

McFarlane takes soccer Tigers all the way

BY KATHLEEN MATTHEWS

Dave McFarlane has quietly sailed through five years of varsity soccer at Dalhousie. Quietly, that is, to those who haven't played alongside him or against him. He is definitely one of those highly underrated athletes who continuously contributes to his team without getting the outside recognition he deserves.

McFarlane is an all-round athlete. He learnt how to play the game when he was four years old, and has played organized soccer since he was seven. He not only excels in soccer but has also attained great success in tennis. So why pick one over the other?

"Because my brother is better at tennis," says McFarlane with a smile, "I always enjoyed soccer more. If I wanted to play tennis I would have to go to the States and play for a school that doesn't mean that much to me. I would rather play soccer here in my home town."

McFarlane has contributed greatly in the midfield to the teams he has played for, which obviously include the Tigers but also the NSSL First Division's Mooseheads. He has attained great success in soccer at Dal as a 1995 CIAU Tournament All-Star, 1995 CIAU gold medal team member, and 1996 AUA All-Star.

Playing with the Mooseheads has been advantageous for McFarlane.

"Dal is really intense and serious, while the Mooseheads are serious but more relaxed. It gives you the chance to have a lot more fun and, when the season rolls around [at Dal], you are in good shape and you can get down and play really hard for two months."

"He brings tremendous skill and experience [to the team]," says teammate Richie Tobin. "Everybody is more confident when he is playing. He brings a lot of fun to the team as well. He is a great guy and a great player, and I have enjoyed playing with him at Dal and with the Mooseheads."

"He brings tremendous ball-handling ability," adds coach Ian Kent. "He is arguably one of the best dead-ball takers that we have ever had the fortune to have at Dalhousie."

"Dave brings a lot of composure. He is a very, very skilled player," comments team co-captain Marc Rainford. "He is remarkable at shielding the ball, he is very strong in the air, and he has an amazing free kick."

"The biggest thing about Dave is the fact that he is so successful yet he has remained so obscure [as far as media attention is concerned]," continues Rainford. "He is an all-round athlete who has strolled through soccer [at Dal] and nobody has paid attention to him. He has destroyed teams, and when he is on the field he is dangerous. He is all-round solid."

A lack of attention may be advantageous to McFarlane's game as he feels that there is less pressure

on him than there is on other Tigers — the focus is not on him. Yet his teammates know that they can rely on him as much, if not more, than some of the higher-profile figures of the Dal team.

"When our team is playing our best, it is when we are getting the ball to Dave's feet so he is allowed to control the game," says Jeff Hyles. "He doesn't get enough credit for his off-field leadership. Over the last five years, he has contributed more to the development of this team than anyone."

McFarlane has benefited greatly from the soccer program at Dal, owing in part to the coaching of Ian Kent.

"My game has improved from

practicing every day, with all of the technical things and practicing a lot of game situations," he says. "[Kent] has brought in a lot of good players, like Paul English, Marc Rainford, and Stuart Cochrane, and just playing with those guys helps your game too."

McFarlane is in his last year of a Computer Science degree with plans to go on to a Masters program. He leaves Dal with not only a degree but also a whole lot of friends.

"I have made a lot of good friends on the team, and there are a lot of guys I will keep in touch with," he says. "There are a lot of good memories because we have been successful. It is a really

tight team, and I have been able to play my whole five years with a couple of guys. It has been a really nice experience."

He has high hopes for the rest of the season, knowing that the CIAUs will be on home ground.

"It would be nice for me to finish off with my best year ever and, for the team, the best to hope for is to win [Nationals] again," says McFarlane. "CIAUs are a huge motivational factor for sure, with all of my friends and family coming out to watch."

Dal soccer fans are sure to witness the exceptional soccer abilities of Dave McFarlane as the season continues. Without a doubt, he will have a hand in any success that the team attains.

Women's cross country defend Tiger territory

BY MATT RICHARDSON

With the way that the Dal women's cross country season has been going, the other teams in the AUA were probably not holding any false hopes of beating the Tigers on their own turf. The last race of the season before the AUA championships was held on October 11 in Point Pleasant Park at high noon, and you can bet that the Tigers put on a clinic in front of the home crowd.

It was a bright and sunny disposition on the same kind of day that the winner, Dal rookie Kristen Lewis, possessed both before and after the race. The current top-ranked AUA runner was challenged only by her teammate and captain, Jessica Fraser, on the way to her third win of the season,

in a time of 18:26 over the rolling 5km course. Fraser finished six seconds later, and also six seconds ahead of independent runner Ena MacPherson, who had previously beaten both Lewis and Fraser in an earlier race. The third AUA runner and fourth overall was St. FX's Lavinia Gough, in 18:54.

Coach Al Yarr described both girls' performances as "awesome", noting that Fraser had "the race of her life" to lead the Dal team to the victory in 18 points, to St. FX's 63 and UNB's 85.

The Dal runners showed their unbeatable depth as the fourth AUA position went to Kelly McKean in 19:20. Sandy Smith moved up in the Dal ranking as she took the fifth conference position in 19:49. In sixth was Amy Higgins

(19:56), followed by Juliet Thornton (19:59) and Karen Martin (20:29) to take the next two consecutive spots. Rounding out the team for Dal was Gill Hamilton in ninth (20:39), Kate O'Connor in eleventh (20:59), and Sally Carpenter in twelfth (21:30).

This race also had special meaning, as the top seven in-team ranked Dal runners were selected as the racing team for the AUA championships.

Yarr summed up the strength of the competition: "We could take any seven runners from this group and win the AUA title hands down."

These words could not be truer as the women now prepare to head to St. FX in Antigonish to defend their decade-long AUA winning

streak on October 25. If you were to place bets on this one, the choice seems crystal clear.

Opposition hardly any competition

BY EUGENIA BAYADA

The opposition proved no match for the women's volleyball team at the UNB Invitational over the weekend. The '97-'98 Tigers made their debut in Fredericton by defeating Acadia, Memorial, Moncton and SMU to capture the tournament title, dropping only one game in the process.

In round robin play, Dal swept Acadia (15-11, 15-6, 15-

8) and Memorial (15-11, 15-11, 15-8), and defeated the Université de Moncton (15-11, 16-14, 9-15, 15-11). They advanced to the semi-finals where they faced last year's conference champions SMU. The Huskies proved no problem for the Tigers and were swept 15-4, 15-8 and 15-3.

Dal faced Moncton again in the final and took the match 3-0 by scores of 15-12, 15-8 and

15-8. Tigers Michelle Aucoin and Jen Parkes took All-Star honours while Cara MacKenzie was the Tournament MVP.

"Obviously it's a great way to start the season," stated Tigers head coach Laurie Welsh-Hawley. "The weekend showed there are a number of strong teams but we're willing to work hard to take on these challenges."

Men's cross country ready for AUAs

BY SARAH GILES

It was obvious last Saturday that the weather Gods are hardcore cross country fans because the Dal Open could not have been held on a more perfect day. On that sunny afternoon the Tigers showed once again that Point Pleasant Park is their territory — they won the meet with a crushing score of 22 points. UNB, the second-place team, had a score of 70.

Jamie Blanchard took off to a fast start and held onto his first-place position until the end of the race. His time for the 7.5 km distance was an impressive 23:59. For his efforts, Blanchard, along with fellow Tiger Kristen Lewis, was named AUA Athlete of the Week for the week of October 6.

Hot on Blanchard's heels in third place was captain Trevor Boudreau showing that, after a bout of illness, he's back in form and hungry for

success. Scott Simpson, also back in form after a brief injury, came in as Dal's third runner, proving that our rookies have a lot to contribute. Chris Evers put in a great race to finish in sixth place (especially impressive when one considers that he did a half-ironman a few short weeks ago). Richard Menzies came in as Dal's final scoring runner — he was seventh. The five remaining men

came in fairly close together: Pat McGrath (8th), Tim Lindsay (10th), Matt Richardson (11th), Mark Gardner (14th) and Curtis Archibald (20th). Brian York, a business student on a work term in Prince Edward Island, was not available for the race.

Our men's team has shown incredible depth all season and the tough choice of narrowing down the list of runners to seven for the

AUA Championships falls on the shoulders of coach Al Yarr. While it will be a hard decision to make, it is an incredible luxury to have the choice.

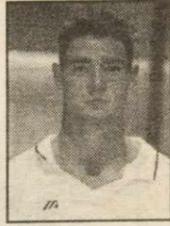
This Saturday, the Tigers will be racing for Atlantic Canadian supremacy at the AUAs held at St. FX. We wish them luck in their quest to reach the CIAU Championships.

Athletes of the Week



SARAH WOODWORTH
SWIMMING

Sarah won two individual events, finished second in two others and placed third in a fifth event at the UNB Invitational over the weekend. Sarah captured both the 800m freestyle and the 200m Individual Medley. Her 800m time of 9:34.04 set a new meet record for the event. Sarah is a fifth-year Pharmacy student from Halifax, Nova Scotia.



TERRY MARTIN
VOLLEYBALL

Terry led the Tigers to a three match sweep of the University of Calgary Dinosaurs in the Mizuno Collegiate Challenge held in Moncton, Lunenburg and at the Dalplex over the weekend. Terry had 47 kills and 25 blocks as the Tigers won nine straight games against Calgary, a perennial national power. Terry is a fourth-year Science student from Burlington, Ontario.

Upcoming events

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Oct.25 Dal@UCCB Tournament
Oct.26 Dal@UCCB Tournament

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Oct.24 @ Moncton (Exh.)
Oct.25 @ Moncton (Exh.)

CROSS COUNTRY
Oct.25 AUAs @ SFX

HOCKEY
Oct.24 Dal @ UNB 7:30pm
Oct.25 Dal @ MTA 3:30pm
Oct.30 SMU @ Dal 7pm

MEN'S SOCCER
Oct.23 SMU @ Dal 6pm
Oct.25 UPEI @ Dal 3pm
Oct.26 MTA @ Dal 3pm
Nov.1 AUAs@winner of East
Nov.2 AUAs@winner of East
Nov.6-9 CIAUs@Dal

WOMEN'S SOCCER
Oct.23 SMU @ Dal 4pm
Oct.25 UPEI @ Dal 1pm
Oct.26 MTA @ Dal 1pm
Nov.1 AUAs@winner of West
Nov.2 AUAs@winner of West
Nov.6-9 CIAUs@Laval

SWIMMING
Oct.25 Dal Sprint Meet 2:30pm
Oct.26 Pepsi Relay Meet 2:15pm

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL
Oct.31 Dal @ Waterloo Tournament
Nov.1 Dal @ Waterloo Tournament
Nov.2 Dal @ Waterloo Tournament

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
Nov.1 Dal@MUN 8pm
Nov.2 Dal @MUN 2pm

