

Swimming team looking for successful season

by John Yip

The Dalhousie swimming Tigers return in full force this year with many new faces and a group of committed veterans.

The tryouts began in early September and proved to be a gruelling process with over 45 talented swimmers vying for a spot on the Dal squad. After a difficult decision, a lean and mean team of 18 men and women were selected.

The powerful makeup of this year's teams has not been matched before in Dal swimming history.

On the women's side, the CIAU qualifiers and Canada Games Team members headline our returning athletes: third year physio student Donna Phelan, Cheryl Woodman in the freestyle events, Kristen Matthews in the backstroke, second-year math major Sarah Woodworth in the individual medley and Carla MacDougall in the

breaststroke. Also returning are last year's Dalhousie rookie and female Swimmer of the Year Katherine Dunn and sprinter Alicia Daley.

New rookies include Canada Games breastroker Maura Strapps, Halifax Trojan alumnus Betty Hawary, third-year chemistry major Bridget Byrne and Julie MacLean. Cape Breton native Margaret Banbury and fourth-year commerce student Fiona Ellis join freestyle specialists Megan Hannman and first-year MBA student Kathryn Lagroix as welcome additions to the women's team. British Columbia native Rebekah Lawson and Oakville, Ontario's Alex Howard round out the women's team.

"The swimmers here at Dal made me feel very welcome," Lawson says. "They are a great bunch of people to be around, in and out of the pool and in class. The tight bond that we share helps me maintain a positive attitude on performing at a higher level of training that I haven't been used to. As beautiful as BC is, the friendly atmosphere of Dal has not made me regret coming to the other coast."

Team captain Carla McDougall is impressed with this year's team.

"With a good combination of veterans and rookies, this year's Tigers add much depth and talent to the team. We plan to be competitive within the AUAA as well as nationally. This year's team demonstrates the motivation to capture its 11th title in 14 years," she says.

The men's team is back with a vengeance. The team has gained a plethora of talented rookies to add to the experienced athletes on the squad making this year's team the fastest Dal men's team of all time.

CIAU finalist and Canada Games team member, in both 100-metre and 200-metre, Jason Shannon leads the contingent of returnees. Shannon holds AUAA records in both backstrokes as well as being unde-

feated in AUAA competition in those events over three years.

"With good coaching complemented by the talent we have, the Tigers will be a force to be reckoned with," says Shannon, co-captain of the men's team.



Katherine Dunn

Sean Andrews enters his fourth year with the Tigers after a successful '92-'93 season where he broke the Dalhousie record in the 100m butterfly and went on to compete in the CIAU championships. CIAU qualifier Matt Fraser also returns for his second season. Other returning swimmers include Adam Widdis, Dave "Dr. A" LeBlanc, Wilbur MacLeod and P.J. Cowan. AUAA 100m breaststroke champion and national surfing bronze medallist Ian Jackson is prepared to give his best performance, as are sprint freestylers John Yip and Andrew Kirby. Fourth-year commerce student Jason Jardine and dentistry student Ian MacDougall have come out of retirement to rejoin the Tigers in their quest to capture the men's team title.

"The process in which the championship can be brought back to Dal is

like brushing your teeth every day: if you don't brush, you'll get cavities; if you don't train, you won't win. We have a very strong contingent of swimmers who have the right attitude about training hard. I think we are poised to win the AUAA championship this year," says MacDougall.

A group of talented rookies add to the depth of the team. Quebec native Francois Ancil and Canada Games finalist Mike Ritcey join freestyler Seb Stachowiak and Scarborough native Curt Punched as first-year swimmers. MBA student Greg Rasmussen and Caper Eddie Stewart make up the rest of the men's team.

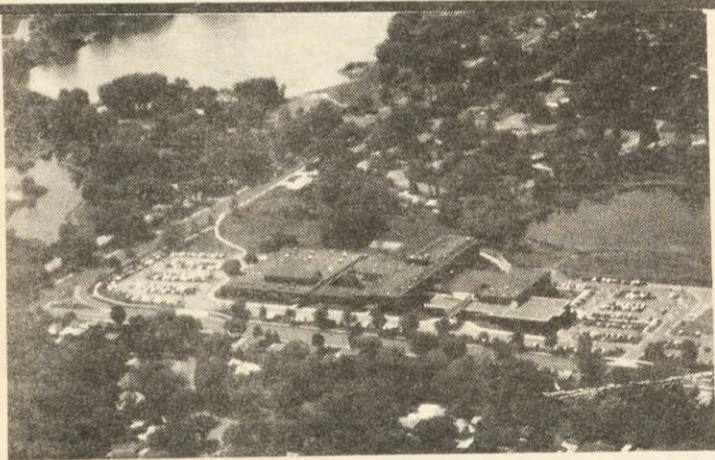
The swimmers are not the only ones bursting with talent. Former Canadian Olympic head coach Nigel Kemp returns to the helm for his 21st season after a year off on sabbatical. Assisting Kemp will be last year's AUAA Coach of the Year, Dave Fry. Former Olympian, Canadian record holder and Tiger alumnus Nancy Garapick joins Eric Kerisiotis, Dal record holder in the 50m and the 100m freestyle events. Last year's CIAU 800m free finalist Robin Mackay and ex-captain Janet Tingley have also returned to help their former teammates in a coaching position. Team managers, AUAA finalists Katy Laycock and Lisa Beaton round up the coaching staff.

The men and women travel to Fredericton this weekend for the AUAA Invitational at the University of New Brunswick. Also present at the meet will be McGill, Laval, Sherbrooke, Acadia, Memorial, UNB, Mount Allison and Maine. This meet, the first of the year, will be an opportunity for the swimmers to see how well they perform with four weeks of training. It will also be a rare occasion to swim against teams outside of the AUAA conference.

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Sam prefers Dal hockey

by Sam McCaig

For the second year in a row, Halifax welcomed the NHL to the Metro Center. Not an up-out-of-your-seat, scream-during-the-national-anthems, oh-my-God-it's-Mark-Messier, let's-get-on-TSN type of welcome; it was more of a what-they've-still-got-tickets-left, there's-a-Subway-there, let's-get-on-Cable-10 type of welcome.

There was something lost in the translation from "Live from the Forum in Montreal, it's Hockey Night in Canada" to "Sunday Night Hockey in the Halifax (shh!) Metro Center". What could have been a rocking hockey event led by the likes of Scott Stevens, Adam Graves, Mike Peluso and Mark Messier was reduced to simply another game in a long, long schedule. I'm sure that all of the fans present were thrilled to have the privilege of witnessing a

regular season tilt between these two respectable teams; unfortunately, the crowd managed to control its enthusiasm. There were the obligatory cheers for goals and hits and people got downright rambunctious when Randy McKay and Mike Hartman squared off, but these shows of excitement were eventually sucked into the rafters of the sterile Metro Center.

Maybe I've been spoiled by three years (and counting) of being crammed

into the Studley barn with 2,000 other foot-stomping, Tiger-crazed fans and am now unable to fully appreciate a 'professional' hockey game. Or, when the NHL returns on March 9 for a match between the Washington Capitals and the New York Rangers, maybe the Metro Center would be well-advised to fill up their 2,000 empty seats with those aforementioned fans and dress one team up in black and gold.

Editor's notebook

Tiger tidbits: The men's and women's basketball teams are off on the right foot so far this year.

The women captured the Acadia Tip-Off Tournament with an 80-57 win over Saint Mary's on Saturday. The same night the men defeated de-

fending CIAU champion St. FX X-Men 80-65 in Antigonish.

Women's coach Carolyn Savoy liked the Tigers explosive weekend. In the opener Friday night Dal outgunned UPEI 90-66.

"I wasn't expecting us to be able to score as many points at this point in the season. I'm a slow teacher. My style is to work really hard on defence."

A big reason for the point totals was rookie Carolyn Wares' 32 points in the championship game. In that game Jennifer Clarke and Renee MacKenzie each picked up 14 points.

In the win against UPEI Jennifer Clarke netted 20 points.

For the women's rugby team it wasn't as successful a weekend. They were dumped 17-5 by Acadia last Saturday.

Team organizer and player Anahita Safarian said two quick tries by Acadia in the first five minutes left Dal behind the eight ball. But she's happy overall with the first-year team's season and is looking to a good year next year.


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