

Dalhousie soccer teams looking to repeat

Women's, men's soccer hoping for a trip to the nationals

BY TERRY HAWES

The Dalhousie Tigers' men's and women's soccer teams will be looking to repeat the magic that saw both teams win AUAA championships last year.

Coach Ian Kent returns for an eighth year on the sidelines as the men seek their third AUAA title in four seasons, but his squad will be in tough more from their own divi-

sion than from the rest of the conference. St. Mary's and Acadia have improved their offence significantly while Dalhousie's has diminished with the loss of 1996 CIAU MVP Paul English and Nova Scotia senior league veterans Stuart Cochran and Richie Tobin.

Still, Kent (55-11-17 in seven years at Dal) has considerable depth with 1995 and 1996 scoring champ Jeff Hibberts leading the offence, along with last year's rookie of the year Tomas Ernst and first-year player Nador Awanen from Nigeria. These three players have already contributed to the Dalhousie cause early in the season — Hibberts scored twice last weekend to give the Tigers four out of a possible six points in New Brunswick and P.E.I. (a 2-0 victory over Mount Allison and a 1-1 draw with UPEI), Ernst

Men take title in x-country meet

BY KRISTEN LEWIS

A pack of talented Maritime and New England runners stood poised for battle at the AUAA's opening cross country meet at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton on Saturday. As the meet went on, the Tiger men overcame adversaries from various universities to win the team title.

For Dan Hennigar, Dalhousie's most experienced runner by far, the main adversary was Universite de Moncton's Yves Gagnon. Hennigar toyed with Gagnon throughout the 7.5 kilometre race, and finally won the individual title in a powerful kick to the finish. Scott Simpson, last year's Dalhousie and AUAA rookie of the year, also out-kicked his main opponent, a strong American from Colby College, to place third.

The next Tiger across the line was Andrew Dunbrack, an accomplished 800 metre specialist who handled the longer distance surprisingly well. Dal's final scoring runner was sophomore Patrick Lennox, who passed several opponents in the last lap to secure the team's six point vic-

tor scored the insurance goal in Saturday's victory over Mount Allison and Awanen's late marker gave Dalhousie a 1-0 victory over Memorial to start the season.

The key to Dalhousie's season is their defence — with three key players leaving, the defence is expected to step it up a notch. Players such as Ilir Koliqi and Carl York (a member of the 1997 Nova Scotia Canada Games Team) will be

counted on to make the jobs of goalkeepers Grant Spence and Andrew Sears easier. The three main teams in the Tigers division (Acadia, St. F.X., St. Mary's) have strong offensive units and the defence will have to ensure they can stop opposing players like Nik Cooper, Sean Price and John Naas from running over the field.

The women's team starts the season as one of the favourites to win their fifth AUAA title in six seasons.

Dara Moore's first season in charge of Dalhousie proved to be very successful as the Tigers went 10-2-1 in the regular season last year and won the AUAA title with a 4-1 victory over the Memorial Sea-Hawks.

The team did lose defender Sue Hunter, a former Senior league

player with Halifax Dunbrack

Keith's, as well as Amy Dunphy, Julie Pigozzo, Carol Campbell and Tara McNeil to name a few, but there is a lot of firepower still left for the Tigers.

Rookie of the year Mary-Beth Bowie leads the offence while Natalie Lindthaler, Amy Harding, Kelly Larkin and Petra deWard will be also relied upon to boost Dal's offence.

Goalkeeping should be solid with Roxanne Murphy expected to play most or all of the games this season. So far her play has been outstanding. Murphy recorded three consecutive shutouts before conceding a goal in Sunday's 1-0 defeat to UPEI. In total, Murphy went 331 minutes without allowing a single marker against her.

Dalhousie's main competition appears to come from the blue

and white of St. Francis Xavier, who are 3-0 to start the season. The Memorial Sea-Hawks will contend, but not as seriously as last year, when they progressed all the way to the AUAA Final. Acadia is a shadow of the team that won the AUAA championship in 1996 and the St. Mary's Huskies will endure a rebuilding process under coach Stephen Hart.



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