

Volleyball: 3rd Crown in 4 years

by Joel Fournier

Dal's Volleyball Tigers captured their third AUA championship in four years this past weekend at U.N.B. in Fredericton. The win gives Dal the right to represent the AUA at the CIAU championships to be held in Quebec City the first weekend in March.

The Jan Prsala coached Tigers have been extremely successful all year, having won the Acadia-Dalhousie Open and the Atlantic Volleyball League in addition to their intercollegiate title. This has to be the team's best year ever in a long history of winning years and Coach Prsala feels that this squad has the ability to go all the way.

The Atlantic League consists of the ten top teams in the Maritimes divided into A and B sections. The schedule consists of four tournaments held in Charlottetown, Fredericton, Wolfville and Antigonish. In the first tournament the Tigers minus two of their veterans had to settle for a



second place finish but made up for this slight set-back by winning the next three tournaments without losing a match. This is an outstanding achievement considering the calibre of play in the league. The second place team "Ceilidh" gave the Bengals a real run for their money, being noticeably

strengthened by the addition of Dave Swetman and Wayne Brothers, graduates of Dal and Acadia respectively, but were not quite good enough to overcome the superbly disciplined Tigers.

It is evident that the Prsala method of coaching volleyball is exceptionally productive. In the years

that Jan has been at Dal, his teams have enjoyed more successful seasons than any other varsity sport in the University's program. No doubt he has been fortunate in coming up with outstanding athletes but his record speaks for itself and states plainly that these fine competitors have been superbly coach-

ed.

Besides the upcoming CIAU tournament the Tigers will also be vying for the Nova Scotia Zone Championship to be held in Halifax at the N.S.I.T. gymnasium. If the team wins that event they will be 5th to St. John's Newfoundland to fight for the right to represent the Atlantic Provinces in the National Seniors Championship which will also be held in Quebec City.

Trying to make that possibility a reality will be this year's team members, Ken Johnson, and Phil Brigen, both seniors; Phil LeBlanc and Wayne Marrgatt, juniors; Mike Sayers, a sophomore and Denny Grant, Verdum Yeomens, Allan Poole, Scott Murray and Dave Murray all first year players. In non-collegiate play the team is also assisted by former star, Larry Ketcheson and the "old Pro" coach Prsala.

It looks like a busy month ahead for the Dal contingent, a month that could see a CIAU and National Seniors championship end up right here on Studley Campus.

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Two wins help in sad season

by Keith Johnston

Taking Coach Yarr's advice to heart, the Dal Tigers met the challenge of the St. Francis Xavier X-men and the Loyola University Warriors over the weekend, coming up with two ego-boosting victories, to bring their season mark to 7-11. Following the Acadia game on Wednesday night, Coach Yarr mentioned the failure of the Tigers to play sustained "team basketball", and the correction of that flaw was evident on the weekend.

On Saturday afternoon, in Antigonish, the Tigers

struck early, and despite the narrow 80-75 final score, dominated throughout, handing the hapless X-men their 8th consecutive league defeat. Bob Fagan turned in a brilliant two-way performance for Dal playing tough defense and pumping in a game high 24 points. He was aided by Kevin Kelly who fired in 17, Mike Donaldson who collected 14 and Bill Burns who added 12. Doug Ryan, who was re-activated to the starting line-up for the game hit for 8 points and was a force to be reckoned with on the offensive and defensive boards.

The X-men got double-figure scoring mileage from seniors Sean Pritchard and Jake Brian, who got 22 and 10 points respectively, while Paul McGrath added 16.

The following afternoon, back home at the Dal Gym, the Tigers dealt the Loyola University Warriors from Montreal, a convincing 102-88 thumping in a high-scoring, foul-infested contest. The Warriors, supposedly the 7th best team in the country, are the

second nationally ranked team to be picked apart by the Tigers. On November 7th, Dal turned back the Sir George Williams Georgians, currently rated 6th, by an 87-82 margin.

Except for a few instances, Dal held control of the game from start to finish. Their biggest problem appeared to be cutting of Loyola's slippery fast break which consistently handcuffed them with 3 on 1 and 3 on 2 defensive situations. On offense, the Tigers showed more poise than usual, facing the Loyola zone, they moved the ball well, took "their" shots, and especially with the assistance of Mike Donaldson, crashed the offensive boards repeatedly. Donaldson turned in another super all-round performance, scoring 23 points overall on a variety of moves, along with rebounding everything in sight.

Taking up from their 50-44 half-time lead, the Tigers continued to hold control and although the scoring tailed off in the opening minutes, three quick hoops by Kevin Kelly, Doug Ryan, and John Driscoll boosted the Dal lead to 65-52 with 11 minutes left to go. From

that point on, it was a see-saw battle, with Loyola cutting the lead to 7 and Dal building it back up to 16. The Warriors did cut it to 6 points with 4 minutes remaining, however 2 clutch hoops by Bill Burns and a couple of free throws by Bob Blount sewed up the victory for good. For the Warriors, four players hit double figures with Ron Puskarich netting a game high of 30, Dore collecting 15, Erglis 14, and Brix 11. For the Tigers, their new-found "Team-play" was reflected in their scoring with Donaldson, as previously mentioned getting 23, Dave Iverson 16, Bob Fagan 15, and Kevin Kelly and Bill Burns collecting 14 each.

So now, the Tigers take a breather from league play as five players, Driscoll, Ryan, Kelly, Donaldson, and Fagan head West for the Canada Winter Games. Next league game is Friday night, Feb. 21, when St. F.X. will make their final visit of the season to Halifax, in an attempt to break into the win column. That game is set for 8:00 and if previous Dal-X games are any indication, it should provide lots of action.

Gymnastics Team defeats UNB

by Cathy Campbell

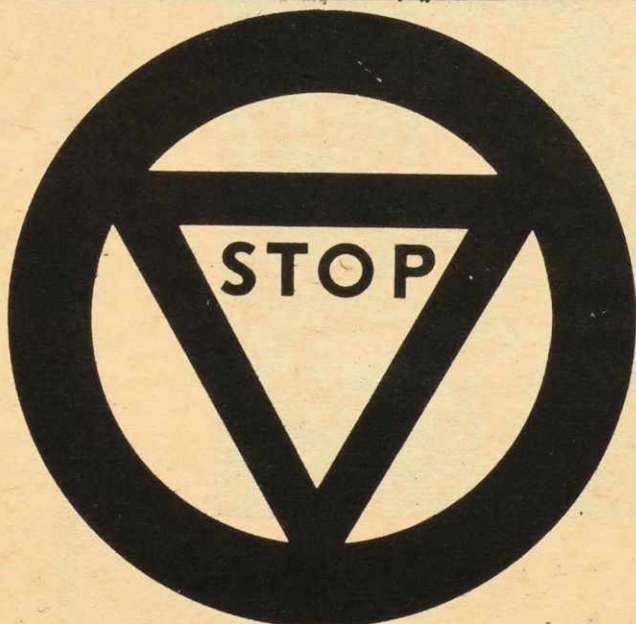
The Ladies' Varsity Gymnastics Team, under coach June Thayer, defeated the former powerhouse University of New Brunswick team 70.15 - 67.60, at Dal Gym last Saturday February 8.

Ms Thayer was extremely pleased with the results

and was optimistic when questioned about the up-and-coming Maritime Intercollegiate Championships. Dal's Debbie Rodd was certainly the standout of the meet, winning every single event, thus placing first overall. M. Hamm and C. Boright of UNB placed

2nd and 3rd respectively. Debbid Rodd is a freshette this year and has previously represented the province on various occasions.

Jean Collins, Frances Paradis, and L. Moksan also put in strong performances for the Dalhousie tally.



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