

High hopes grounded at nationals

BY SHANNON MORRISON

Disappointment.

The Dalhousie women's volleyball team finished their season at the national championships in Toronto this past weekend but unfortunately, the results weren't what they had hoped for.

As the eighth-ranked Tigers in the tournament, the Tigers were matched up against the top seed from Laval in the first round. It was a match which lasted one hour and twenty minutes as Dalhousie kept pace with the opposition. The Tigers eventually surrendered 15-8, 15-5, and 15-9. Laval went on to capture the silver medal after losing to Alberta 13-15, 15-9, 8-15, and 2-15 in the final.

"If anything, the Laval match was a positive feeling," said middle player Alison Walker. "We played well. We were able to execute consistently. They were the best team in the country...the odds were with them. All we could do was control our side of the net and I think we did that."

After the loss, Dalhousie attempted to regroup in time to face the University of Manitoba on Friday. The team couldn't sustain the same level of play and were defeated 15-4, 15-6, and 15-7.

"It's not a great feeling, the way in which we finished," said Tigers' coach Leslie Irie. "To finish the season on that note is disappointing."

Despite the down side of the CIAU championships, Irie commended Alicia MacFarlane on her play off the bench, Michelle Aucoin who ran the offence, and Kim Hilchey, with regard to her

perseverance and leadership on the court.

Walker, who has spent the better part of two years recovering from a knee injury, was called on to start in the middle position against Laval.

"The decision was based upon her improvement and the energy she brings to the team," said Irie. "It was also a tactical move. Laval has more power and we needed her offensive skills at the net. She also did a good job in the back row."

The 22-year-old has had to overcome many obstacles during her years as a Tiger and to reach that playing level again is quite an achievement.

"It's amazing because I've had such an up-and-down career at Dal with respect to the knee injury," said Walker. "Many times I could've just sat back and not played, but Leslie (Irie) kept encouraging me. On a personal note, it (CIAU's) was a positive end to my year."

Even though the Tigers failed to improve on their seeding at the Canadian championships, there is no question the team is competitive across the country and will continue to be a force in the AUSA. Dalhousie finished the year with a perfect league record and swept through the playoffs en route to earning a trip to the CIAUs.

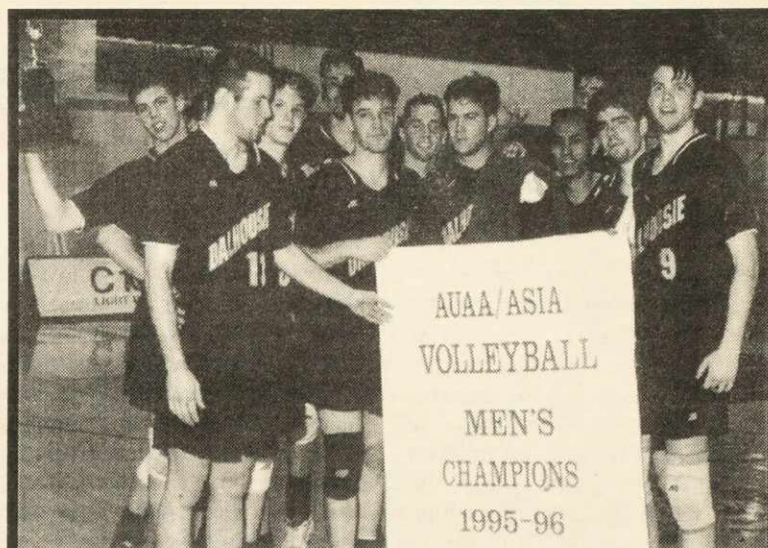
"We worked for it and regardless of the CIAUs, we deserved that record," said Walker. "It was very enjoyable [to end the AUSA season unbeaten]."

Walker believes the team will continue to progress and be a top contender.

"It's frustrating because when I look at the team, everyone played on different teams (Canada Games, Junior Nationals, etc.) but I don't think any of us have been able to get past the western teams or Ontario. The young teams will have to take from this (CIAUs) that they have to believe they can do it. We are good enough."

"It is a big commitment, you have to work hard right through. Eventually, someone will take the next step [and beat those teams]."

The Tigers now take a well-deserved rest before they begin preparing for next season and another shot at CIAU success.



Victory ends successful season

The Dalhousie Tigers, seen here after capturing the AUSA championship banner, won the consolation round at the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union Championships in Calgary over the weekend. The Tigers defeated the Western Mustangs 10-15, 15-10, 15-8 and 15-9 for fifth place.

Dal's Terry Martin totalled 23 kills, while captain Jamie Mallon chipped in 14 kills.

Look for full coverage of the National Championship in next week's Gazette.

Men's track team tears up AUSA competition

BY MARSHA MOORE

After a successful regular season, the Dalhousie men's track team were ready to prove to the rest of the AUSA that they were the best in the post-season as well.

And with a team total of 138 points to Saint Mary's University's 106, and with Dan Hennigar being named Male Athlete of the Meet, the Tigers proved that point.

In the men's 60 metres, Nick Soh ran to a first-place finish with a time of 7.12 seconds, good enough to qualify him for the CIAUs this weekend.

In the 600 metres, Christian Murray and Jason Parris finished second and third, respectively, while Dan Hennigar won the 1000 metres. Hennigar also ran to a second-place finish in the 1500 metres, while teammate Chris Halfyard won the event with a time of 4:02.92 seconds.

Dalhousie was also successful in the field events. George Inglis jumped 1.96 metres in the high

jump to take first place and qualified for the CIAUs. In the pole vault, Brendan O'Neil vaulted 3.15 metres for the gold medal while Troy Bezanson took second place.

The only male to win two events was Peter Bienkowski. Bienkowski was victorious in the long jump with a leap of 6.74 metres. He also claimed the gold medal in the triple jump with a jump of 13.44 metres. Bienkowski's performances were good enough to win him a spot on the team travelling to the CIAUs.

Dalhousie also showed their strength in the relay events by winning the 4x800 metre relay and by placing second in the 4x400 metre relay.

After an extremely successful AUSA, and with seven male qualifiers for the CIAUs, the Tigers are more than ready to take on the rest of the country this coming weekend at the CIAU Championships in Windsor.



sarah jessica parker
eric schaeffer
elle macpherson

IF LUCY FELL

A comedy for the romantically challenged

TRISTAR PICTURES PRESENTS A MOTION PICTURE CORPORATION OF AMERICA PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH BRAD KREVOY & STEVE STABLER
SARAH JESSICA PARKER ERIC SCHAEFFER BEN STILLER ELLE MACPHERSON "IF LUCY FELL" JAMES REBHORN
LINE PRODUCER ADAM BRIGHTMAN SCORE BY CHARLTON PETTUS AND AMANDA KRAVAT DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY RON FORTUNATO STORY BY ERIC SCHAEFFER & TONY SPIRIDAKIS
SCREENPLAY BY ERIC SCHAEFFER PRODUCED BY BRAD KREVOY STEVE STABLER BRAD JENKEL DIRECTED BY ERIC SCHAEFFER

Released through
Columbia TriStar
Films of Canada

Subject to
Classification

AT THEATRES MARCH 8TH

"MARRY ME JANE"
DEBUT ALBUM ON

DO NOT
STAR

TRISTAR

VISIT THE SONY PICTURES ENTERTAINMENT SITE AT <http://www.sony.com>