

# School teams get taste of CIS

## ■ Grant Classic begins tomorrow at Coliseum

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The Don Grant Classic university women's basketball tournament is back for its seventh year and this year will be the fifth year of partnership with Metro Moncton high schools.

The six-team tournament begins tomorrow at 4 p.m. and runs through the weekend at the Moncton Coliseum.

The partnership has each participating university team matched up with a high school team, said tournament chairman Rob Hiscock.

"The senior varsity girls team of the local high schools are involved," Hiscock said.

"They're not there as official parts of the team, but they're matched up for the tournament."

This year, Bernice MacNaughton school is paired up with Acadia University, Riverview High School is with St. Francis Xavier University, Harrison Trimble High School is with the University of New Brunswick, Moncton High School is with the University of Prince Edward Island, École L'Odyssee is with Laval University and J.M.A. Armstrong is with the University of Saskatchewan.

This pairing of high school and university teams gives the high school teams a chance to experience Canadian Interuniversity Sport in an intimate way, said Hiscock.

"What they do is they can sit behind that team for each one of the games, so they can see the game up close."

The things the high school team can experience will give them a better idea of whether they'd like to continue to pursue basketball at the university level after they

graduate.

"They can listen in on time outs. Most time the university coach will have them in the room at half time so they can hear that sort of speech and see what they do," Hiscock said.

On the Saturday of the tournament, the high school teams will have the opportunity to get to know the university teams during a luncheon, said Hiscock.

"It's really just bringing players together, because not everybody at the high school level has the ability or the skill set to play at the university level, but some do."

Not so long ago, the university players were in the same position as the high school players, so this partnership gives them the opportunity to allow the high school players to see what it's like to be a part of a university team, said Hiscock.

"They were playing high school and it's about being a mentor or a role model. I think that's the connection. I think, from what I've heard is that they understand what it takes to play the university level."

There are recent graduates from the Moncton area high schools who are now playing at the university level, said Hiscock.

"These are young women who are talented and are pursuing their academics and athletics at that level and they're coming back to play in the tournament."

Seeing recent graduates gives the high school players the chance to see that it is possible to find the discipline to balance academics and athletics, said Hiscock.

"A lot of the players say 'Oh I know so-and-so, and last year they were my teammate and they made it.'"

Tomorrow's games will see Acadia tip off against Saskatchewan at 4 p.m., UNB meet Laval at 6 p.m. and St. FX clash with UPEI at 8 p.m.