian team hosted the IHSA this past Sunday. Coaches Shelby French and Jon Conyers were very pleased with the teams overall effort.

Virginia Intermont College was named overall champion, while Hollins College was named reserve champion.

Junior transfer Tracie Berard was the high point overall rider in the competition making her this weekends pride of St. Andrews.

Suzi Riecke finished first in her class in the intermediate equitation over fences competition and placed second in the flat competition. Freshman Chris Carbone placed second in the open equitation over fences.

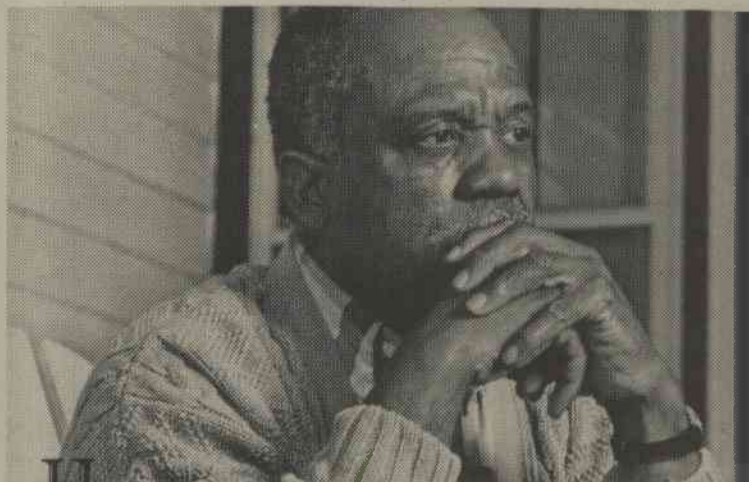
The show was highlighted

by additional outstanding performances from sophomores Melinda Grice, Leah Rash and Junior Heather Signor.

Coach French looks forward to St. Andrews next horse show on Nov. 1, at Hollins College, Roanoke, Virginia.



CONGRATULATIONS! - Tracie Berard is congratulated by her fellow teammates Sunday with the traditional "pond throw." Tracie was the Champion High Point Rider this past weekend. (Photo by Rooney Coffman)



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