University Cup hockey headed to Oilers' arena

University of Alberta plans to take CIS championships to the next level

by Jake Troughton
The Gateway

EDMONTON (CUP) - There will be a hockey championship won at Rexall Place this year after all.

The home arena of the National Hockey League's Edmonton Oilers will be the site of the final three games of the Canadian Interuniversity Sport men's hockey championships when the University of Alberta hosts the event in March.

The university announced plans to move the semi-final and championship games from the cosy Clare Drake Arena on campus to the much-larger professional venue.

The move presents several challenges, both financial and in terms of athletics department resources, as the event's organizing committee tries to fill the 17,000-seat venue.

The financial situation has been made easier by the signing of a title sponsor - the event will be known as the Telus University Cup - and U of A athletics director Kim Gordon said she's confident that her department is prepared to make the move work.

"We've been building up," she said. "We've run volleyball nationals, and with all the other nationals we've run, across the country we probably have the most staff who have expertise in hosting, and I think it's ready to go to the next step."

There's a strong possibility that the current NHL lockout will last long enough to keep the league from playing in March and, while Gordon stresses that she'd like to see that situation resolved, she admits that the labour stoppage could give the tournament a chance to become the focus of the hockey-deprived public.

"I think there's a big opportunity here for us to profile university sport in a different way, maybe better than anyone else has done it in the country," said Gordon. "It's an opportunity for us to capitalize on starving fans who are really interested in seeing some good hockey. Next year, hopefully there won't be a strike, and people will have seen enough of university hockey to come back and say, 'Let's take a look at that again.'"

Alberta's Golden Bears are perennial contenders to capture the University Cup and head coach Rob Daum says neither the home venue nor the prospect of a large crowd will create added pressure for his team.

"We've faced pressure every year that we've gone to nationals," said Daum. "We've done a terrific job of putting pressure on our team for a variety of different reasons. This is a unique situation, but I don't think the pressure's going to be any different than it has been in the past. Hopefully we can use it to our advantage."

As hosts, the Golden Bears will get an automatic berth in the six-team tournament. Daum insists that the free pass won't alter the way he approaches the season.

"Each season our goal is always to play in the university championships, and this year we can guarantee that we will be," Daum said.

"But nothing's going to change as far as our focus. Our goal is still to finish first in our league, win the Canada West championship and move from there. . . . We're hoping that being at home will be a real positive for us, and getting to play at Rexall Place with 17,000 people in the stands is going to be a huge benefit for our team."

The super-mega *Bruns* scoreboard

AUS Men's Soccer Standings

East Division

	Games	W	L	T	Home	Road	GF	GA	Pts
Saint Mary's	7	5	0	2	1-0-2	4-0-0	14	1	17
Memorial	8	4	3	1	1-3-0	3-0-1	17	11	13
Dalhousie	6	3	3	0	2-1-0	1-2-0	11	5	9
St. FX	7	3	4	0	3-1-0	0-3-0	9	9	9

West Division

	Games	W	L	T	Home	Road	GF	GA	Pts
Mount Allison	8	6	1	1	3-0-0	3-1-1	19	8	19
UPEI	8	4	2	2	2-2-0	2-0-2	23	10	14
UNB	**7**	**2**	**2**	**3**	**1-1-3**	**1-1-0**	**10**	**8**	**9**
UCCB	7	0	4	3	0-3-1	0-1-2	6	18	3
Moncton	8	0	8	0	0-3-0	0-5-0	4	35	0

AUS Women's Soccer Standings

East Division

	Games	W	L	T	Home	Road	GF	GA	Pts
Dalhousie	7	5	0	2	4-0-1	1-0-1	10	1	17
Saint Mary's	7	4	2	1	1-1-0	3-1-1	13	8	13
St. FX	8	3	1	4	2-1-2	1-0-2	6	5	11
Memorial	9	2	4	3	1-1-2	1-3-1	12	15	9
Acadia	9	1	4	4	0-1-2	1-3-2	8	11	7

West Division

	Games	W	L	T	Home	Road	GF	GA	Pts
UPEI	9	6	1	2	4-0-1	2-1-1	21	7	20
UCCB	8	4	3	1	2-3-0	2-0-1	15	7	13
Mount Allison	8	3	4	1	2-0-1	1-4-0	12	15	10
UNB	**8**	**3**	**5**	**0**	**2-3-0**	**1-2-0**	**8**	**16**	**9**
Moncton	9	1	8	0	1-3-0	0-5-0	7	25	3

CIS Men's Football Top 10	
1.	Alberta (3)
2.	Montreal (4)
3.	Laurier (7)
4.	Saskatchewan (5)
5.	Laval (6)
6.	Saint Mary's (1)
7.	McMaster (2)
8.	Ottawa (8)
9.	Concordia (NR)
10.	Western (NR)

CIBA Men's Baseball Top 10	
1.	Ottawa (1)
2.	Brock (5)
3.	**UNB (3)**
4.	McGill (4)
5.	Guelph (2)
6.	York (6)
7.	Laval (7)
8.	Dalhousie (NR)
9.	Concordia (8)
10.	UCCB (9)

CIS Men's Cross Country Top 10	
1.	Guelph (2)
2.	Windsor (1)
3.	Manitoba (4)
4.	Western (8)
5.	Queen's (6)
5.	Victoria (7)
7.	Dalhousie (2)
8.	Waterloo (9)
9.	Alberta (5)
10.	Toronto (10)

CIS Men's Soccer Top 10	
1.	Saint Mary's (3)
2.	Montreal (2)
3.	Carleton (5)
4.	Trinity Western (6)
5.	UPEI (6)
6.	McGill (4)
7.	Western (9)
7.	UBC (10)
9.	Alberta (1)
10.	Victoria (NR)

CIS Women's Soccer Top 10	
1.	McGill (3)
2.	UBC (1)
3.	Western (6)
4.	Ottawa (2)
5.	Queen's (5)
6.	Dalhousie (8)
7.	Victoria (7)
8.	Calgary (NR)
9.	Laval (4)
10.	UCCB (10)

CIS Women's Cross Country Top 10	
1.	Guelph (1)
2.	Western (3)
3.	Calgary (2)
4.	Dalhousie (5)
5.	Victoria (7)
6.	Toronto (6)
7.	Manitoba (4)
8.	McGill (9)
9.	Queen's (10)
10.	York (NR)

For more scores and standings check out the CIS website at *www.universitysport.ca*

Friday, October 1

Men's Soccer
StFX 0 Dalhousie 1

Men's Hockey
UNB Varsity Reds Fall Hockey Classic (Exhibition)
UdeM 5 Dal 2
UPEI 5 UNB 3

Women's Volleyball
SMU Huskies Cup (Exhibition)
SMU 3 StFX 1
UNB 1 Acadia 3

Saturday, October 2

Men's Soccer
UNB 2 UPEI 1
MTA 3 UdeM 0
Memorial 0 SMU 0

Women's Soccer
UNB 1 UPEI 5
Acadia 2 UCCB 1
MTA 1 UdeM 2
Memorial 1 Dalhousie 2

Men's Hockey
UNB Varsity Reds Fall Hockey Classic (Exhibition)
Dal 3 UNB 5
UPEI 2 UdeM 1

Men's Rugby
UNB 'A' 42 STU 17
UNB 'B' 22 Saint John 17

Women's Volleyball
SMU Huskies Cup (Exhibition)
SMU 3 UNB 2
Acadia 0 StFx 3

Saturday, October 2 cont'd

StFx 2 UNB 3
SMU 3 Acadia 2

Sunday, October 3

Men's Soccer
Memorial 4 UPEI 0
UNB 0 MTA 1
UCCB 0 StFX 3

Women's Soccer
Memorial 0 Dalhousie 0
Acadia 0 StFX 1
UNB 1 MTA 2
UdeM 0 UPEI 5

Women's Volleyball
(Exhibition)
UNB 3 MTA 0

Wednesday, October 6

Men's Hockey
(Exhibition)
STU @ UNB 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 9

Men's Rugby
UNB @ STU 11:00 a.m. (B)
Moncton @ UNB 1:00 p.m.

Men's Hockey
(Exhibition)
UNB @ Boston College TBA

Cross Country
@ UNB 12:00 p.m. (W)
@ UNB 12:45 p.m. (M)

Tuesday, October 12

Women's Basketball
(Exhibition)
St. Lawrence College @ UNB 7:00 p.m.

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