

Playoff time on the hardwood

BY ANDREW COOK

It was winning time for the Tigers and winning was exactly what they did. With no better stage for their performance, Dalhousie exorcised the demons of last season's playoff loss by beating the X-women soundly, on their home court, to capture the AUSA basketball championship.

From start to finish in the fi-

nal game, and throughout the entire year for that matter, Dalhousie was in control. Led by their dominant inside game, the Tigers left no question as to who the AUSA's powerhouse is, winning 67-50. Carolyn Wares, Susan Parke, and Kathie Sanderson were simply too much for St. Francis Xavier. On the boards and on the blocks, the outcome was never really in doubt.

WOMEN / Dal claims AUSA championship

While tournament MVP, Wares, made her presence felt with 17 points, it was the play of fourth-year post player Sue Parke which provided the extra spark that gave Dal a championship edge. Parke, who has been solid all season, came off the bench to make six of seven of her field goal attempts en route to 14 points.

The victory in the final came after a slight scare in the second round versus Acadia. Acadia, another team which Dal swept in the regular season, played the Tigers tough, only to fall 72-56. The Tigers, who normally rely heavily on their bench, won this one solely on the contribution of their starters.

Scoring all 72 points for the Tigers, the starters were led by Wares with 22. Sanderson, Claire Polomark, and Jackie Flieger also marked in double figures.

With a banner in hand, it was a feeling of redemption that quickly filled the air in the Oland Centre.

For senior guard Danny Moe, it was the four years of hard work which finally culminated in a title, the very thing that she and all of the other girls had strived for all season long.

For Carolyn Wares, it was all of the individual accolades being put aside for her real goal, leading her team to victory.

For Jackie Flieger, winner of two previous AUSA titles, it was special just the same.

Almost lost in the fanfare of the Tigers' first crown in ten seasons were the individual honours

bestowed on Dalhousie. Wares was named to the AUSA's first team All-Conference, while Sanderson and Flieger were both named to the second team.

A special note of congratulations goes to Jody Euloth. Euloth was the surprise winner of the league's rookie of the year award after an impressive year coming off the bench for the Tigers.

"I was really happy for Jody," noted coach Carolyn Savoy. "She really stepped up over the weekend and showed she deserved to be rookie of the year."

The women leave for CIAUs in Laval today, in the hopes of adding a second banner to their col-

lection. This task figures to be a bit more formidable, but one not completely out of reach.

Given the seventh seed in the single elimination tournament, Dalhousie will square off with the Manitoba Bisons on Friday. The Bisons were GPAC champions after beating Winnipeg two games to one in the conference final.

"Manitoba is a quick team up and down the court," noted coach Savoy. "We have to slow down the game and execute in the half court."

Should they beat Manitoba, Dalhousie would move along to the semi-final on Saturday evening with the final being played Sunday afternoon.

Whatever the Tigers do in Québec, this season will be looked upon as a success.

MEN / AUSA title on the line this weekend

BY ANDREW COOK

Dalhousie completed a tremendous regular season with two more convincing victories this past week.

The Tigers went to Antigonish on Wednesday and won their fifth consecutive victory over St. Francis Xavier (St. FX) this season. On Saturday, the site was the Dalplex as Dalhousie completed the mainland sweep in winning their fourth straight game over St. Mary's University (SMU).

The season sweep of Acadia, St. FX, and SMU is the first for a Dalhousie team since the league moved to its current schedule.

Wednesday's game was another example of just how balanced Dalhousie's attack has become. Six Tigers marked eight or more points with Reggie Oblitey knocking down a game-high 16. Dallas Shannon notched another double-double, scoring 14 points and grabbing 12 rebounds. Brian Parker was his usual superb self, scoring 15 while dishing out nine assists.

Merrick Palmer led the way for X with 15.

The final score was 85-74.

Dal sent their seniors off in style with a 94-81 victory over SMU on Saturday evening. With Jeff Mayo, Oblitey, and Clive Henry playing their final home game, emotions ran high and carried over into a victory. While the Huskies looked game early, Dalhousie held SMU scoreless for a four-minute stretch early in the second half to pull away for good.

The offensive barrage came from graduating guard Henry. He was magnificent throughout, marking a career-high 31 points. He made 6 of 8 attempts from beyond the arc, and at times carried the offensive attack.

"He had a flare for the occasion and he went out on an impressive note," said coach Tim McGarrigle. "He has been playing

well in our last few games, but that was by far his best performance as a Tiger."

On this night, Dalhousie counted five double-figure scorers with Mayo and Oblitey posting 15 and 14 points, respectively. The board work came from Christian Currie, who hauled in 10 rebounds to go along with his 10 points and three blocks.

A special note of congratulations goes to Mayo, Henry, and Oblitey on their great careers. The three fourth-year players — who have all been such a significant part of this season's first-place team — were honoured in a special presentation before Saturday's game.

Individual honours released by the AUSA this week showed Tigers' Oblitey and Brian Parker being named to the AUSA's first team All-Conference squad. Parker was narrowly edged out for player of the year honours by UPEI post player Curtis Robinson. Both Dalhousie players have been nominated for the CIAU's All-Canadian team.

With the regular season now out of the way, Dalhousie will spend this week preparing for the AUSA tournament. The Tigers are the tournament's top seed, by way of winning the regular season crown, and will face the lowest advancing seed into the second round.

Dalhousie's semi-final game tips off at 6 p.m. on Saturday evening at the Metro Centre.

Despite finishing the regular season at 17-3 in the league and 25-5 overall, Dalhousie knows there is unfinished business. The Tigers have gone through the entire season knowing they would not be judged on their performance during the regular season, but solely on their performance in the AUSA tournament. Expectations are high — it's a trip to the CIAUs or bust.

athletes of the week

Women's Basketball Team



The Dalhousie Tigers clinched their first AUSA League Title in 10 years this past weekend in Antigonish, NS. Led by AUSA Rookie of the Year Jody Euloth, AUSA All-Star Carolyn Wares, and the rest of this year's Black and Gold squad, the Tigers beat Acadia and then St. FX to claim the crown.

Clive Henry, Men's Basketball

Clive scored 31 points against SMU last weekend, the final home game of 95-96. Clive is a graduating senior in Economics. The team is now preparing for the AUSA Championships to be held this weekend.



march 1 - march 7

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Tigers shoot for first ever AUSA title

The Dalhousie men's basketball team begin their playoff quest on Saturday at 6 p.m. at the Metro Center in their AUSA semi-final.

A victory on Saturday will create an opportunity to win their first-ever AUSA championship in Sunday's 1 p.m. final.