

Mens volleyball

Better than the rest

by Kevin Barrett

It is just a case of being too good for the competition. In their first action since the Dalhousie Classic, the Dal Men's Volleyball team enjoyed a leisurely weekend sweep of their opponents in the University of New Brunswick's AUA invitational Volleyball meet in Fredericton to remain undefeated in AUA play.

Last Friday, in a regularly scheduled game against Moncton, the Tigers rolled over the Blue Eagles 3-0 (15-7, 15-5, 15-12). Then on Saturday, they defeated Moncton again 3-0 (15-4, 15-13, 15-7) and Memorial University 3-0 (15-5, 15-2, 15-6) as part of the UNB tourney. Finally, to wrap up the event, Dal took care of the host team 3-0 (15-6, 15-5, 15-3).

In dominating their opponents, the Tigers left little doubt as to which team will represent the conference at the CIAU national tournament in March. The team may have been excused for looking ahead to an important tournament in Laval this weekend.

"Our execution was not as sharp as it should have been but it is hard to get motivated for these AUA games. We did have to stay sharp though as the Laval tourney is very important in the rankings," said Tigers coach Al Scott.

The Tigers will play their final nationally ranked teams in the

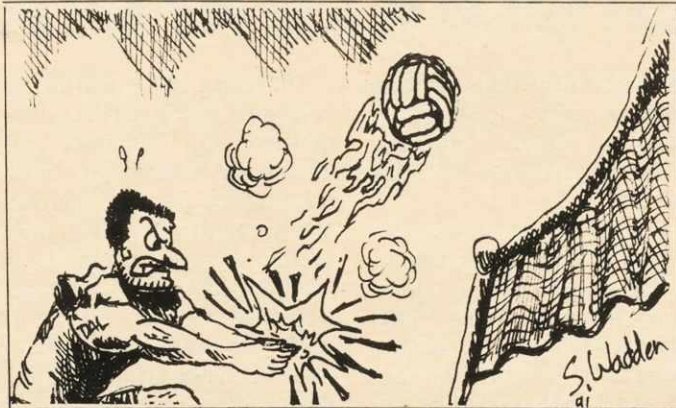
Laval tournament before the nationals March 14-16. The event features five nationally ranked teams and is the final opportunity for Dal to impress CIAU ranking officials before the national championships.

"This is our last chance to do damage before the nationals. Also, since the finals are at Laval, it is good that our players get exposed to Laval's facility prior to the finals," said Scott.

The team, still beaming from their performance in the Dal Classic, wants to maintain their

CIAU number three rankings at the very least, and coach Scott is making very few changes to the game plan. "If anything, we are trying to add a few more things to make our offence more complex. Specifically, we are trying to improve our mid-blocking offence," he said.

This weekend the Tigers are pooled with number seven ranked Sherbrooke, and two unranked teams; Montreal and Western Ontario. The tournament is part of the Laval Winter Carnival and concludes Sunday.



Women split pair

by Kevin Barrett

The Dalhousie Women's Volleyball team split a pair of key matches last weekend but remained very much alive in the hunt for first place in the tough AUA Women's Volleyball Conference.

Friday, the Tigers spotted the Moncton Blue Eagles to a two games lead, fought back to take the next two before finally losing 15-11 in a thriller at Studley Gym.

On Saturday, the Tigers came out with a vengeance against the first place Mt. Allison Mounties and dominated the New Brunswick school 3-0 (15-2, 15-13, 15-8). In recording the victory, the Tigers started fast as they got the first twelve points of the match and never looked back. The result leaves Dal with an 8-2 win-loss record and second place in the loop as the teams begin to prepare for the AUA championships in March here in Halifax.

Dal bounces back

Dal, Mt. A, and Moncton figure to be the teams to beat with one month remaining in the schedule. Moncton appears to be on a roll as they ran off four victories last weekend in three days, including the win over Dal.

Dal bounced back from Friday night's loss to post the convincing win over Mt. A. After winning the first game 15-2, Dal spotted the Mounties a 9-4 lead in game two and it appeared that the fans could settle in for a long affair between the two top teams in the conference. However, the Tigers rallied in the second game, thanks to some good serving from Suzanne Dittmer and some impressive kills from 5'6" Deanne Delvallet, and won the game 15-13.

Look for successful weekend

In game three, Mt. A jumped out to another quick lead, this time 8-3, but faded in the stretch. Delvallet and April Delorme provided the tough serves and Dal's top player Saturday, Christine Frail, dominated the net to bring Dal back again and win the match in much the same fashion as they had started it, with a 12-0 run to win 15-8.

Frail, a 5'9" sophomore from Dartmouth, was dominant at the net both offensively and defensively, especially in the third game.

Dalhousie travels to PEI this weekend to take on the struggling UPEI Panthers. The Panthers have only won three games this season so look for a successful weekend for the Tigers.

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