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Fred Stevenson

Sue Rhody, host

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Sue Rhody said for twelve years the hockey team has been playing on an outdoor rink. With no funds for travel they were only able to schedule a few games a year. The players have still been enthusiastic. The team now practices in the air supported plastic dome. They no longer have to remove the snow and the dome is heated. This year hockey became a varsity sport so there are now funds for travel and a full time hockey coach, Fred Stevenson. Last year Stevenson coached the hockey team at Colorado State University while he was finishing his master's degree in physical education. Stevenson was on the varsity hockey team at the University of Manitoba for three years.

Rhody asked Fred Stevenson how he goes about recruiting students for the hockey program. Stevenson said up until this year there was no recruiting done by the university. He has sent letters to high school hockey coaches in the United States and Canada He'll be going down to Whitehorse to scout young players coming out of high school and he'll attend the high school finals in Anchorage. Rhodes commented about the importance of basketball on campus and wondered if hockey will expand and become an important varsity sport. Stevenson talked about AMU and their hockey team. He thinks the ideal climate here and the lack of football are reasons why the sport will be popular.

Rhody asked about the obstacles preventing the hockey team at UAF expanding. Stevenson said there are financial problems. Money is needed for travel to play more games and to recruit players with scholarships. With more money they can get in a permanent league and play at least 30 games so they can bring good hockey players here to the University of Alaska. He believes if they can overcome the financial problems hockey will become a major sport at the University of Alaska.