

## It's an interesting language we have



**Overtime**  
MARK ALBERSTAT

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN interested in our language, the different usages and the different words. Being a sports writer, I find this little hobby even more interesting. This column will share with you some of the very strange words in the language of sports.

First, let's talk about a sport that is not extremely popular but all of us know: golf.

Think about it. The ball has all these little dimples, which make it look very strange and maybe not even like a ball at all. You hit the ball from a small stick called, of all things, a tee. When my mother was teaching me my vocabulary the word tee was something the English drank or it was connected with these little gauze bags in a box. It had absolutely nothing to do with small wooden stakes.

Another strange word about golf is "green". This is the part of the course that the hole is on. They call it a green as if all the surrounding grass were not green. The golf courses I have seen are all grass and all green, including the green; so if the greens are green and the course is green, why do they call one particular part of the green course a green?

One may also make a case for the "club." I ask you, what did the old caveman hit things with? A club. That club looks nothing like a golf club and yet they have the same name. This is odd.

Enough of golf; now on to baseball. In some sense, baseball can be looked at as a rather violent sport. Think about it; pitchers can be said to throw fire; and batters choke at the plate as well as choke the bat. It is also not the greatest sport to have kids watching, with all those people stealing bases and dying on base; no wonder there is a high crime rate in the U.S.

Now for the football fan.

Although it may seem hard to believe, there are not a lot of crazy words in football.

The names of the positions are interesting, though. Unlike hockey, there are no forwards; everyone seems to be backs. There are, of course, the quarterback, the half back, the running back, the slot back and the line backers. This, I am sure, would seem to the unaccustomed to be a rather complicated game if one were to just look at the positions' names.

Our next sport will be hockey. The word "puck" is obviously instrumental to the game, but what kind of word is "puck"? It does not conjure up an image of a hockey puck.

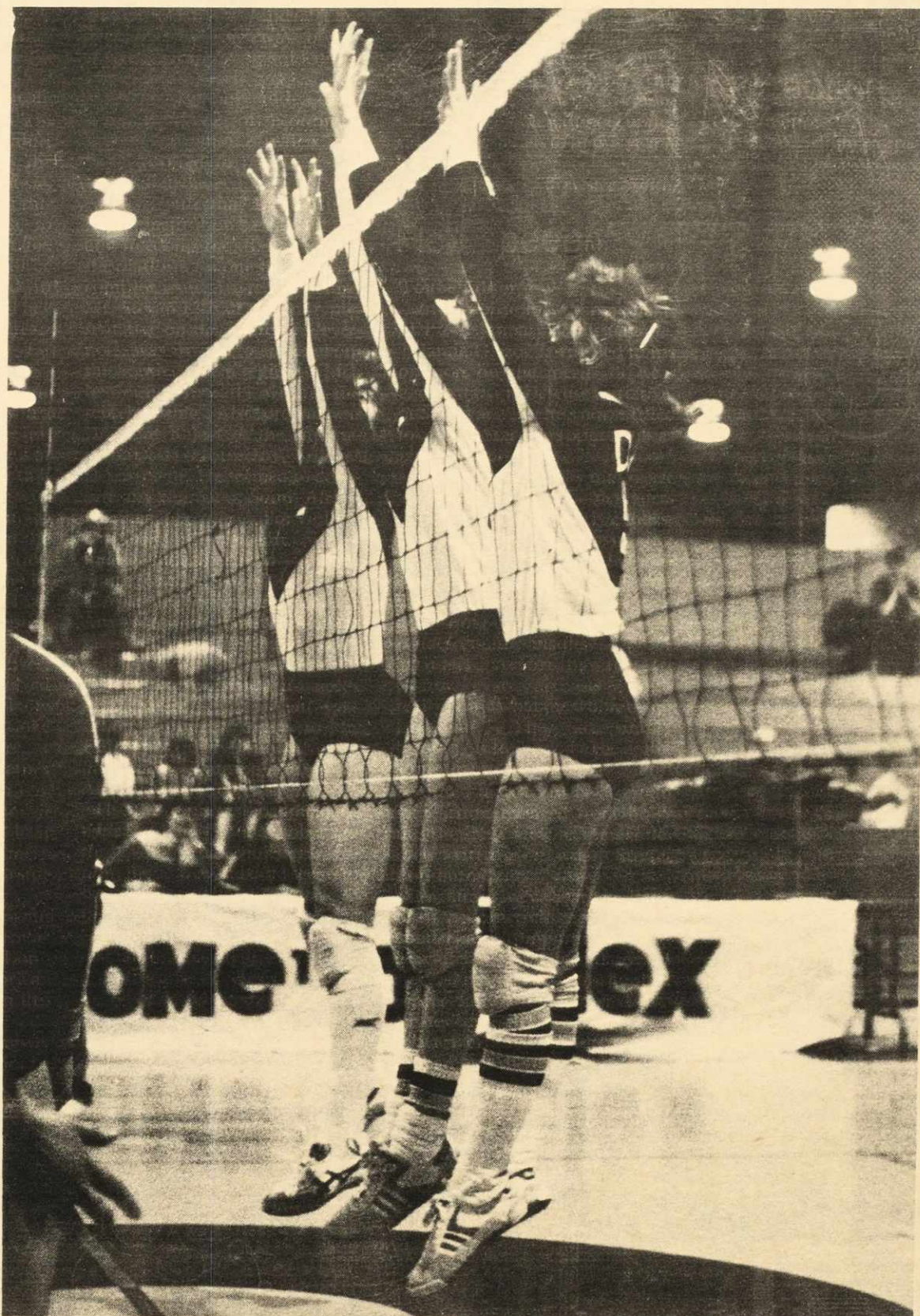
The positions' names in hockey make sense, I have no beef with them.

Next we will take a look at a seemingly non-violent sport that makes up for its non-violence of the court in its vocabulary. The sport is volleyball.

Two of these words are "kill" and "spike". A star Dal player will have an excellent game if he or she has 10 or more kills; sounds lovely, eh? Just imagine if someone unaccustomed to the sport saw a player with 11 spikes and 11 kills; what would they think?

Finally, let's tackle basketball. The sport is not totally non-violent, but the words used in the sport are, for the most part. The names of the positions make sense; the basket looks like a basket, kind of. The words slam-dunk and full-court press are interesting but are only somewhat descriptive of the action on the court.

This Overtime dealt only with a few sports and couldn't go into the detail in which such a topic could be explored. However, I hope I made myself clear, and didn't deke you out or confuse you with a little play action pass. I also didn't check any hockey players or shoot any birdies ...



Three Dalhousie volleyball players block a Mouties attempt for a point in this past weekend's action. Photo by Sean Forbes, Dal Photo.

## Volleyball team sweeps Mt. A.

By MARK ALBERSTAT

THE DALHOUSIE WOMEN'S volleyball team picked up two easy wins over the weekend at home by downing the visiting Mount Allison Mounties in the smallest number of games possible.

In Saturday evening's match, the Tigers defeated the Mounties 15-7, 15-13, 15-8, while on Sunday Dal won 15-1, 15-2, 15-6. The victories leave the Tigers with a league record of 12 wins and no losses, while the Mounties drop to three and six.

Lois MacGregor, Dalhousie's head coach, was pleased with her squad's performance.

"The team played very well and today (Sunday) we played even better than last night, and we beat them last night," said MacGregor.

In the middle game on Saturday, the Tigers almost lost the game when the Mounties went up 12-8, due mostly to their serving and Dal's inability to return. The Tigers rallied, however, and were able to win the game.

Sunday's match saw the Tigers post easy victories over their opponents, with Mount Allison's only lead in the match being the first point in the final game.

According to MacGregor, the difference in the two matches was simply by getting the ball to the right Mount Allison players.

"This time we served to the ones we should be serving to and last match we served to the better receivers, which means we let them return more than we should have. I didn't really change the line-up. I had Andrea Borysiuk playing half of a match last night and Beth Yeomans playing for

half, and this match I just reversed it, but the rest was exactly the same."

Evident on both days, but especially on Saturday, was Dal's trouble returning tips. MacGregor sees it as an anomaly in the one match.

"The second match was better in our respect for returning tips. The blockers got more of them in the second match. They still got us a few times, but not as much as before.

"I think in the first match they were afraid because Karen Fraser was blocking, and they decided to tip a lot. When they did, they found it worked, and said let's keep tipping."

The Tigers' next home league matches will be against St. F.X. at 8 p.m. on February 12. They will close out the season on Sunday, February 22 at 3 p.m. against Moncton.

## Tiger sports this week

Date	Sport	Against	Place	Time
Feb. 11	Basketball (W)	Acadia	Away	6 p.m.
Feb. 11	Basketball (M)	Acadia	Away	8 p.m.
Feb. 12	Hockey	St. F.X.	Home	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 12	Volleyball (W)	St. F.X.	Away	8 p.m.
Feb. 14	Hockey	St. Mary's	Away	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 15	Basketball (W)	St. Mary's	Away	2 p.m.
Feb. 15	Hockey	Acadia	Home	8 p.m.
Feb. 15	Basketball (M)	St. Mary's	Home	8 p.m.
Feb. 19	Hockey	St. Mary's	Home	7:30 p.m.
Feb 20-22	Swimming	AUAA ChampDal		