

Tigers nipped in AUAAAs

BY ANDREW COOK

The St. Francis Xavier X-Men squeezed past the Dalhousie Tigers 66-65 on Saturday night and carried that momentum to capture their first AUAA crown in four years. The X-Men defeated the Acadia Axemen 59-54 on Sunday to clinch the championship. Fourth year forward Mark MacKay, an Antigonish native, was named the tournament's MVP.

Friday Night

Brian Parker ended his Metro Centre jinx with a monstrous outing in leading Dalhousie to a 78-70 victory over the sixth-seeded UCCB Capers. The All-Canadian Parker, who struggled with his outside shooting in each of the seven games he had previously played in the Metro Centre, put the past behind him making five of six three-pointers en route to a game high 28 points.

Fifth year senior Shawn Plancke continued his impressive run of late with a strong double-double. Plancke got on the glass with 16 rebounds and added ten points. Tremayne Howe and Dallas Shannon rounded out Dal's double figure scorers with twelve and fourteen points, respectively.

The real key for the Tigers wasn't what they were able to do offensively, but rather the clamp

they placed on Cape Breton's two conference all-stars Mike Wall and Rawle Philadelphia. Wall, who had 35 points in the two teams' last meeting, didn't score until there was 7:33 left in the second half. He finished with a meagre two points. Philadelphia, a fifth year senior guard recruited by then Cape Breton coach Tim McGarrigle, could not shake himself loose of Dalhousie defenders on the perimeter. He managed just seven points.

This game marked a first for the Tigers. It was the first time Dalhousie fans had a chance to see Mike Sabol, Shannon and Plancke on the floor together at the same time. Coach McGarrigle's strategy paid off with Dalhousie's superior size inside limiting Cape Breton to only one shot opportunity per trip in the second half.

Saturday Night

Dalhousie's season came to a close Saturday as a Parker lay up in the dying seconds rolled off the rim clinching a 66-65 victory for St. FX. Parker, who made a clutch three-pointer with twenty seconds remaining to give the Tigers a 65-64 lead, couldn't quite close the deal after X's Jeff Piers calmly made two free throws with seven seconds on the game clock.

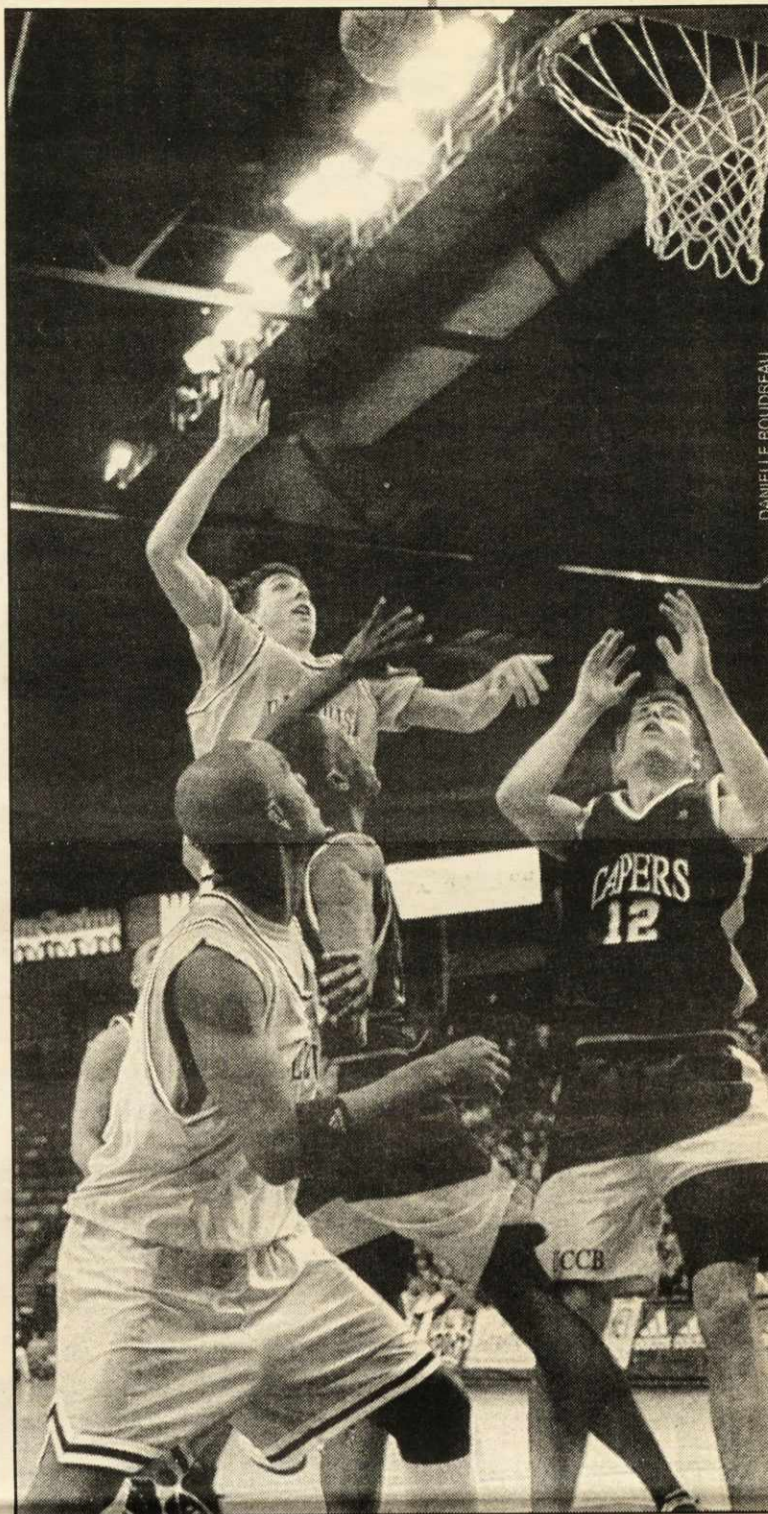
The game was characterized by spurts by both teams. X ran out to an 11-2 run early with senior

forward Michael Clarke scoring seven of those points. Dalhousie quickly retained their composure after a twenty second time out closing the gap to five at halftime thanks in large part to Dallas Shannon's twelve points and seven rebounds. Mark MacKay led the way for X early with ten points and five boards of his own.

In the second half the X-Men began with an early burst only to see the Tigers claw back once again. Plancke dominated the glass, limiting the X-Men to one-shot trips down the court; he had sixteen rebounds. Ray Fountain carried the offense with three consecutive buckets in the post and Dalhousie looked as if they would pull the game out.

X, however, got strong play down the stretch from MacKay and Clarke, and with Sabol fouled out and both Shannon and Plancke worn down, the Tigers needed heroics in the final minute. Parker's three pointer wasn't quite enough.

Saturday's game marked the end of the careers of Shannon, Plancke and Kannin Osei-Tutu. All three made significant contributions to the Dalhousie program and all three will be remembered fondly. A special note of congratulations to Plancke who played five years at Dalhousie, setting an example of perseverance for others to follow for years to come.



Shawn Plancke soars above the Capers. He, Dallas Shannon, and Kannin Osei-Tutu have played their last games for Dal.

Football

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They would also interfere with the burgeoning intramural program, forcing game times to be pushed back an hour, or scattered throughout the week. The man responsible for directing the chaos of field scheduling, explained, "Whenever you add something in, something else has to give."

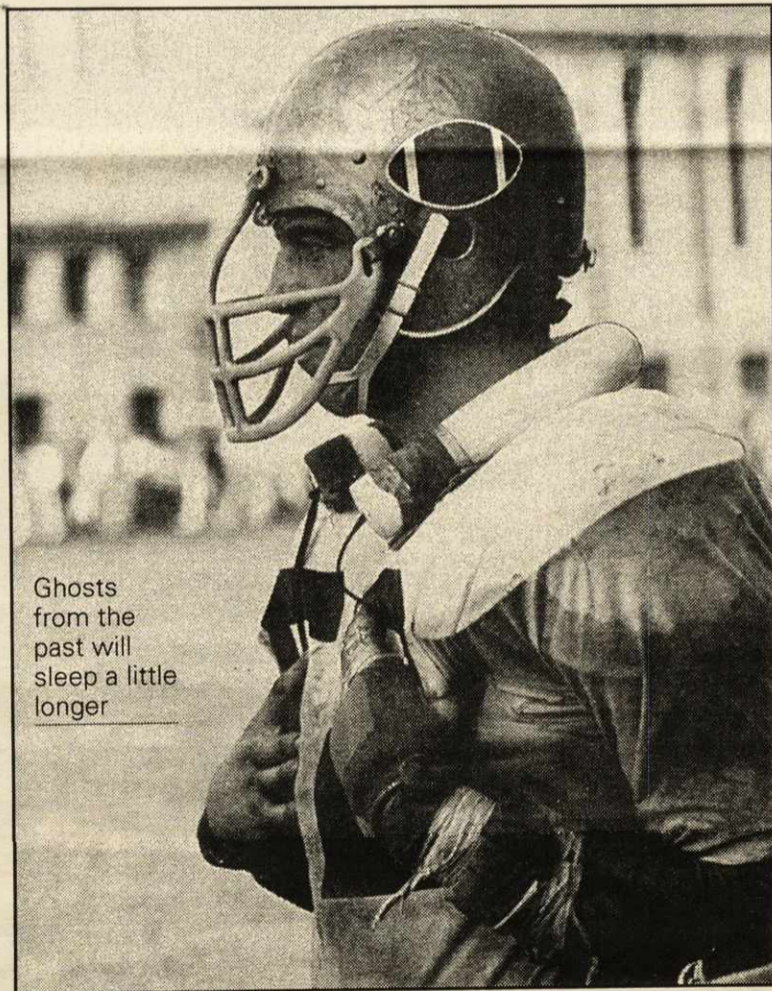
The added strain on Dalplex is a concern, especially since the facility derives much of its budget from public membership. Things are already crowded, and the addition of sixty athletes could potentially create problems for these public users.

This isn't the first time football has probed the waters of Dalhousie athletics; it's been on the fringe since it was cut in 1976. This is, however, the first time football has had this kind of support from students — they were the ones who voted to give the team an annual contribution of \$100,000. And why not? The potential benefits are great.

Increasing school spirit is one of the major arguments in favour of the team. It could focus campus energies in a way that no other fall sport can. Imagine a Dal-Saint Mary's football game for Homecoming.

"It's a great rallying point," said Martin. "We're really making some in-roads with soccer as our premier sport, but I think it'll be a long while before we have three or four thousand people around here for Homecoming for a soccer match. As good as our program is...there are people we can touch with football that we couldn't touch with any of our other sports."

Football could also bring tremendous exposure to Dalhousie, exposure that's important since



Ghosts from the past will sleep a little longer

getting students to attend post-secondary institutions has increasingly become a matter of marketing. When the men's volleyball team went to Nationals earlier this month and brought home the silver, they gave great exposure to the university. Dal did quite well in this respect last year, winning eleven out of thirteen AUAA championships and winning the men's soccer CIAUs. Martin puts it in perspective, however.

"All of the exposure however for those eleven out of thirteen probably wouldn't match what was achieved in one Atlantic Bowl week when X was king," he said.

The Board of Governors felt the negatives outweighed the positives and killed football's bid to return

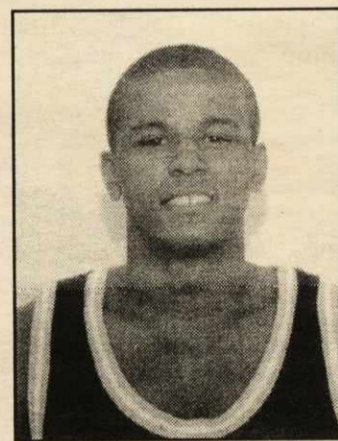
to Dal. When the field is paid off and finances improve perhaps football will eventually return to play. For the next few years, however, the Atlantic Bowl will have to wait.

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Men's Basketball AUAA All-Stars



Brian Parker

First Team

Gordon McNeilly (UNB)
Brian Parker (DAL)
Jason Medford (SMU)
Peter Benoit (MUN)
Mike Clarke (SFX)

Second Team

John Devereaux (MUN)
Rawle Philadelphia (UCCB)
Doug Newson (UPEI)
Mike Wall (UCCB)
Mark Headley (ACA)
Glenn Taylor (MUN)
Jonah Taussig (SMU)

Basketball Record Breaker:

Dalhousie point guard Brian Parker set four individual season records in AUAA basketball this year.

Most 3-point attempts — 129 (old record 126, set by Wade Smith of St. FX in 1989-90)

Most 3-point baskets — 55 (ties old record set by Wade Smith of St. FX in 1989-90)

Steals in a season — 54 (old record 39, set by Michael Dailey of UCCB in 1994-95)

Assists in a season — 149 (old record 137, set by Richard Sullivan of SMU in 1991-92)