

A Sports Editorial

We Lost Why?

Dalhousie's basketball team lost all their intercollegiate games this season. As a matter of fact, in the past three years they have won only two games. The Gazette approached Harry Wilson, coach of the Tigers for the past two years to question him about this sad record. It was felt at the outset of the current season that Dal had finally come up with adequate representation. As the season progressed, losses accumulated and only the Halifax Senior B League saved us from complete whitewash. Why did a potentially strong team never get started?

There are many basic reasons. With a smile, Coach Wilson pointed out that Dal didn't score enough points. The reason for the lack of points was an extremely poor shooting percentage by all members of the team. For example, in the opening playoff game against Acadia, the Axemen shot 49% from the floor while Dal could only hit on one of every three attempts. Assuming all other things to be equal, that is, height, experience and other basics of the game, it would appear that shooting practice would solve this problem and make Dal a power. BUT all other things are not equal.

The difference between Dalhousie and the rest of the league is experience. St. Francis Xavier and St. Mary's have almost wholly American rosters. Acadia has a ten man squad, two Americans and eight Canadians. However, the two big guns, Spears and Simmonds, both Nova Scotians, have had the benefit of professional coaching in the United States during summer basketball camp sessions.

The American basketball player at these schools has had a basketball in his hands since birth and from the time he entered grade school had guidance from good coaching.

Whenever a losing Canadian team is enumerating the reasons for its constant setbacks, it points immediately to the American or Upper Canadian athletes on the other teams. This points out one of the major differences between the athletic set-up at Dalhousie and that of other Maritime univer-

sities. This sounds like sour grapes but in fact is perfectly true if the reader wants to analyze the situation and the situation of athletics at Dalhousie certainly bears analyzing.

Poor Varsity Stems From Poor Interfac

Our record in intercollegiate athletics has been steadily worsening over the last few years. This decline can also be noted in inter faculty competition. Our intra-mural program has been plagued by small turnouts in every phase of its activity. Faculties with more than 75 students have repeatedly failed to field the minimum numbers for any interfac sport ranging from five for basketball to nine for football. An organized volleyball tournament was a failure because only two teams (of six each) showed up after nine had agreed to play in the meet.

The main purpose of an intra-mural program is to provide physical activity to supplement the intellectual activity the student obtains by attending classes and thereby to make the student into Plato's "perfect man" . . . a sound mind in a sound body. A secondary purpose of interfac sports is to provide a proving ground for future varsity theletes. This is the first aspect in which the Dalhousie athletic system fails. It fails in its primary purpose but it also fails in the secondary function of acting as a farm system."

There are three basic reasons for an athlete to play well on a varsity team: (1) to live up to the honor of the varsity teams of the past, to uphold the name of the university and to do just credit to his alma mater; (2) to play well for his teammates and to improve the record of the current squad; (3) to satisfy and number of personal reasons that vary with the individual. It is generally felt by many people, not only Coach Wilson, that our athletes perform mostly for the last two reasons and to a very small extent for the first. The reason for this is simple. Athletes are no different than the vast majority of Dalhousie students whose loyalty to and pride in their alma mater is negligible. This even carries over into alumni days. An example of the complete lack of interest of

some Dal grads was illustrated last summer when football coach Wilson spoke to a Toronto alumni group asking them to give him the names of any boys they felt would be interested in attending Dalhousie and possibly playing football at that school. Coach Wilson received not one response.

This points to the fact that this apathy is not merely a current situation but one that has been growing over the years. In most cases, students spend four years at the university, taking what they can from it and giving little in return. No one seems to be able to pinpoint the blame for this situation; it just exists.

Dargie "We Need More Interfac

Athletics at Dal are not fulfilling the purposes for which they exist. The time has come for a major realignment of our sports policies and programs. Athletic director DeWitt Dargie feels that the perfect athletic system would be excellent interfac sports. The varsity situation at Dal is bleak and looking bleaker and it is felt by Dargie that the money spent on varsity sports (about 94% of the athletic budget) could be better used in expansion of the present athletic department to handle a more complete and diversified intramural program. This would offer the opportunity to more students to get the physical training they need.

To Win Or Not To Win

There is an alternative open to powers that be. Compete with the other universities on an equal footing and obtain athletes in the same way (whatever that may be) that these schools do. This should only be done if the value of varsity athletics to Dalhousie is high enough to warrant it, and would in no way lower the scholastic standing of the university.

This is the situation according to informed authorities. What will happen in the future no one knows but a decision must be made as to what the future course of Dalhousie athletics will be. It is imperative that this decision be made in the near future lest the athletic department lose all its value to the student body and cease to exist.

MEDICINE SWEEPS INTERFAC LEAGUES

Medicine swept all interfac leagues in the 1961-62 season. Saturday they added the basketball and bowling titles to their trophy case. The doctors have already taken the football and A section hockey crowns.

Playoffs will be held in hockey and basketball and Meds will be favored to wrap up these championships as well.

TAKE B'BALL CROWN

The interfac basketball schedule came to a close Saturday as idle Med A and Med B retained their first place positions for the second year in a row.

Med A scored six wins in a row to lead runner-up Law by four points. Three teams tied for third—Dentistry, Engineers and Arts. Med B scored five wins without setback and Pine Hill won five and lost one. Their only loss was to Med B 20-18. Science placed third with six points.

In Saturday's action, Pine Hill scored their fifth win with a convincing 36-14 win over Science. The game was close throughout the first half with Pine Hill holding a 12-9 lead at the break. In the second half, the deacons ran wild outscoring the opposition 24-5. Hugh Farquhar scored 10 points to lead the winners. D. Wright had eight and Hugh MacLean and D. Seller had seven each. Mason scored six and Ken Abelson four to lead Science.

Commerce scored their sole win of the season by tripping Education 44-33. Willie Strupp and Eddie McCarthy topped the winners' score sheet with 17 and 16 points respectively. Peter MacLeod paced the teachers, who trailed 20-16 at the half, with 16 points. Jerry Blumenthal scored 10.

Two games were forfeited. Pharmacy defaulted their fourth game in a row and ended the season with seven setbacks. Law were the recipients of the gift win. Education, after playing a tough game to open the day's card, gave up their two points in their second scheduled game of the day as Science took the win.

Playoff dates remain undecided at press time but the final game will be played on Munro Day.

FINAL STANDINGS

	A Section				Pts
	W	L	F	A	
Medicine	6	0	346	134	12
Law	4	3	204	209	8
Dents	3	3	141	150	6
Engineers	3	3	144	194	6
Arts	3	3	116	186	6
Pharmacy	0	7	50	128	0
B Section					
Medicine	5	0	176	118	10
Pine Hill	5	1	219	125	10
Science	3	3	142	146	6
Commerce	1	5	171	218	2
Education	1	6	138	239	2

TOP BOWLING CIRCUIT

Medicine B captured the first annual Interfac Bowling championship at Fenwick Bowl when they nipped Pharmacy by four pins. Med B closed out their schedule a week ago and Pharmacy needed 1385 pins to capture the title. The druggists totalled 1380. Men's Residence, Arts and Pine Hill A followed in that order.

Eric Hillis of Arts set high single and high triple standards in pacing Arts to their fourth place finish. Hillis posted a 126 single wiping out Dave Seaman's previous high of 123. The Artsman also scored a 322 triple to knock Rick Kinley's 311 off the board. Hillis started slowly with a 78 but then scored a 118 and a 126 to set the new marks.

Members of the winning Med B team are: Eddie George, Lou Simon, John Stewart, Brian Hennessey, Dick Godbout and Rick Kinley. The runners-up Pharmacy crew consisted of: Michael Moore, Peter Herbert, Jim McMellon, Ron Nadeau, Fred Chisholm and Dave Jamieson.

Individual Singles: Med B 5360; Pharm A 5356; Men's Res A 5261; Arts 5187; Pine Hill A 5120; Comm A 5105; Comm B 5101; Science 5099; Eng A 5040; Dent A 5022; Pharm B 4962; Dent B 4948; Pine Hill B 4947; Med A 4935; Eng B 4861; Med C 4841.

Individual Triples: Hillis, Arts, 126; Seaman, Science 123; Swersky, Science, 117; Kinley, Med B 116; Cumming Comm B 116; Wood Dent A 116.

Individual Triples: Hillis, Arts, 322; Kinley, Med B 311; Tracey, Comm A 309; Herbert, Pharmacy 308; Cumming, Comm B 305.

Green Undefeated

Defending Champion Don Green leads the Dalhousie Curling Play-downs with a 2-0 record. In second spot with two wins and a loss are Charlie Piper and Jack Conrod. MacLeod, Hills and Bane have 1-1 records, Christie and Haywood and winless.

Dave Haywood has been the hard luck rick of the tourney, forfeiting their first game and losing their second game in an extra end.

The tourney has been highlighted by upsets, the unranked Conrod foursome scoring two. Other upsets included victories by Bane and MacLeod Piper off to a slow start defeated Christie in an extra end and then downed Conrod, tying the latter for second spot in the Bonspiel.

WILL PHAROS FLOP AGAIN

Pharos, little-known campus organization whose editors emerge into the sunlight once a year for their annual tomato juice, has once again challenged The Dalhousie Gazette to a game of basketball. Last year, as observers close to the athletic scene will recall, Pharos flopped by a 234-11 score. Undaunted by the prospect of facing Mighty Mike Kirby in The Gazette line-up, Pharos editors have consented to appear in the Dal gym at 6:30 p.m. Saturday to take their annual defeat. When last seen, Pharos editors were clustered around their burgermeister Otto "Henny" Henline in hopes of strengthening their squad with extra players from Mr. Henline's grade nine manual training class.



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