



## Basketball's best is back

From the Armchair

By CRAIG MUNROE

Together with most of metro's many basketball fans I was ecstatic three years ago when Halifax was chosen to be the site of the Men's CIAU National Basketball Championships for as many as five consecutive years. The prospects of watching Canada's best university basketball players compete for our national title would be, to say the least, an entertaining way to spend a weekend.

The format, the "Final Four", also seemed to be the way to go as only the best teams would earn the right to meet at Halifax's Metro Centre. Unfortunately, the four team championship, for a number of reasons, did not work as well as was anticipated. The reasons include the lack of a Halifax based university in the final four and the domination of the event by the Victoria Vikings. This is not to imply that the tour-

namment was a failure. Frankly, no other city or university in the country could have hosted the event under these circumstances and have drawn the crowds that we enjoyed. It is safe to say though, that in this country, there is a better way and in this case, the better way has taken the route of the prodigal son. It was lost but it has been found. It is of course, an eight team tournament. The advantages are many.

Spectators will now have the opportunity to witness ten games instead of the four that has been the case in the last three years. The significance here is that if one team dominates the tournament, fans in attendance will still be able to view many exciting games and no one should go home disappointed.

In addition, all of the conferences in the country will be represented by the respective conference champions. The remaining spots will be filled by wild card selections. Having the conference champions advance to the national championships should not only add to the Halifax event, but it will also put importance back in to the conference playoffs. In the past three years the national finalists were determined by four regionals and the

result was a weakening in importance of the conference championships. Having all of the conferences present also guarantees a AUAA team and if our regional continues to be one of the best in the country we could conceivably see two AUAA schools competing here in the spring.

It is also worth noting that one of the most important changes to take place will go unnoticed by many fans. The first time the 1987 championships will be hosted by a non-profit organizing committee. This committee consists of eight local businessmen and university people. The experience and energy of these people should also help ensure success.

The Armchair predicts an exciting weekend of basketball in March. Don't miss it.

## FOLLOW THE TIGERS!

Men's Soccer SFX at Dal 1:00 p.m. Oct. 4

Women's Field Hockey SFX at Dal 3:00 p.m. Oct. 4

Women's Soccer SFX at Dal 2:00 p.m. Oct. 5

Men's Soccer ACA at Dal 4:00 p.m. Oct. 8



## Tigers fight for narrow win

By HEATHER KAULBACH

DALHOUSIE WOMEN'S SOCCER team took to the road this past weekend for their first away game. At UNB they expected to win an easy victory, but were

quite surprised at being behind 1-0 at the end of the first half.

In the second half, the Tigers put pressure on right from the opening whistle. Third year veteran Dawn Stewart finally beat the UNB goalie with a shot from 25 yards out.

The Tigers continued to keep

the play in the UNB end with rookie Lennie MacDonald putting the Tigers in front with her first goal of the season.

MacDonald's goal became the game winner with Dalhousie narrowly beating UNB 2-1.

This marks the Tiger's third win in as many games.

## Tigers defeated by alumni

By JOANN SHERWOOD

LAST WEDNESDAY EVENING, the Dal. Tigers field hockey team faced a team of Dal. field hockey alumni in their annual match.

Rookie head coach, Carolyn Merritt stressed the fact that although the game is generally for fun, it also serves as a learning experience for the team, which is a relatively young one this season.

The alumni prevailed by a 4-1 margin, looking very sharp in the process. Although some alumni no longer play competitively,

many are of provincial team calibre. These veterans also viewed the contest as challenging to the present team members.

The Tigers travelled to the University of Moncton on Saturday and hoped to snap a scoring drought that had seen them score only one goal in their first three games. As Coach Merritt points out, "In this league, seventy to eighty per cent of what you accomplish is a result of team spirit and a 'can do it' attitude."

A good showing in their first weekend game would have set the stage for Sunday's contest against U.N.B., which was runner-up at the nationals last year and is

regarded by Merritt to be, "our toughest opponent in the Atlantic Conference." Unfortunately, the Tigers were shutout 4-0 by the U of M team. All four Blue Angels markers came off the stick of national team member, Danielle Audet.

The team showed its spirit in the way it was able to collect itself for the U.N.B. contest. Although they were defeated 2-0, the Tigers showed their rebounding spirit.

Coach Merritt is looking forward to Saturday's match against St. F.X. Game time is 3:00PM at Studley Field. She anticipates an excellent opportunity for them to break out of their scoring slump.

  
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