

Oscar Martens' sacrifices pay off

by Brian Lennox

Quite often in sport we report just the scores and how one team won or lost and discuss how an athlete performed on the court or field without really knowing who these people are. In many cases sports fans and writers fail to rec-

ognize the great sacrifices athletes make. Oscar Martens, a forward on the Dalhousie Tigers men's basketball team exemplifies some of the qualities that are usually not recognized in the sports pages.

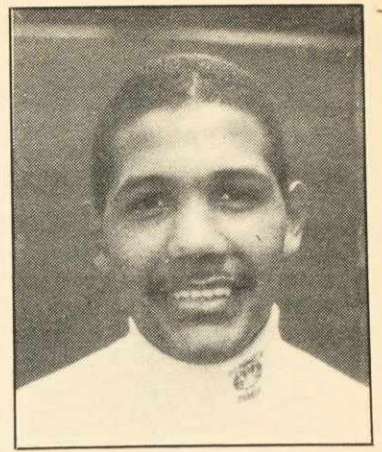
Oscar came to Halifax in the fall of 1984 with the intention of

entering Dalhousie University the next year to study and play basketball. During 1984-85 Martens attended Dartmouth High where he was a metro all-star. In 1985-86 the Tigers had four imports and a great deal of talent. Martens had to sit out any games because of the three import rule. This would upset many high school stars but not Oscar Martens. His attitude was always positive and he worked hard to improve his game. Oscar would take the following year off to return to Zimbabwe and work.

In the summer of 1987 Martens returned to Halifax to attend Dalhousie. He had every intention of playing that year for the Tigers. However, there were some problems with his eligibility over academic credits earned in 1985-86 and Martens would have to wait until the second semester to play, or so he thought. Oscar began to feel sick during the winter

months, he began to lose weight and could not seem to get rid of a cold. Sadly, the doctors had diagnosed Oscar as having colitis. Oscar would have to wait another year to play basketball.

Unfortunately, during the spring and summer of last year the problem got worse. Oscar dropped from 190 to 140 pounds and the situation became very serious. He could not keep any food down and the doctors eventually had to feed him intravenously. This type of sickness would be difficult for anybody to handle especially for an athlete. But Marten's spirit never let him get depressed. During his month-long stay in the hospital last June, Oscar remained in good spirits and hoped he could play basketball this year. He knew his chances of playing this year were not good. In fact basketball seemed so far away to Oscar during the summer. I would think this illness put basketball and life in general into perspective for



Oscar. We all too often give sports like basketball far too much emphasis when essentially it is just a game.

Oscar made an excellent recovery between July and October to be able to play this year and has made a major contribution to the basketball team. Fans who watch the Tigers this year should take notice of Martens and how hard he works on the court. There is little doubt he is the hardest working Tiger but this should not surprise people who know what he has gone through to be able to play.

Six in a row

by Brian Lennox

The roughest part of the schedule for the Dalhousie Tigers men's basketball is over. That's the good news; the bad news is that the Tigers have suffered six straight defeats. All six defeats have come at the hands of the top three teams in the league; Acadia, St. Francis Xavier, and the University of Prince Edward Island.

On Saturday the Tigers lost a tough game to the U.P.E.I. Panthers 102-95 in overtime. The Panthers were the fifth-ranked team in the nation but were playing without all-conference forward Peter Gordon. This game was four point game (against out-of-conference teams) the games are worth four points. Earlier in the season Dalhousie beat U.P.E.I. at the Dalplex so there was no question the Tigers had a chance to knock off the Panthers.

The first half was very exciting as both teams shot very well. The score at the half was 49-49. Certainly there was no need for the 30 second shot clock. Paul Riley lead the Tigers with 16 points at the

half. The defense tightened up in the second half. Dalhousie continued to use a variety of defenses to stop the veteran Panther team. With 29 seconds left the score was tied 86-86 and the Tigers had the ball. Unfortunately, a poor inbound pass led to a turnover and U.P.E.I. had the ball. Neither team scored in the last few seconds as the game went into overtime.

In the overtime period the Panther showed their experience as they ran a patient offense and scored some easy baskets down low to pull away from the Tigers. The Tigers had their chances in this game but could not take advantage of them. Willem Verbeek led the Tigers with a career high of 32 points. Paul Riley also had a career high of 29 points while Jim Charters had 12 points all on three point shots.

Next weekend the Tigers travel to Mount Allison in New Brunswick for two important games. The Tigers must win both of these games. Their next home game is against Saint Mary's on February 15.

Tigers win Lobster Pot

by Chris Murray

The Dal Tigers defeated the Acadia Axemen, in the semi-finals of the Lobster Pot, by a score of 5-1. They advanced to the final against Saint Mary's who defeated St. FX by a score of 5-4.

The Tigers, whose record

improved to 12-10, did not look impressive in the first few minutes and fell behind early. At 5:24, Ward Carlson scored on the power play to give Acadia a 1-0 lead. The Tigers began to play a more inspired game and at 15:55 Craig Morrison scored from a maze of players around the net to tie the game at one.

Dal took a 3-1 lead in the second period when Malcolm Cameron converted a pass from behind the net at 16:46.

The Tigers started the third period in the middle of a power-play, and at 0:47 Morrison scored to make the score 4-1. Scott Birney

rounded out the scoring at 13:36, securing the victory for the Tigers.

The final game to decide the championship between Dal and SMU did not begin well for the Tigers. In the third period, Graham Stanley scored at 7:33 to give the Tigers a 3-1 lead. The Huskies pulled their goalie at 18:44 but Allan Baldwin scored an empty net goal to secure the victory for the Tigers by a final score of 4-1. Player of the game was Greg Royce and tournament MVP was goalie Peter Abric, who gave up only two goals in two games.

Dal swim team looking good

by Barry Dorey

Now it's time to get serious.

After six months of training, meets, and tournaments, Dal's women's and men's swimming teams are gearing for the most crucial part of the season: the AUAA finals and qualifying for the CIAU finals in March.

And if the recent accomplishments of two members is any indication, Dal is in good shape to claim the conference titles and send swimmers to the national CIAU finals March 3-5 at the University of British Columbia.

of Halifax, raced to personal bests and AUAA records at last weekend's dual meet at Dalplex, establishing themselves as threats for the CIAU finals. Kerasiotis, last season's male swimmer of the year in the AUAA, whittled down the 50 M Freestyle standard twice in a week, reducing it to 23.76 seconds. Byrne is living up to coach Nigel Kemp's billing as the team's rising star, with personal bests in 200 M Freestyle, 200 M individual Medley and the 1500 M Freestyle.

"D'Arcy has been improving rapidly in his tiger swims," says long-time Tiger coach Nigel Kemp. "He's ranked as high as fourth nationally in his events and he'll be a threat at the CIAU's."

D'Arcy admits that the season has been a good one. "Things are going really well," he says. "We should win the AUAA. We've won every dual meet this season. But that's not much of an indicator, because it happened that way last year and we still came up short, but that won't be the case this time."

"We are now at the phase of preparation called the 'taper phase,'" explains coach Kemp. "They shave their bodies which is partly psychological, but partly physiological, in that it

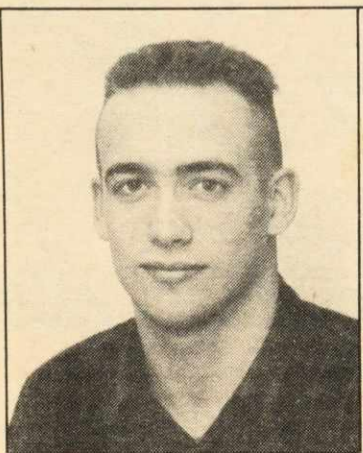
heightens their awareness in the water. It's also an indication of commitment."

In the taper phase, "the quantity of work decreases, but the quality picks up. There's more chance to rest and more time to rest, which is important," says Kemp.

And, as with any team sport, depth is crucial. Of the thirteen individual events, no one can race in more than three, plus two relays, meaning that one star athlete cannot carry a team. Kemp is confident that Dal's teams, especially the women, have the advantage over other AUAA schools.

Kerasiotis, the new record holder, was even more confident of a Dal victory. "It'll take a pretty big upset to beat us," he says. "They say Acadia's pool is slower, but I think there'll be some of the fastest times ever seen in the conference. Nobody will be holding anything back." The Tigers travel to the three days AUAA Championships in Wolfville on February 17th.

Both the men and the women rolled undefeated through their eight-meet regular campaign, but they must now focus on going even faster to qualify for the nationals.



Freshman D'Arcy Byrne and sophomore Erik Kerasiotis, both

Dina's story

Continued from page 4

village in the northern province of Chaltenango.

When they first got the area they were met by hostile soldiers. After a week or two, the soldiers returned with aid. The community refused the aid because they were suspicious of soldiers who first carried guns then carried gifts. Mejia said the aid was only a ploy by the Duarte government to attempt to convince the international community that he was upholding the terms of the Central American Peace Accord.

The army then went back to their old ways delaying humanitarian aid and supplies from various churches and international aid agencies.

Mejia's suggestions for actions by Canadians are far ranging. she asked Canadians to convince the Canadian Government to stop bilateral aid to El Salvador because this money is useless.

"The kind of aid our government gets from other governments doesn't ever end up in places like repopulation villages. ... even poor people in the cities don't see it", Mejia said.

Mejia foresees hardship for Salvadorans under Canada's new refugee laws, implemented last month.

"With these new laws, if Salvadorans who are in danger flee to Canada looking for help and asylum, if they just get deported back (to El Salvador), they're going to be in danger."

Students in El Salvador are not allowed to study in peace for they are continually harassed by the government. Students in Canada, she feels could apply pressure on the Salvadoran Government to stop the harassment.

Mejia said Canadians can also help by sending desperately-needed school supplies, visiting to see conditions for themselves, or pressuring our government for change in Canada's policies towards El Salvador. By making the right moves, Canadians can make a difference in El Salvador.