Huskies win national silver

BY KEN HWANG AND JANICE CLARKE

Brock University debuted with a bang at the CIAU Men's Basketball Championship this weekend. The team they brought to the Metro Centre included OUAA West Rookie of the Year Dave Picton, first team All-Canadian Gord Wood, and CIAU Coach of the Year Ken Murray. Brock's roster had five players over 6'6". Saint Mary's, representing Atlantic Canada, defeated third-ranked Guelph and second-ranked Winnipeg, but lost to Brock in the championship final.

On Friday, the top-seeded Brock Badgers beat the Laurentian Voyageurs, 100-74. Brock scored 30 points from the line, and Gord Wood led the Badgers with 28 points. Norm Hann, the nation's leading scorer, contributed only three points to the Voyageur cause.

Saint Mary's won a close game against the Guelph Gryphons, 52-50. Husky Brian Thompson was out with the flu, so Will Njoku beat the Gryphons himself. Njoku scored 28 points, and pulled down 21 of SMU's 39 rebounds. Brent Barnhart led the Gryphons with 15 points. All-Canadian Tim Mau had 14 points and led Guelph with 13 rebounds.

In other first-round action, Winnipeg defeated Concordia 83-77, and UBC beat Brandon 86-75.

On Saturday night, Brock played the UBC Thunderbirds. First team All-Canadian and Canada West MVP J.D. Jackson scored 24 points, but the T-birds came up short in a 90-82 loss. The Badgers used only six players in the game. Allen MacDougall had 23 points, Dave Picton 22, and Gord Wood 19.



He shoots, he scores, the crowd goes wild

The Huskies met the Winnipeg Wesmen in the second round. All-Canadian Brian Thompson returned to the lineup with a vengeance, shooting 80 per cent from the field and scoring a total of 28 points for the Huskies. Njoku had 18 points, and led SMU with 13 rebounds. Winnipeg was soundly defeated, 88-66.

Guelph beat Brandon in the consolation final on Sunday morning. The Gryphons shot 50 per cent from the field, and had double-digit scoringfrom four players. Dave Nackoney led the Bobcats with 17 points and 8 rebounds, but his team lost 72-64.

Armed with the terrific twosome and over 7 000 fans, the Huskies played tough until the last minute of the game. Allen MacDougall's threepoint basket tied the game at 64 with less than three minutes to go, and the Badgers scored ten more points from the free-throw line. Brian Thompson answered with his own three-pointer in the last minute of the game, but it was not enough. The Badgers won 77-71.

Ken Murray becomes the third coach to be named Coach of the Year in the same season his team won the CIAU title. Saint Mary's gutsy performance in the tournament will lend support to the addition of an AUAA wild-card spot in next year's nationals, since St.F-X and Acadia finished the regular season with better records than SMU.





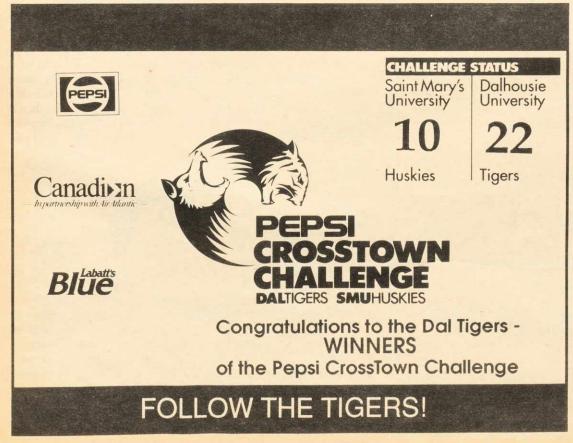
...it's soooo close!

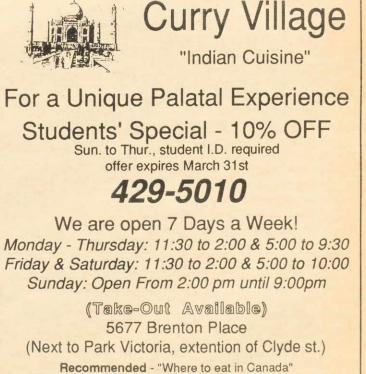
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