

## Tigers take bronze as Winnipeg sweeps gold

By MARK ALBERSTAT

DEFENSE WAS THE ORDER OF THE day at Dalplex Sunday as the CIAU fourth-ranked University of Winnipeg Wesmen took on fifth-ranked University of Waterloo Warriors in the men's gold medal match of the seventh annual Dalhousie Volleyball Classic.

The Wesmen were not the only Winnipeg team fighting for gold at the Classic as their women counterparts, the Lady Wesmen, defeated Laval for the championship on the women's side, 15-8, 15-5, 15-10.

The Wesmen, to no one's surprise, won the men's title match three games to one with scores of 10-15, 15-9, 15-10, 15-11.

Although the match only took three games, the time span was close to two hours, which is closer to a five-game match. Because of the incredible defense shown by both teams the match took longer than expected.

Earlier in the day the two Dalhousie teams played in the bronze medal matches. The men's squad defeated the University of Western Ontario Mustangs 15-13, 15-10, 11-15, 15-10, while the women lost to Manitoba Bisons 15-5, 12-15, 15-10, 15-13.

"We got off to a shaky start at the beginning of the tournament but the team's play over the semis was excellent," said Lois MacGregor, head coach of the Dalhousie women's team.

"I think the team can be proud of the way we played against Manitoba for the bronze medal. Manitoba is third ranked in the country. We had them 12-7 in the fourth but we just couldn't finish them off," said MacGregor.

To win the bronze medal the men's team had to play the Mustangs, a team the Tigers had already faced and lost to.

"We made some adjustments in terms of matchups and how we were going to dig and block two players on their team, and we changed our rotation around. There was no adjustment made on their part throughout the match and fortunately that was a key ingredient for our win," said Al Scott, the Tigers men's head coach.

Brian Rourke was the shining star for the men's team throughout the tournament,



Two Winnipeg Wesmen block an attempted spike from Waterloo's Jim Cooke in the gold medal at this year's Dalhousie Volleyball Classic. The Wesmen won the match three games to one. Photo by Sean Forbes, Dal Photo.

ment, ranking ninth in kills with 51, third in blocks with 24, and sixth in aces with four in the men's division after four matches. Rourke was named an All-Star for the tournament.

On the women's side Karen Fraser put on her best placing third in kills with 53, second in blocks with 19, and third in aces with seven after four matches. Fraser was also named an All-Star.

### Saturday's action

On Saturday Dalhousie's men's squad faced the Mustangs in regular round robin play. The unranked Mustangs upset Dal 12-5, 15-13, 15-8, 15-12. The win left the Mustangs in first place in their pool while the Tigers had to settle for second place. Third place went to Toronto and fourth to Sherbrooke.

Dal's loss sent them into the semi-finals against the University of Winnipeg Wesmen. The Wesmen swept the match 15-7, 15-9, 15-8. At the same time, the women's side of the Dalhousie varsity program took

on Laval University in their semi-final. Laval won the contest 15-3, 10-15, 15-12, 15-12. This match was obviously much more evenly played with long see-saw battles for serve possession and points.

The women Tigers got to the semis by virtue of their 15-2, 16-14, 15-3 victory over McMaster earlier in the day.

### Friday's festivities

On the opening day the Dalhousie men's team won both of their matches while the women's team split on the day.

In their first match of the tournament the men's squad met the University de Sherbrooke Vert et Or. The Tigers won the match three games to one with scores of 15-13, 14-16, 15-11, 15-6. As the scores indicated, the first three games were constant back-and-forth battles with neither team having more than a four-point lead through the games, except in the last.

The women's team was the next squad to hit the court as they faced Universite de Moncton. The Tigers won the match 15-7,

12-15, 15-12, 15-4.

"It was a surprise to the players that the match took four games, but I thought they (Moncton) could do that," said MacGregor, adding that "I think we were a little slow and nervous and it took a little time to get going."

At 7 o'clock the men's half of the Tigers played the University of Toronto Blues. The Tigers won the match 10-15, 15-10, 15-8, 15-9.

The Tigers got off to a slow start in the match then seemed to come on with a vengeance.

"It was just a matter of doing constantly what the team is capable of doing. The match was probably our best match of the year with all aspects of the team gelling very well," said Ken Bagnell, Tigers' assistant coach.

The women's final match of the day was against the top-ranked Winnipeg Lady Wesmen. In the match the Lady Wesmen showed why they are ranked number one in the country, downing the Tigers 15-10, 15-5, 15-4.

"We were with them through the first game, but we sort of gave up in the second and third games. They have excellent defense and lots of times we thought there were balls that were down on the floor but they dug them out, and that shows the class of the team," said MacGregor.

The upset of the day came in men's play when unranked Moncton knocked off ninth-ranked Laval 15-6, 15-13, 11-15, 15-11.

Friday's other action on the men's side had University of Toronto outlasting Western 15-13, 15-7, 15-10, 12-15, 15-10, Winnipeg downing Moncton 15-6, 15-4, 15-5, fifth-ranked Waterloo downing Laval 15-13, 15-13, 12-15, 15-11, and Western beating Sherbrooke 15-10, 13-15, 15-7, 15-7.

In other women's play Manitoba beat Mount Allison 15-1, 15-5, 15-5; Toronto downed Laval 9-15, 15-6, 15-7, 15-13, Winnipeg rolled over McMaster 15-4, 15-1, 15-7, Manitoba downed Toronto 15-8, 15-3, 15-11, Moncton dropped McMaster 15-9, 15-12, 15-9, and Laval trounced Mount Allison 15-1, 15-0, 15-6.

## Some comments on the CFL



Overtime  
MARK ALBERSTAT

LACROSSE IS CANADA'S national sport; it has been for a long time and will be for the foreseeable future. Hockey, however, is much more popular to us crazy Canucks with Canada producing many more famous hockey players than lacrosse players.

Hockey, to no one's surprise, is doing just fine, thank you, and lacrosse is slowly gaining some popularity. Another semi-popular sport in Canada is not doing so well; in fact, it is downright ill and soon may be diagnosed as having an incurable disease.

The name of this sport is a moto (master of the obvious): Canadian Football. The disease is

lack of almost everything. A recent poll showed Canadian sports fans enjoy hockey the most, followed by baseball, then by the NFL, then, wallowing around in fourth place, the CFL.

Why is the CFL in fourth place? Why do so many Canadians not really care about this home-grown league? And why are the teams having so much financial trouble when so many NFL teams have more money than they know what to do with?

The Canadian league isn't all that bad. The endzone is larger for bigger victory dances, and several Fridges could fit back there; the football is slightly larger for easier catching, stripping, and

spotting; the field itself is longer, much like a large pasture for grazing future NFL players; there are fewer downs to keep track of, fewer player and plays to keep track of, fewer teams to keep track of, and also fewer well-known and recognizable players to keep track of.

An advantage of going to see a CFL game is obvious; you will often have a choice of good seats, unlike those terribly crowded NFL affairs. Besides that, where else can you see so many Americans getting paid in Canadian dollars?

An obvious problem with the CFL is that all too often it is predictable and bland; it was once described as "pass, pass, kick football." The quarterback only has three downs to work with, and if his team doesn't do well or loses ground on the first down, there's a good chance that everyone, including the defense, knows what he is going to do. Those defenses, by the way, are usually made up of hulking Americans who can't cut in the NFL.

The NFL, however, usually has a much more exciting package to offer the prospective foot-

ball fan, except for the Super Bowl, but one can't expect good football out of that these days.

Many NFL teams and players have styles all of their own, the crowds are enthusiastic, and the TV coverage is great, with the occasional John Madden whap and doink. Also in the NFL, fans don't see the good players migrating south of the border for the big bucks; if they did, the players would wind up in Mexico.

It is hard to say what can be done to pump much-needed excitement and life into the CFL. Some critics have said we should adopt NFL rules; if we were to do that we could just call it NFL II and not even think about Canadian content. Unquestionably commissioner Dougie Mitchell has one very sick bird on his hands, and who's to say if anyone has the power to make it well again?

## Tiger sports this week

Date	Sports	Vs.	Place	Time
Jan. 31	Volleyball (M)	MUN	Away	7 pm
Feb. 1	Volleyball (M)	MUN	Away	Noon
Feb. 1	Swimming	MtA/MUN	Home	2 pm
Feb. 1	Basketball (W)	Mt. A.	Away	6:30 pm
Feb. 1	Volleyball (W)	PEI	Home	7 pm
Feb. 1	Hockey	Mt.A.	Home	7:30 pm
Feb. 1	Basketball (M)	Mt.A	Away	8:30 pm
Feb. 2	Basketball (W)	UNB	Away	1 pm
Feb. 2	Volleyball (W)	PEI	Home	1 pm
Feb. 2	Hockey	St. F.X.	Away	2 pm
Feb. 2	Basketball (M)	UNB	Away	3 pm
Feb. 4	Basketball (W)	SMU	Home	8:30 pm
Feb. 5	Volleyball (W)	Acadia	Away	7:30 pm