

Dal rowing finishes season in good form

BY JEANNE JU

The Dalhousie Rowing Club ended another successful season last weekend as crews competed at the 'Head of the Charles' Regatta in Boston.

"We had a busy season with lots of interest, but due to limited boats, fewer crews were selected this year," commented Tim Church, the club's president.

Last season, a handful of senior rowers volunteered their time during morning and evening practices to coach crews consisting of two 'eights,' four 'quads' and one 'double'. This season, the club reduced to two eights and one quad, bringing the club's membership from 40 members down to 25.

"Reducing the number of boats made the club more manageable. We found this number of people to be ideal [for scheduling training practices]," remarked Church.

All crews practised at 6 am. Designated crew captains encouraged goal-setting and team-bonding.

"For the men's eight, this meant accomplishing their goal of passing the US Army crew in the Head of Connecticut," said Matt Montgomery, the rowing club vice-president. Montgomery's men's quad achieved another goal of passing an eight boat that had started before them.

All rowers placed well at the 23rd Annual Head of Connecticut Regatta held on October 12th. The men's novice eights placed 8th out of a field of 14 with a time of 21:58.60. The women's novice eights placed 13th out of 18 with a time of 22:23.70. Topping off the day's events, the men's open quads did the best by placing first out of 5 crews with a time of 18:37.79.

The 33rd Head of the Charles Regatta — the world's largest two-day rowing event — hosted 5,600 competitors, who in the past have come from North and South America, Asia, Europe, Africa and Oceania.

300,000 spectators descended on the greater Boston area, lining the banks of the Charles to enjoy the competition.

"Everyone came out of it smiling," said Montgomery of the rowing club's performance at this event. The men's quad placed 16th out of 57 crews.

'Head' races are a class of regattas that are generally three miles long. Boats race against each other, as well as against the clock, with crews starting approximately fifteen seconds apart. Winners of each race receive the honorary title of "Head of the River".

Though intercollegiate competition is desirable between the 30 to 40 university rowing clubs in Canada, lack of funds has inhibited club participation.

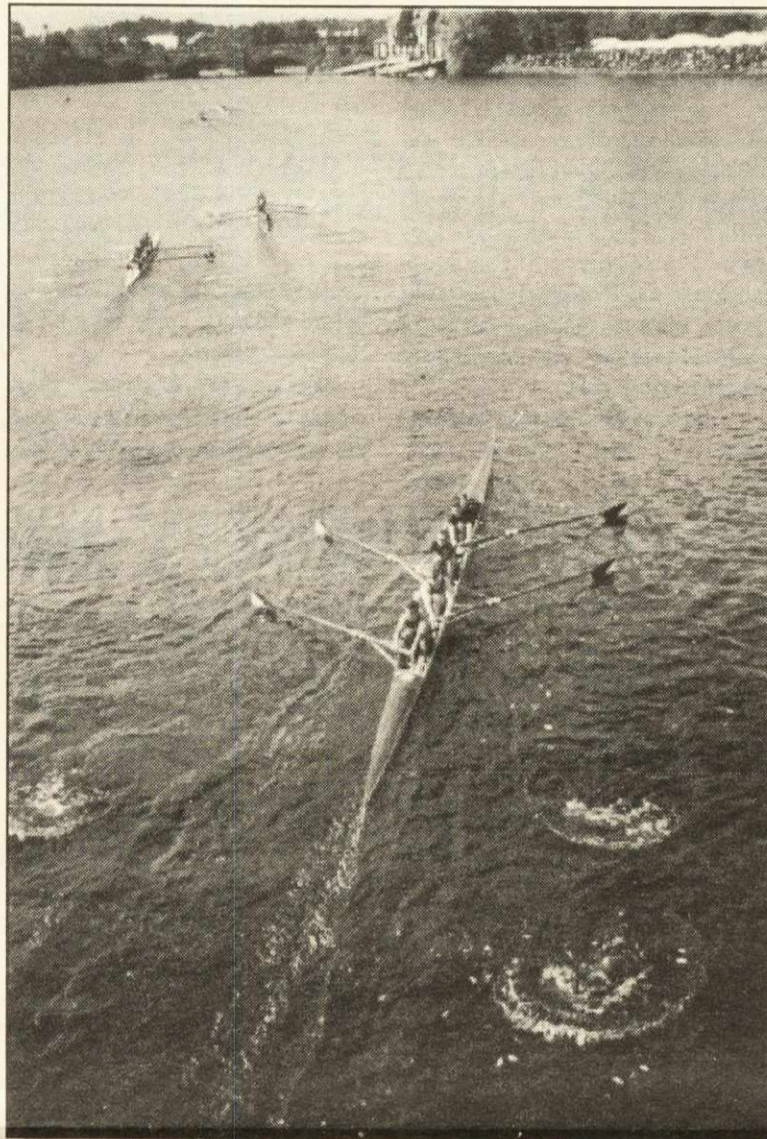
"There's a regatta every weekend across Canada and in the States, but there aren't enough funds to send rowers to compete for Dal," said Church. "Costs are high — the Charles Regatta cost \$3000 for boat and van rentals, and regatta registration fees. A day's boat rental costs \$300 US."

Although the Nova Scotia Rowing Association and the Halifax Rowing Club have helped the Dalhousie club out by lending equipment, individual membership fees for Dal Rowing include insurance costs paid to the National Rowing Association.

"Fundraising is hard within the short rowing season between Sep-

tember to November, so we hope to encompass the entire academic year with winter training and fundraising as well," added Church. Spring time training is not an option because the City of Halifax removes docks from November through mid-April.

This year three coaches volunteered their time: a past Dal rower, Phil Thomas, Allison Jones and Lawrence Nwesai. Next fall, the Rowing Club hopes to establish a provincial coordinator through Sports Nova Scotia to head the training program.



Men's quad of Matthew Montgomery, Tony Landry, Tim Church, Sam Kasper and Andrea Roberts at Head of the Charles, Boston, Mass.

Women's basketball impressive in debut

BY ANDREW COOK

Forget about the future, the Dalhousie Tigers women's basketball team is ready to challenge for the AUAA title right now. The Tigers stunned Atlantic Canadian basketball fans this weekend by knocking off league rivals Acadia and UNB on back-to-back days this past weekend at the Moncton Invitational.

Dalhousie was strong in their '97-'98 debut, whipping the Axettes 63-48. Coach Savoy used a balanced attack and smothering half-court defense to guide her Tigers by another of the AUAA's young and inexperienced squads. Sophomore guard Sara Hennenberry was the only Tiger to score in double figures (12), also leading the team with 4 assists. Wing players Janet Wells and Angela Thistle added 9 and 8, respectively.

The Tigers then shocked one of the league's pre-season favourites, beating the UNB Varsity Reds 77-72 on Saturday. Dalhousie was led by an outstanding individual performance from guard Angelia Creelock. Creelock, a freshman playing in just her second CIAU game, riddled the Reds defense for 18 points, 6 assists and 5 rebounds. She also controlled the game defensively, recording 5 steals.

Asked about the play of backcourt mate Creelock, Hennenberry (12 points) commented, "She played really well. She's smart and she knows the game. Angelia just seems to know what to do and when to do it."

Wells joined Hennenberry and

Creelock as Dal's only double-figure scorers with 15. Hennenberry was not shocked by the early success of her teammate.

"Seeing Janet score was not a surprise to me. I saw her do it all summer [at the Canada Games]. She can really shoot the ball and when she gets hot... Holy cow! Give her the ball!"

Despite getting down 7-0 early in the contest, the Tigers huddled up and regrouped. Dalhousie was brilliant from beyond the three-point arc, making 10

of 21 attempts, opening things up inside for forwards Janice King (7 points, 4 rebounds) and Carrie Fair (7 points, 6 rebounds). The Tigers used their hot shooting to storm ahead and they never looked back.

While the weekend's two victories are certain to bring additional expectations for the season, the Tigers have reason to smile. They can now prepare for the upcoming Subway Centennial Tournament with confidence that they can compete with any team in the country. The

tournament takes place November 7-9 at the Dalplex and will feature some of the top competition from across the country.

Asked how she feels about going into the season after this weekend's success, Hennenberry answered confidently, "Nobody remembers who wins in October. Everyone is going to get better as the year goes on. We're going to surprise people."

The Tigers are not looking two or three years down the road. The Tigers are ready right now.

Men's CC team keeping on the trail

BY JESSICA FRASER

"Team selection is by far the hardest thing a coach must do," Al Yarr has been heard to say several times this fall.

You may have wondered why the cross country team photos always contain fewer athletes than any other varsity photos. In September, over 30 men showed up to practices. At St.FX on Thanksgiving weekend, 14 men raced. At AUAA's on Saturday, only 7 men were given the honour of wearing Tiger singlets.

The significance of the October 12 race at St.FX had clearly been outlined by coach Yarr. Dan Hennigar, 1996 CIAU 1500m champion, had already earned his position on the team. Rather than racing from the gun, Hennigar enjoyed starting at the back of the pack, and moving up gradually.

"I'd join one of our guys, tell them I was going to the front, and ask them if

they wanted to come with me."

Along the way, Hennigar encountered Will Smith, a member of Canada's national orienteering team; Tim Ellis, a former member of Canada's junior national track team; Andrew Earnst, a member of Nova Scotia's Team Timex; Oliver Jenson, Trevor Boudreau, Tim Lindsay, Ian Blenkhorn, Pat McGrath, Dal veterans; Jamie Blanchard, Chris Evers, and Richard Menzies, rookies to the crew. The team was rich in talent and flooded with depth.

By the end of the second of three loops, Hennigar had made his way to the front, and was keeping company with teammate Brian Yorke, 1996 national steeplechase finalist. With a kilometre to go, Hennigar made a solo sprint to the finish; his first apparent effort in the race.

The men finished 1-2.

On Sunday morning a decision had

been reached. Hennigar, Yorke, Blanchard, Ellis, McGrath, Evers, and Neil Manson (pre-selected) were the black and gold seven. Coach Yarr's most difficult challenge of the season was over.

The destiny of the team then lay with those seven runners at AUAA's on Saturday.

Erratum...
In issue 6 of volume 130, we mistakenly published that Brian Parker was 4th nationally in free throw percentage during the last season. Parker was in fact first.

Upcoming events

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Nov.7 Dal@Husson College
Nov.8 Dal@Maine Central Institute
Nov.9 Dal@Maine Central Institute
Nov.14 Dal@ACA 8pm
Nov.18 SMU@Dal 8pm

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Nov.7 Subway Centennial Tournament
Nov.8 Subway Centennial Tournament
Nov.9 Subway Centennial Tournament
Nov.14 Dal@ACA 6pm
Nov.16 Manitoba@Dal 3pm
Nov.18 SMU@Dal 6pm

CROSS COUNTRY
Nov.8 CIAUs@Western

HOCKEY
Oct.30 SMU@Dal 7pm
Nov.7 Dal@SFX 7:30pm
Nov.9 Dal@SMU 2pm
Nov.12 ACA@Dal 7pm
Nov.14 CIAUs@Dal 7pm
Nov.16 Dal@UPEI 2pm
Nov.19 Dal@SMU 7pm
Nov.22 STU@Dal 7pm

MEN'S SOCCER
Oct.31 AUAA's@SFX
Nov.1 AUAA's@SFX
Nov.2 AUAA's@SFX
Nov.6 CIAUs@Dal
Nov.7 CIAUs@Dal
Nov.8 CIAUs@Dal
Nov.9 CIAUs@Dal

WOMEN'S SOCCER
Nov.1 AUAA's@UNB
Nov.2 AUAA's@UNB
Nov.6 CIAUs@Laval
Nov.7 CIAUs@Laval
Nov.8 CIAUs@Laval
Nov.9 CIAUs@Laval

SWIMMING
Nov.1 Email meet vs. York & Waterloo
Nov.8 Distance Tri-meet (Metro)
Nov.14 DCSC Invitational (Sportsplex)
Nov.16 MTA@Dal 5pm

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL
Oct.31 Dal @ Waterloo Tournament
Nov.1 Dal @ Waterloo Tournament
Nov.2 Dal @ Waterloo Tournament
Nov.8 Dal@MUN 7pm
Nov.9 Dal@MUN 1pm
Nov.20 Dal@Sherbrooke Tournament
Nov.21 Dal@Sherbrooke Tournament
Nov.22 Dal@Sherbrooke Tournament

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
Nov.1 Dal@MUN 8pm
Nov.2 Dal @MUN 2pm
Nov.14 Dal@SFX 8pm
Nov.19 ACA@Dal 7pm
Nov.26 SMU@Dal 7pm

