

" ONE BIG GAME "

There is no doubt that European hockey has had a tremendous impact on shaping the modern game that is played in North America today.

Central to these changes are the basic tactics of European hockey that find their guiding principles in soccer. These tactics called for different physical training, skill development and game-like activities.

The tactical characteristics of European hockey that I think can most successfully be adapted to our college game would include:

- 1) Interchangability of players positioning based on principles of play.
- 2) Five man involvement over the whole ice.
- 3) Quick direct counter attacking. First look always to penetrate.
- 4) Puck control (characterized by good skating, passing and receiving skills).

The real question becomes how can we train our athletes to be successful in this type of game? Tactics, besides being dramatically different throughout the various cultures of the world, are continuously changing. The real keys to the success are the players high level of individual skill execution as well as combination play in small groups - 2V1, 2V2, etc. Speed, endurance and skating ability in

