

Roll out the 'green' carpet!

Green Gaels, Springer, Liauba, Parkhill, Armstrong

By Wally Donaldson
Sports editor

The good luck of the Irish cast its green eyes on four individuals and a host of former lacrosse greats last night at the Seventh Annual Oshawa Sports Hall of Fame induction festivities.

Indeed, a total of 65 former members of the famed "shamrock" Oshawa Green Gaels lacrosse club — an amateur organization that captivated the sporting diehards during the 1960's by capturing seven Canadian Minto Cup championships in succession — arrived at the Civic Auditorium to gain recognition in the team category.

Also inducted into Oshawa's Hall were Albert W. 'Army' Armstrong (his wife, Sylva and son Bob there on his behalf), Algis 'August' Liauba, Albert James 'Parky' Parkhill (his daughter, Mrs. Barbara Sheen there on his behalf) and Miklos 'Nick' Springer.

What made the entire evening especially gratifying were the speeches by the immediate inductees and family representatives, along with the abundance of former Gaels, who arrived from all parts of the province to be on hand.

Springer admitted he would rather be chatting it up on a soccer pitch with the youngsters, rather than before an audience. Though nervous, his brief speech was effective as his entire family watched.

Typical of his nature, Springer emphasized the importance of his young athletes over the years which "without their accomplishments, I wouldn't be standing in front of you now."



Liauba, noted for his expertise and competitive spirit in judo, paused momentarily during his presentation to gather his thoughts. Once feeling more comfortable behind a microphone, he presented a brief dialogue focusing on his beginnings in weightlifting to his martial arts success in Puerto Rico.

He also acknowledged former coaches Tim Nelson and Hall of Fame member Leo Haunsberger for his rise to black belt status and success beyond at various competitions.

"I remember Donald Jackson on TV winning the world figure skating championship and when I started competing and winning in judo, I felt the same pride in my city as I'm sure he felt," said Liauba.

Sheen recalled a memento writ-

ten by Parkhill (a noted curling talent during the 1930's), observing "It is a challenge to know the rules and (important to) create goodwill and fellowship" along with giving curling the recognition it deserves, not only in Ontario, but across the land.

Parkhill was president of the Ontario Curling Association in 1960 and president of the national body in '69, the year the Canadian Brier was held in Oshawa.

Saving the team induction for last, a long line of Gaels members took over the stage, along with the originators of the club (Terry Kelly, Ray Trew, Henry Suddard, Bill Kurelo and coach Jim Bishop.)

The diligent work of Peter Abramczuk brought this gathering together, players such as Gaylord Powless, Neil Armstrong, Peter Vipond, Brian Brady, Jim Higgs, Jim Hinkson, Danny Sandford, Ross Jones, Terry Rowland, Chuck Li, Joe Krasnaj, Bill Langley, Tom Christie, Elmer Tran, and featuring Don Stinson, who played on all seven national championships.

The long list continued. . .

"When I walked into the arena, a flood of memories of a great era came to me," said Bishop. "And I realized it wasn't the medals or trophies that were most important. We set a standard for discipline and commitment and we did it through practice and hard work. We practiced hard Sunday nights and played our games on Mondays.

"We trained as if we were going to the Olympics."

Special recognition was given on a few occasions to Audrey Hepburn, secretary to Oshawa mayor Nancy Diamond, who worked tirelessly to ensure a successful seventh Hall of Fame ceremony.