

Forces aim for CIS athletes

JOSH WINGROVE
The Eyeopener

TORONTO (CUP)—CIS has signed a \$500 000 advertising and recruiting agreement with the armed Canadian Armed Forces.

The contract guarantees the military the opportunity to advertise and recruit at any CIS event, which has in turn sparked outcry from professors who say athletes are “sitting ducks” for recruiters.

The military’s marketing campaign aims to recruit smart, physically fit student athletes into service as officers.

“It’s a perfect fit. Those are the kinds of people that we want to attract and who we need,” said John Williston, director of marketing for the Canadian Armed Forces.

The three-year contract won’t force athletes to sit down with recruiters, but will give recruiters a spot at every national CIS event.

“The Forces people will be there at banquets, giving out awards. They will be there at games ... to sit with athletes—those who want to—and discuss possible opportunities with the Canadian Forces,” said Peter Metuzals, CIS director of marketing.

But Ryerson University sociology professor Fiona Whittington-Walsh said the contract would make athletes susceptible to well-trained recruiters.

“They seem to be very vulnerable to the lure of the military. They can finish their studies and have a

wonderful job and all this. Meanwhile, our soldiers keep coming back in body bags from Afghanistan,” Whittington-Walsh said.

“It shows that obviously our stay in Afghanistan is not a short one and they’re in desperate need of providing more disciplined bodies ... I don’t think the military should have any place on campuses for recruitment,” she added.

“In bidding on this contract, the CIS is saying, ‘We’re prepared to deliver to the military our captive audience of university athletes, so they can be recruited.’”

**JIM TURK,
CAUT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Since 2002, 42 Canadian soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan, including Private Mark Graham, 33, a Hamilton native and Canadian Olympic track athlete. 13 soldiers stationed in Edmonton and one from Wainwright are also among those who have died.

“It’s sort of sad that, for a little bit of money, they’d be delivering athletes to the military,” said Jim Turk, executive

director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT).

According to Turk, the CIS holds a monopoly on access to Canada’s 12 000 university athletes, and isn’t acting in their best interests.

“What’s offensive here is that CIS has privileged access to Canadian university athletes. In bidding on this contract, the CIS is saying, ‘We’re prepared to deliver to the military our captive audience of university athletes, so they can be recruited,’” Turk said.

Such a contract exploits student athletes, especially if the CIS is, as Turk said, “providing opportunity for people to sign up to be killed.”

The money will subsidize both team travel costs and production of 25 nationally televised CIS games.

The military and CIS have partnered before, with the Forces being a sponsor at individual events, but this would mark the first large marketing deal between the two organizations.

Students can already enrol in the Regular Officer Training Plan, which pays tuition, books and a salary in exchange for five years of service after graduation. Each campaign recruits both behind-the-lines personnel and soldiers, Metuzals said.

“One would have to assume that athletes are savvy enough to know that if they want to listen, they can listen,” Metuzals said. “All we’re doing is opening the door. It’s up to them to go through it.”

PLEASE SEE OWEN • PAGE 6

SPORTS SHORTS

Written by Ross Prusakowski, Paul Owen and Scott Lilwall

Swimming

After losing out on the West Coast last weekend, the Bears and Pandas swimmers are staying in province this weekend and trekking down to Calgary to face the Lady and Gentleman Dinosaurs in a dual meet. Alberta will have a tough time knocking off either of the Calgary teams who both finished second in the CIS last year and are perennially one of the best programs in the nation. However, look for freshman Panda Katarina Symes and Bears team captain Jian-lok Chang—who have both already qualified for nationals after only two meets—to continue their strong performances. Also, junior national team member Doug Rawlick is an up-an-comer to watch, according to head coach Bill Humby.

Pandas Hockey

This weekend also sees the tenth-ranked Manitoba Bisons hosting the undefeated, second-ranked Pandas in Winnipeg. Alberta is fresh off a bye week and looking to restart a punishing offence that’s scored 41 goals in just six conference games, while the team has only conceded four goals in that same span.

It’s a shame that Yahoo! Fantasy Hockey doesn’t include Pandas forward Lindsay McAlpine because her ten goals and 21 points might have allowed Prusakowski to actually earn a win.

Pandas Volleyball

After only dropping one set in their regular season opener last weekend, the Pandas head to Regina to take on the Cougars, who haven’t actually played a regular season game yet. Given that the flatlanders went 0-3 in the pre-season, Pandas kill leader Tiffany Dodds and her

64 kills should make short work of Regina this weekend.

Bears Volleyball

The second-ranked and 12-1 overall Bears are also skipping into Regina to face the Cougars for a pair of games. Like their female counterparts, the male Cougars have yet to play their first game this season and only played a single game—one they lost—in the pre-season. It looks like it could be a rough weekend for Regina as they struggle to work out the kinks in their game while conference hitting-percentage leader Derek Proudfoot and his mates are playing together like a finely tuned instrument. Of course, that instrument is also a leading contender for a national title.

Bears Basketball

The Golden Bears will open their season up at home against the Thompson Rivers Wolfpack on Friday at 8pm and the University College of the Fraser Valley Cascades on Saturday at 8pm. Despite it being TRU’s second year in CIS and UCFV’s first, the Bears should be well acquainted with their players as three of their freshmen are from BC high schools, and three more have transferred in from programs in the BCCAA, the league UCFV played in last season.

The six newbies have helped veteran Bear post Scott Gordon and company compile a 6-3 record in exhibition play and will be looking to improve upon the 10-10 conference record they posted last season.

Fantasy Hockey

So the powerful orbs of Paul Owen dispatched Amanda Ash’s Sexy Sticks by a 6-2 score and led the league with 23 goals, seven more than Amanda in second. With Ilya Kovalchuk rounding into his typical, awesome self, my team is set up to steamroll Managing Editor Chloé Fedio’s gaffers this week. The matchup is personal as Chloé has refused to trade Henrik Zetterberg to Paul all year and has

been adamant in pushing a “Don’t trade with Paul Owen, don’t trust Paul Owen” strategy for her squad. Paul will take vengeance by feasting on the fantasy blood of her fantasy players.

CFL Football

For the first time in 34 years, the Edmonton Eskimos will be left sucking sideline as the Roughriders travel across the plains to the desolate cesspool that some neanderthals affectionately call “Cowtown.”

If Saskatchewan’s 5 November match-up against the Stampeders follows play-off tradition, we can look forward to an inconsistent effort by the Riders, capped off by a heartbreaking screw-up in the final seconds of the game.

But, at the very least, when the Riders are handed their inevitable loss, we won’t be the only ones with the pale look of dashed Grey Cup hopes.

And a depressed Green and Golder is enough to warm up any bleak November day.

Auto Racing

With a 1300km drive to Winnipeg on tap for Thursday and a promise to make it in twelve hours, I might break Chloé’s Gateway record for most blatant disregard for traffic laws when she was stopped going 60 km/h over the limit on the way to Vancouver last year. I feel it’s my solemn goal to be the first of the six cars to arrive in “Whiskey Papa Golf.” It’s probably a good thing that, by the time you’re reading this, I’ll be outside the province.

Shorts

U of A sports information director Matt Gutsch felt compelled to inform me that were he to wear spandex shorts like the Pandas volleyball team, his ass would look fantastic. I, of course, rejected the truth of such a claim and demanded he prove it by donning said shorts in an exclusive photo spread. The challenge has yet to be met.

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All right. All right. Mother of God. I want a big rally this period. A big rally. We're losin'! Teamwork, guys. More teamwork. They're buryin' us alive! Eddie Shore? Oh, piss on Eddie Shore. Old-time hockey? Piss on old-time hockey! You're blowin' it! Boys. Every scout in the NHL is out there tonight with contracts in their pocket, and they're lookin' for talent, for winners! They come here tonight...to scout the Chiefs! The toughest team in the Federal League!

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