

SPORTS

Soccer season means Blue summer for local fans

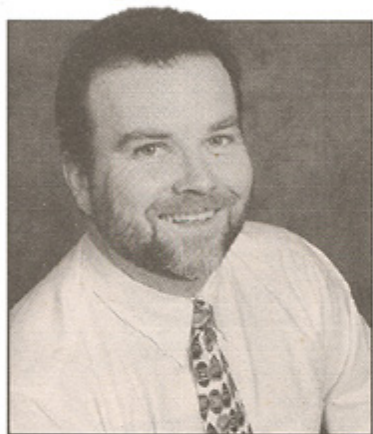
Saturday evening in St. Lawrence, the race to represent Newfoundland and Labrador at the national Challenge Cup tournament begins in earnest.

Six teams, representing three regions of the province, begin battle in the fight for senior soccer supremacy. Defending champion St. Lawrence, Marystown, Holy Cross, Feildians, Mount Pearl and Corner Brook are entered in the provincial Challenge Cup league.

Six teams, 15 games each. One winner. Not as intricate an affair as the World Cup to be sure, but of more than passing interest in Newfoundland.

And this season, the stakes are higher, if only because St. John's and Mount Pearl will play host to the national championship on Thanksgiving Day weekend. You can be sure none of the teams from this area wants to see another Laurentian victory parade, and have the Laurentians walk right into their backyard and carry Newfoundland's colours.

St. Lawrence is certainly going to be hard to beat. Amazingly, they continue to dominate the senior men's level, despite an ever-changing roster due to out-migration, retirements and injuries. It seems like



DON POWER

Out in Left Field

there's a bottomless pit of talent just waiting for the chance to jump into the senior lineup and continue on the strong tradition that has seen St. Lawrence win the past eight Challenge Cups.

It says here it's going to be a blue summer for most soccer teams, and I'm not talking Feildians.

St. Lawrence, once again, will take home the hardware.

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Soccer is just one of the summer sports that start

this weekend. Senior and junior baseball are also set to start Saturday, with a doubleheader at St. Pat's.

And senior softball got under way Tuesday night.

So if people were waiting for the summer sports to start, now's your chance.

Throw into the mix the national under-15 and under-17 boys soccer championships, the women's national soccer tournament, the reinstatement of the Const. William Moss Memorial Softball tournament, as well as national diving and ball hockey tournaments, that makes for a very busy summer. And that's just the St. John's area.

Summer is finally here. Now, get out and enjoy it.