

# Sweep victory

by Carmen Tam

The Dalhousie Tigers earned their stripes this weekend when the men's team successfully defended their Lawton's Volleyball Classic title at the Dalplex.

The Tigers dropped only one set in the tournament. Dalhousie now have medalled twelve times in sixteen years in the history of the Classic with three gold medals since 1991.

The Tigers started their title defense on Friday against the University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds 3-0 sweep. Game scores were 15-11, 15-5 and 15-9. Rightside hitter for Dal, Chris Schwarz, had 16 kills, while teammate Terry Martin — playing in his first home game — had 10 kills. Jamie Mallon provided the Tigers with 7 kills, 4 service aces and 9 digs.

Dalhousie met the Winnipeg Wesmen Friday night in what was expected to be a rematch of last year's CIAU quarter-finals when Dal edged the Wesmen in five sets to advance. The two teams have not met since.

The vocal crowd of 500 and the Tigers expected more of a challenge from the Wesmen who had just defeated the 1994 CIAU champions Laval the weekend before the Classic. Winnipeg, the top-ranked university team in the tournament with a national standing of third, fell to Dalhousie in straight sets.

Led by 5th-year setter Scott Bagnell, the Tigers cruised to victory with game scores of 15-10, 15-5 and 15-4. Schwarz was also a force with 15 kills and 5 digs. John Hobin — the Tiger's 1994 Rookie of the Year — showed much more confidence, collecting 5 kills, 2 blocks and 7 digs. 1994 AUAA All-Star Eric Villeneuve — who was rested in the UNB game due to an ankle injury — had 10 kills, 2 stuff blocks, 2 aces and 5 digs.

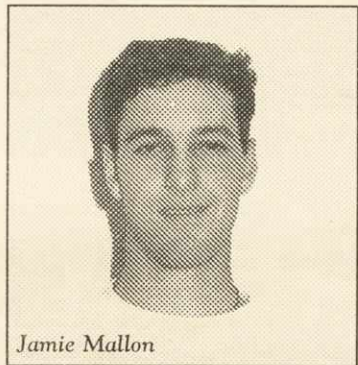
Saturday morning, the Tigers hammered AUAA conference rivals Memorial University 15-12, 15-4 and 15-5. Mallon paced the Tigers with 9 kills, 3 stuff blocks and 4 digs. Former OUAA All-Star Rob Ager had 6 kills, 2 aces and 4 digs for Dal and provided exceptional passing along with teammate Mallon.

Dal — who defeated Queen's in last year's Classic final — swept the ninth ranked Golden Gaels that evening by scores of 15-12, 15-10 and 15-7.

Schwarz provided the offence for Dal with 15 kills and 7 digs while Villeneuve added 14 kills, 2 aces and 6 digs. Mallon continued in playing the tournament of his career as he pumped in 8 kills, 3 aces and 10 digs.

Sunday morning, the Tigers met the Wesmen in the gold medal match. Mallon started the attack with two service aces to move the Tigers ahead. The Wesmen noticeably picked up their game from the night before, edging past the Tigers in the first set 16-14.

In the second set, the Tigers jumped to a 9-3 lead before the Wesmen regrouped to bring the score to 13-10. Mallon, along with fellow power-hitter Villeneuve displayed effective service reception, thus allowing Bagnell to make the score 14-10 with a kill. Continuing to be a force, a kill by Schwarz finished the match.

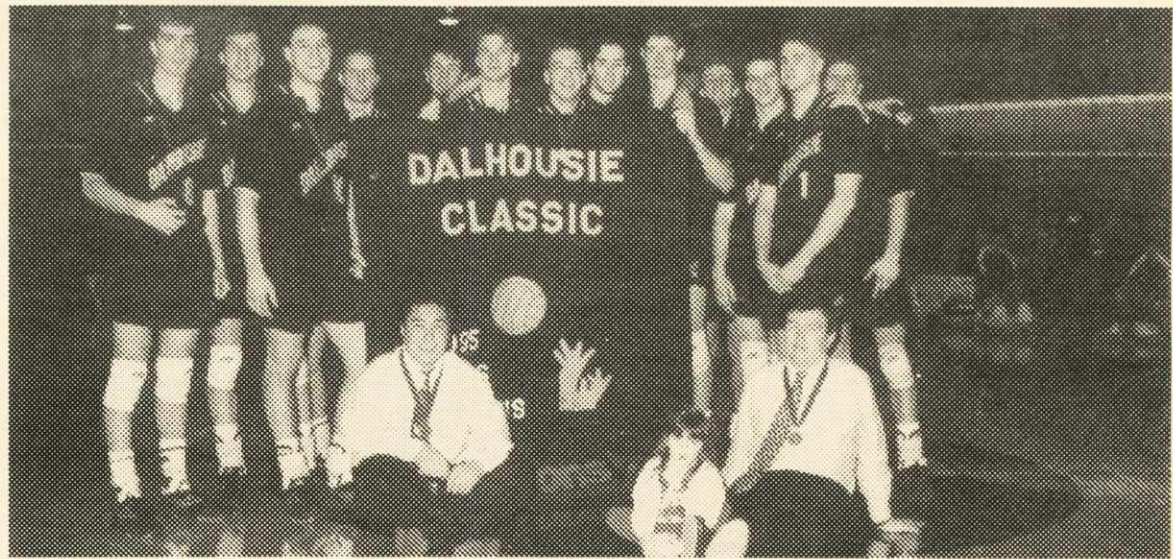


Jamie Mallon

The third set also started close with both teams going neck and neck to keep the lead at no more than a couple of points. The Tigers built a 14-9 lead with the Wesmen serving. Dal regained the serve when Schwarz tipped the ball just over the Wesmen defenders. Terry Martin finished the game for the Tigers with a one-man stuff block.

In the final set, the teams were even for most of the game until the Tigers broke to a 13-8 lead. Young players such as Jason Trepauier and Scott Brake were brought in during crucial moments to assist Mallon in spike serves. The Tigers performed well, mixing into their game some uncanny instinct, especially Schwarz and Villeneuve, who knew when to pound the ball in and when to fake a kill.

Missing much of the tournament was Anton Potvin due to a knee injury. Potvin came on strong in the



The Tigers show off their championship banner after winning the Lawton's Volleyball Classic. PHOTO: BILL JENSEN

final minutes of play by controlling the net to make the score 13-8 for the Tigers. Potvin assisted on the next point as well, helping Schwarz for a successful two-man block to bring the victory within one point.

However, the pesky Wesmen refused to give up, racking up three more points to make it 14-11. Decisive kills by Schwarz gave the Tigers two more sideouts but the Tigers were not able to finish it off. The Wesmen missed a crucial serve by putting one into the net and the Tigers capitalized on this by finishing the match with a big kill by Villeneuve.

The Tigers captured their second consecutive gold medal by a count of three games to one with scores of 14-16, 15-10, 15-9 and 15-11. Chris Schwarz was the top performer for Dalhousie, hammering in 33 kills to achieve a tournament-high of 85 kills in total. Villeneuve added 17 kills and 6 digs to the Dal effort while Martin provided the defense with 4 stuff blocks and 10 digs.

Dalhousie ranked 7th in the country before the Classic and moved up to 4th place in the national rankings with their victories over Winnipeg and Queen's. Winnipeg fell to 5th place while the Golden Gaels, previ-

ously ranked 9th in the CIAU, fell out of the top ten with poor results at the Classic.

The surprise of the tournament was the unranked Memorial Seahawks who defeated Queen's in round robin action in five sets. As well the Seahawks pushed the third ranked team in the country, the Wesmen, to five sets on Saturday before being edged out.

The tournament showcased some 'players of tomorrow' for Dal, such as John Hobin, Terry Martin and Jamie Mallon, whom all performed well. Mallon, last year's most improved Tiger's player was selected as the player-of-the-game in their match against Queen's.

"Confidence," was Mallon's answer to his improvement this season. "It's a combination of my teammates and Al's [coach Al Scott] confidence in me."

Notes captain Scott Bagnell: "Jamie showed a lot of character this weekend."

Bagnell — a second year medicine student — captured his second MVP award of the Dal Classic, with his first being in 1991 when they beat the Manitoba Bisons for gold.

Head coach Al Scott, an 1989 CIAU Coach of the Year, noted: "I

think he [Bagnell] proved this weekend that he is one of the foremost team leaders in the country."

Halifax native Bagnell, an 1991 first team all-Canadian, was also named one of the AUAA Athletes of the week.

The Tigers dominated the All-Star team with the starting trio of Schwarz, Villeneuve and rookie Terry Martin.

Winnipeg collected two spots for Darrell Hees and Phil Peters while third place Queen's David Kantor rounded out the All-Star team.

"I am very pleased how the team played this weekend," said Scott. "I think to only lose one set in five matches is significant."

Dalhousie currently holds a 4-0 record in AUAA standings and is on track to extend their AUAA title to 15 in 16 years. The Tigers will try to match their perfect 18-0 record from last season as they have as of yet to drop a set this season against AUAA competition. Dal will try to extend that streak when they hit the road for Memorial University this weekend in a pair of games with the much improved Seahawks. The Tigers will play at home February 24-26 when they host the AUAA Championships.



# Tigers strike

by Danny MacLeod

The women's half of the Lawton's Volleyball Classic was the venue for a number of exciting matches and upsets this past weekend at Dalplex. The sixteenth annual running of the popular tournament is the premier event in the Maritime volleyball calendar. This year's version featured eight women's teams.

Competing in the women's tournament were host Dalhousie, University of New Brunswick, Université de Moncton, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Ottawa, Mount Allison, and York. Dal got off to a rough start with an opening loss to the tenth ranked UNB Varsity Reds. Although the Tigers were swept three straight in games, the scores were close with results of 12-15, 13-15, and 11-15. The next round robin game saw the Tigers take on AUAA rival Moncton Blue Eagles and the Tigers successfully bagged their first win of the tournament. Dal won the match three games to one with scores of 15-10, 15-8, 12-15, and 15-7.

Saturday came, and with it the Tigers met the always tough Winnipeg Wesmen, who are ranked fourth in the nation. Dal played a spirited match and took a game from the powerful western team before succumbing three games to one with scores of 6-15, 15-12, 8-15, and 1-15.

Now eliminated from championship contention, the Tigers were playing for rankings and pride as they next faced the Mount Allison Mounties and defeated them three to one, 13-15, 15-10, 16-14, and 15-12.

On Sunday, Dal met the Ottawa GeeGees with the number five placement on the line. After a slow start, the Dal Tigers rebounded and made short work of the GeeGees, defeating them three games to one, with scores of 4-15, 15-12, 15-13, and 15-13.

The final saw history repeat itself yet again as Winnipeg defeated the number one ranked Manitoba Bisons to capture the title for the third straight year and the Bisons took runner-up for their third consecutive time.

The York Yeowomen bested UNB for third and fourth respectively.

Head coach Leslie Irie was pleased with the weekend overall, in terms of Dal's performance, the play of the A.U.A.A. teams, and the competitiveness of the entire tournament.

"It was great to have Manitoba, Winnipeg and York (ranked 1st, 4th & 9th in the country respectively) along with the AUAA squads," Irie remarked.

Irie was especially pleased with the performances of the AUAA teams, saying, "I'm happy they held their own and put up strong perform-

ances, and for number four Winnipeg to knock off Manitoba, that's huge. York took them five, and Winnipeg beat them, it will have a big impact on the rankings."

Irie was also happy with the way Dal played on the weekend, commenting, "I was pleased not only with the wins but also in the way we achieved them."

Irie had praise for the entire team, saying, "...the vets were steady," and she was pleased with the rookies especially, stating that "...they functioned well, and stood up and didn't back down." Cara Mackenzie was "...consistent and played some incredible defence," and Alicea MacFarlane played "...steady, especially in serve reception and in receiving over 130 balls on the weekend."

One point Irie wanted to make was that of the team concept.

"Everyone sees the starters, but the girls on the bench, taking stats, pushing the starters in practice, the assistant coaches, everyone contributes to the finished product and helped to get the team to where it is now."

The Dal Women will be tested again this weekend as they travel to Ottawa for five tough matches against teams from across the country. They next see action at home on February 1st as they host Acadia.



Dalhousie's Cara MacKenzie puts one past the Ottawa GeeGees.

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