

Fastpitch team rallies around troops

BY JESSIKA DAWNN ROYER

The Carleton University Ravens fastpitch team played the University of Ottawa Gee Gees while paying homage to Canadian troops in Afghanistan Sept. 29.

Almost every spectator wore red, a symbol of pride and support for Canadian troops overseas.

Players from both teams wore special team shirts in Canadian colours — the Ravens wore white; the Gee Gees wore red — that read, "Support our Troops."

Before the game started, spectators listened to the singing of "O Canada" by a Carleton student.

Both teams lined up on the field and were addressed by Colonel Rochette, Commandant of the Canadian Support Unit in Ottawa.

He congratulated both teams for their efforts in the sport and thanked them for dedicating the game to Canadian troops.

Raven head coach Norman Adams said he thought the event was an excellent idea, but stressed it was not a political ploy.

"We are not trying to support Mr. [Jack] Layton or Mr. [Stephen] Harper by doing this event," he

said. "We simply want to raise awareness, as well as thank the brave men and women who are fighting overseas."

The Gee Gees came out strong in the first inning after shortstop Allie Rutherford was deemed safe on second base after a tough hit.

But the excellent hitting of the Ravens in the third inning was not enough to keep the Gee Gees at bay.

Ottawa first baseman Lindsey McLaughlin scored a terrific home run in the fifth.

Despite a disappointing 8-0 Raven loss and celebratory win for the Gee Gees, players on both sides did not lose sight of the original initiative of the game.

"Support Our Troops was a great idea. It boosted everyone's spirits," said Elissa Sivel, a pitcher for Ottawa.

And while the Gee Gees enjoyed their win, assistant coach Scott Searle said his team still has a lot to work on.

"Communication is one of our biggest goals to improve on this year," he said.

Similarly, the Ravens recognized several errors in their own game, and are looking forward to



SOPHIE BÉRAUD

The Ravens and Gee Gees fastpitch teams dedicated their Sept. 29 game to Canadian troops overseas.

making improvements.

"We need to pull together as a team. We unfortunately made a lot of mental errors," said Raven catcher Kim Chorkawy.

Adams said his team did not play as well as he would have liked.

"[We didn't play] terrifically well. We scored [in] a couple of innings, but ultimately came out a little bit flat."

He also pointed out several team members are out due to injury, and in one case, out due to the death of a family member.

"We have a lot of injuries and so our strongest players are not here," he said. "You've got to play the cards you're dealt."

The Ravens lost the four other games they played between Sept. 30 and Oct. 1. They played the McMaster University Marauders

and the Brock University Badgers twice each.

"The rest of the weekend was not stellar," said Adams. "It was a fairly poor effort, but I think they're best forgotten so that we can focus on our games next weekend."

He commended Raven Michelle Cole, who returned to the team this weekend after battling a serious blood infection. □

Carleton improves record

Field hockey team takes over turf at Nepean Sportsplex, and looks to secure playoff berth

BY CLAIRE O'BRIEN

The Carleton University Ravens field hockey team played an important series of games at the Nepean Sportsplex Sept. 29 to Oct. 1.

They played a total of four games and finished the weekend with two wins, a loss and a tie, improving their record to 2-4-2.

"The girls had a very successful weekend," said Raven head coach Tanya Gallant.

The team sits fifth in the Ontario University Athletics field hockey league, and they are in the hunt for a playoff position.

They kicked off the weekend with a 3-0 victory over the McGill University Martlets Sept. 29.

Carleton played very strong offensively and was "able to find the back of the net a couple times," said Gallant.

Ravens Megan Berry, Jackie Fung and Jodi Landriault provided Carleton's offence.

The next night, Carleton overshadowed the University of Waterloo Warriors for most of the game.

Carleton's Rachel Devenport scored to give the Ravens an early



ELIZABETH CHIANG

The Carleton University Ravens women's field hockey team defeated the McGill University Martlets twice at the Nepean Sportsplex.

lead. Later on, however, Waterloo made a comeback and scored the tying goal.

Goalie Denise Du Bois had a particularly outstanding game, said Gallant.

The real struggle came against the Queen's University Golden Gaels Oct. 1. With strong play at both ends, it was anybody's game.

Late in the first half, Fung made a fantastic play in the goal circle that allowed a stroke to be called in favour of the Ravens. Unfortunately, Devenport's stroke hit the post.

The Ravens were able to keep the opposition off the scoreboard most of the game, but with just a few minutes left, Queen's dominated and came away with a 2-0 win.

Despite the loss, Gallant said she believes "the girls played their best game of the weekend against Queens."

The Ravens were able to come

back and defeat McGill 4-0 later that day.

Despite a slow first half, the girls came together to dominate the game. Fung scored two goals, while Devenport and Courtney Watson also found the back of the net.

Du Bois remained solid in net all weekend and played a fundamental role in the team's success. Fung has been another key player for Carleton, said Gallant.

"[Fung] brought a much needed offensive presence this weekend," she said. "She puts a lot of pressure on the opposing team's defence and is able to get [our] team's attack going."

"We are at the halfway point of the season. Typically this team always has a better second half of the season, so I am expecting exciting games," said Gallant. "We have to continue building our stamina so we can play 70 minutes of solid hockey." □

Ravens defeat Rams on home ice for first-ever win

BY CATHERINE ZYDYK

The Carleton Ravens men's hockey team took to the ice in its first varsity home game, and defeated the Ryerson Rams 5-3 Sept. 30.

A small but enthusiastic crowd came out to support the Ravens and they were not disappointed. The team played strong and looked organized for most of the game.

But at the beginning of the first period, the Rams dominated.

Much of the game was played in Carleton's end until Raven captain Mike Testa scored the game's first goal.

Carleton forwards Tyler Townsend, Jay Griffiths and Elliot McCormick added goals in the second period.

The Ravens went into the third period with a 4-0 lead.

Thirty-three seconds into the third period, the Rams came back with a goal. Another followed a few minutes later.

But the Ravens kept their cool and Griffiths scored on a breakaway to stop the Rams comeback effort.

The Rams managed one more goal during the third period.

As the game came to a finish, tensions erupted and landed several players in the penalty box.

Both teams took many penalties and officials ejected Ryerson defenceman Stewart D'Eall from the game for taking too many stick penalties.

Carleton head coach Fred Parker said the team needs to

work on the number of penalties it takes.

"Penalties are definitely an area for improvement," he said. "We need to be more disciplined."

Despite the amount of time his team spent in the box, Parker said the team's overall performance was good.

"The first 40 minutes were good but in the third period it got a bit choppy and we let them back into the game," he said.

Raven defenceman Rob Hunt agreed. "In the first and second period we had a good system, but in the third there were too many penalties," he said.

First year Raven Adam Cavalari said the game was a big improvement from the first of the season, but the team still has a long way to go.

"We need to be more offensive and have more shots on net," he said. "[We] are a hardworking team and that's what it takes to beat the other teams."

While this is the first year of varsity hockey at Carleton, Ryerson has been playing at the varsity level for some time.

Rams head coach Graham Wise said his team worked hard, and he was happy with how the game played out.

"Credit has to be given to the Carleton special teams," he said. "Special teams are critical and that's what really made the difference in this game."

Meanwhile, Parker said the Ravens will look to "get better every game and assess the competition as we go along." □