

# Tigers capture national title

BY DAVID FINLAYSON

It has been a long time coming, but the Dalhousie Tigers finally won the gold medal at the CIAU soccer championships.

The men's Tigers followed the success of the women's team last year. During a blizzard in Trois-Rivieres, the men defeated the Alberta Golden Bears 3-1.

After a bronze medal in 1992, the Tigers would settle for nothing less than a first place finish. In horrible conditions, the Tigers had trouble controlling the ball at the beginning of the final. However, as the game progressed, the Tigers found their control and started to dominate. Most of the match was played in the Alberta half.

On the first goal, Dave MacFarlane dribbled thirty yards as space opened up, and slid a ball through to Chad Thorpe. The Alberta defender, John Amis, a former Tiger, misplayed the ball and Thorpe finished it with a shot into the bottom corner of the net.

Alberta had a few chances, but goalkeeper Mike Hudson played a strong game in nets. He was tested often in the first half, but as the tide started to swing Dalhousie's way, Hudson's role was reduced.

The Tigers continued to dominate the match and second-year defender Graham Allardice finished off Alberta with a forty-yard chip. With Dal in control, but no goals coming, the keeper tried to clear the ball and Allardice struck the ball, first time, over the stranded keeper for the match-winner.

Late in the second half, English striker Mark Ellis was brought down in the Bears penalty area, and Dal was awarded their first penalty of the year. Ellis calmly struck the ball into the net to provide the insurance. AUAU rookie of the year, Ante Jazic, celebrated by sliding thirty yards through the snow.

Coach Ian Kent expressed how it felt to finally win the championship.

"It felt, and still does feel, absolutely superb. I am extremely happy for everyone, including everyone at the university. I am also really pleased with the reaction of the university population," he said.

MacFarlane and captain Paul English were named to the tournament all-star team.

"What felt the best was that throughout the year we played alright. In the AUAU's we played pretty well, but at the CIAU's we really came together and everyone clicked. We really mixed up the game well with some good midfield runs, and some great through balls. It is just the best feeling in the world," said MacFarlane.

To get to the final, the Tigers had to play in two games against Brock and McGill. Against Brock, Dalhousie played extremely well but could not find the goal scoring touch. Brock scored on a goalmouth scramble, with the ball eventually deflecting off of MacFarlane and into the goal.

Mark Ellis scored on his 24th birthday with a goal that went through both Jeff Hibberts' and the keeper's legs.

After McGill and Brock tied the next game, Dal needed a win to guarantee a spot in the finals.



PHOTO BY TERRY CHARLAND

After ten minutes, English outran the entire defence and beat the keeper with his left foot. The second goal was a classic MacFarlane free kick, similar to the one that

he scored against UPEI at the AUAU's. Striker Ellis called it a "Brazilian free kick."

The hard conditions proved difficult to adjust to, but Dalhousie

## Dalhousie 3 Alberta 1

did well to win the match. Chris Devlin received a yellow card for dissent after being constantly annoyed by the referee's lack of calls for Dalhousie.

When asked about players who really stepped up their game, Kent named two players.

"Although this is no cliché, this was a total team effort. There are two players in my mind who really stood out. Mark Ellis scored five goals in five playoff games, not including the penalty shootout against Brock," he said.

"He showed that he can play at the same level anywhere. Chris Devlin showed that he has the calmness and leadership skills to

be an excellent sweeper. He showed us some excellent defending at the tournament."

"We defended strongly all year long, and we had some unsung heroes at the back. Players like Matty Serieys, Steve Cormier, and Graham Allardice all had great seasons. Chad Thorpe was also very important to us this year," added Ellis.

"We had the best overall team play and we supported each other, not only physically but psychologically as well, which was important. We helped each other to believe that we could win. I am really proud of the entire team. It was a pleasure to coach this year and look forward to the emergence of a new team next year. I also hope that the entire university population will support the team next year, like they did this year," said Kent.

# Late goal ends quest for gold

*Squad makes CIAU final for third consecutive year*

BY SHANNON MORRISON

Silver is something to remember.

Dalhousie's women's soccer team recently captured the silver medal at the national championships after losing a heartbreaker to Sir Wilfred Laurier University 1-0.

The Tigers exceeded all expectations this season after losing 10 players from last year's championship squad. Battling inexperience, nerves, and bitterly cold Ottawa weather, the team earned the opportunity to defend their title.

In a well-played final, the score remained 0-0 at half-time with the Tigers failing to play up to their capabilities. The team returned to the field determined to halt Sir Wilfred Laurier's attack and create some opportunities of their own.

"The Wilfred Laurier midfield is very strong," noted head coach Neil Turnbull. "In the second half we took that strength away. They can argue, territorially, they had more of the play, but if you don't penetrate behind the defence you can play out there all day."

"They knocked the ball around but as a team we wouldn't let them attack behind the defenders. To succeed they have to do that and I give full credit to the players on the field."

An unfortunate goal with only two minutes left in the game put the Ontario school on the scoreboard and Dalhousie's hopes for a second-straight championship diminished.

"The ball was played down the flank," said Turnbull. "The Wilfred Laurier player crossed it and there might have been some miscommunication but the ball ended up in the net."

Despite the setback, the Tigers refused to concede the victory as they attacked the opposing defence with all of the intensity and energy they had left and wouldn't accept defeat until the final whistle sounded.

"We picked the ball out of the net and put it at centre. We didn't hang our heads, we tried to bat-

tle back," noted co-captain Kate Gillespie. "We launched a few of our better attacks (after the goal)."

Dalhousie couldn't erase the deficit and settled for silver in the Tigers' third consecutive trip to the national final.

"We are all in shock and disbelief," explained Gillespie. "We had the chance to make history and we didn't do it. It was disappointing because on the day we didn't play our best but we played well with the weather certainly being a factor. We knew it was there for the taking but we didn't step up and take it."

Although the title slipped through their fingers, Dal had overcome injuries and youth throughout the season. The pieces all fit together by the end. Even defender Sue Hunter returned from a recent knee injury to play in the CIAU tournament, which returned the line-up to its usual formation.

Reaching the CIAU championship is an accomplishment in itself and the team's dedication and hard work bodes well for next year

when the Tigers host the national tournament at Wickwire field.

"After 10 players leaving for various reasons, being devastated by that fact, and then having players come in and to do what they did to the magnitude that they did it says something about the players, the program, and the school itself," commented Turnbull.

Earning a spot in the gold medal game was a tough road for the Tigers after an opening 2-1 loss to McGill University from Montréal. Karen Hood put Dalhousie ahead at the 25-minute mark with the score remaining 1-0 at half-time. McGill replied with two goals in the second half to handicap Dal's chances of reaching the final.

The Tigers were in a must-win situation the following day when the team stepped onto the field to face Queen's University.

"We had to take care of what was in our control," explained Turnbull. "We had to win convincingly."

Dalhousie shut out the opposition 3-0 with goals from

Maureen Riley, Eva Al-Khoury, and Hood, who connected for her second of the tournament. Leahanne Turner had the shut-out for the Tigers.

"We played much more to our capabilities and were left to hope Queen's would defeat McGill," said Turnbull.

Queen's provided Dalhousie with a second chance as they edged McGill 1-0. The reigning champions gained a spot in the final because of the goal differential.

Turner's exceptional play between the posts earned her keeper of the tournament and all-star honours. She was joined on the all-star squad by Gillespie. Both of these veterans were named first team All-Canadians.

The national final was Gillespie's last hurrah as she completed her fifth year of eligibility. The team will miss her leadership qualities and her talent on the field.

"I just wanted to go out and play hard," said Gillespie. "I didn't think of it as my last time as a Tiger."

"It's been a great five years with some totally positive memories."

## Swimmers on the road to AUAUs

BY TROY BROWN

Going full tilt towards AUAUs, the swim team is hard at work these days. Swimming as much as forty thousand meters in nine practices a week is hard work, but both the men's and women's teams do it and enjoy every minute of it.

"I enjoy the workouts because I know that afterwards I'll feel great, but it's hard on the mind sometimes. All I can look at is the black line on the bottom of the pool, at least if I was running I could see trees, but I'm not running so I don't see trees," said one of Dalhousie's swimmers.

The hard work is paying off though, as was shown by the weekend's results. In competition on Saturday, Dalhousie took the University of New Brunswick (UNB). The Dal women's team dominated the entire competition leading to a final score of Dal: 127, UNB: 49.

Coach Nigel Kemp was impressed with the showing, saying, "We were ranked 4th in the country as of Nov. 6 and last week we were ranked 6th. I think the women's team should seriously be thinking about a top five finish at CIAU's this year."

The Dal men's team swam incredibly well against UNB, just coming up short on the last few events to lose marginally to their long-time rivals.

In Sunday's action, both the men and women were victorious against Mount Allison. New meet records were set by the women's 200m medley relay team, the 800m freestyle relay team, and Smythe set an individual record in the 100m backstroke. The men's 200m medley relay team of Steve Indig, Casey Cheung, Andrew Kirby, and Mark DeJong also set a new meet record.

Swimmers of the meet were Smythe on Saturday, and Stachowiak and Siepp on Sunday.

Congratulations to Amy Woodworth who qualified for CIAU's in the 400m IM on Nov. 3, as Dal swam against Brock, McGill, and Guelph. This was a unique set-up as each team swam in their own pool and corresponded their times via e-mail. Without even seeing the competition, Dal dominated both the men's and women's points. Even though the men won overall, they did so while winning only one event.

Next home action will see Dal swim against the Halifax Trojan Aquatic Club on Dec. 2 and 3.