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Tennis event a first

By JOANN SHERWOOD

The Diet Coke International has been generating a lot of enthusiasm in the Halifax area. This professional women's tournament will be the first time the area has witnessed such a high level of tennis competition.

The tournament will take place February 5-8 at the Metro Centre. It will be a single elimination tournament. The four players with the highest rankings will have a bye during the first day of action. Eight players will advance to the round of sixteen.

What makes the format of the tournament unique is the fact that the twelve women who will be competing in the event range in age from 16-21. The field includes the top two female ten-

nis players in Canada, Carling Bassett, ranked 13th in the world in 1986, and Helen Kelesi. Kelesi turned pro in August 1985. She is currently ranked 29th in the computer rankings. Joining them will be such other well-known tennis players as Gabriella Sabatini of Argentina, Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria, and Andrea Temesvari of Hungary. Also participating will be Manuela's sister Katerina, Annabel Croft of England, Raffaella Reggi of Italy, Tine Scheurer Larsen of Denmark, and Stephanie Reke and Mary Joe Fernandez of the United States. The twelfth position in the draw was left open for a wildcard entry from Canada. Marianne Groat won the play-down held at the National Tennis Centre in Toronto in December.

This group of young women provide for as strong a field as will be found outside of one of the four events. Most of the competitors are ranked or have been ranked among the top 25 players in the world at some time.

International Management Group (IMG) will be staging the event. Jack Graham, who is handling the Halifax end of the operation, feels that the Diet Coke International will generate special interest all across Canada. These two Canadian women, Bassett and Kelesi who are constantly ranked in at least 40th spot in the world. Internationally, female tennis players from Canada are more successful than their male counterparts.

It is hoped that the tournament will continue to boost the growing popularity of tennis in Canada. People should be aware of how well the Canadian women do on the professional tennis circuit. The Canadians participating in the Diet Coke International will have a legitimate shot at

capturing the championship.

The Diet Coke International is the first event of its kind in the Maritimes. It will be the first time players from the professional tennis ranks have competed in the region. The country in general does not host a great number of pro tennis events.

Graham, who has been involved with tennis in the Halifax area for a number of years, does not feel that the move to stage the tournament in Halifax is a risky venture.

"There are a lot of people who play tennis or are tennis enthusiasts in the area," says Graham.

"I had expressed an interest in bringing the tournament back if it is successful. Tickets have been on sale for about three weeks and sales have been good. Because of the number of university students in the area, a plan has been unveiled for a limited number of student packages. This plan will offer discounts to students, ranging from discounts for a single day's matches to a discount package for the whole tournament.

"We'd like to encourage as many young people as possible to attend. The young women competing are between the ages of 16 and 21 so many students will be able to identify with them," said Graham.

The players themselves are excited about competing in the tournament. There will be \$100,000 US in prize money up for grabs. The winner will receive \$25,000. The Canadian women expect the Canadian crowd to be an advantage to them.

"This is not just a sporting event. It's a world class event. The tournament will provide a chance for the people to see some of the best athletes in the world. It should be exciting to watch," said Graham.

Hockey Tigers increase

By JOANN SHERWOOD

The Dalhousie hockey team padded its overall league lead with a pair of away victories over the weekend. On Friday, the Tigers dumped St. Thomas 7-2. The following night Dalhousie came from behind to defeat the University of New Brunswick Red Devils by a score of 6-5.

In the game against the Tommies on Friday, the Tigers hit the score sheet first. Paul Herron netted a Dalhousie goal at 5:15 of the first period. St. Thomas did not even the score until 13:04 when Ron Vaive scored a powerplay marker. Dalhousie regained the lead on a goal by Whitney Richardson. Derek Pringle scored a powerplay goal for the Tigers with just 45 seconds left in the first period of play. St. Thomas made the score 3-2 at the end of the first on a goal by Mike McCabe.

In the second period, the Tigers accounted for all of the scoring. Alan Baldwin, Greg Royce, Jamie Jefferson, and Martin Bouliane increased the Dalhousie lead to 7-2. Bouliane's goal came on the powerplay. There was no scoring in the third period.

Dalhousie directed 43 shots at the St. Thomas goaltenders, Allan Andrews and Gary Smith. Smith replaced Andrews at 13:11 of the second period. Dalhousie's Rick Reusse handled 26 Tommies' shots.

Against UNB on Saturday, the Tigers were given a bit of a scare in the early going before they built up steam. The Red Devils were off to a 2-0 start after the first period. The Tigers turned the tide in the second period by scoring five times and holding their opponents scoreless. Dalhousie outshot UNB 31-24.

Paul Herron netted a pair for the Tigers. Singles were scored by Craig Morrison, Derek Pringle Brian Melanson, and Martin Bouliane. John Gravelle and Tim Kaiser had a pair of goals in the losing effort. The other UNB goal was scored by John McKerrow.

AUAA STANDINGS

Men's volleyball

	MP	MW	ML	GW	GL	PT
Dalhousie	9	9	0	27	7	18
New Brunswick	7	4	3	16	11	8
Moncton	8	3	5	15	17	6
Memorial	9	0	9	3	27	0

Women's Volleyball

	MP	MW	ML	GW	GL	PT
Moncton	9	9	0	27	4	18
Dalhousie	8	7	1	21	5	14
Mt. Allison	7	6	1	18	7	12
St. Francis	9	3	6	11	20	6
New Brunswick	7	2	5	12	15	4
Acadia	8	2	6	8	19	4
Memorial	8	2	6	8	20	4
UPEI	8	1	7	7	22	2

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