

034-1982
Richard K. Taylor
May 4, 1982

For immediate release

50 Canadian and American universities
to be at Laurier May 15 for hockey seminar

Between 500 to 700 high school students from across Ontario will be at Wilfrid Laurier University May 15 for a hockey seminar which will spell out the eligibility for scholarships and other financial aid available.

Fred Nichols, dean of students at Laurier, will host the day-long event, sponsored by the Kitchener Hockey Association. Nichols is a past-president of the association.

"I have found many kids talking about scholarships but they have no idea how to get one or what is required," Nichols said. "Many players also think they will be 'discovered,' and that's not true either.

More than 50 Canadian universities and American colleges will send representatives to the seminar.

A morning informational session will be addressed by Bert Smith of the U.S. National Collegiate Athletic Association and Ron Watson, former president of the Canadian Universities Coaches Association.

After the general session, participants will be able to visit coaches from the participating universities for individual discussions.

Watson, an associate professor of physical education at the University of Western Ontario at London, says the seminar is important "because participants and players often make uninformed decisions."

-more-

He said it is important that the hockey players know that Canadian universities have competitive hockey programs and realize what Canadian universities can offer them.

Nichols added that some students may well decide to attend an American university but they should be able to learn about the systems in both countries so they can make informed decisions.

"The top players will be scouted and recruited," he added. "This day will allow participating universities to explain how their various athletic programs work.

The importance of getting a good education will be stressed since it has been estimated that one per cent of students make the National Hockey League and the average hockey career lasts 4½ years.

Among universities and colleges taking part, in addition to Laurier, are McMaster, Laurentian, the University of Toronto, Yale, Princeton and Michigan State.