

# Concordia upsets St. FX to win Shoveller tournament

BY SUMANT KUMAR AND MATT FELTHAM

Little was expected of the Concordia Stingers at this year's Rod Shoveller Memorial Basketball Tournament at Dalplex, January 2-4. They surprised everyone by posting three consecutive upsets including the 71-65 win in the final over nationally fourth-ranked St.FX.

Things looked grim for the Stingers early on when they lost star forward Jay Prosper in the first five minutes to foul trouble. However, the impressive three-point shooting by Stinger guards Michael Kieran and Daniel Furlong enabled them to not only withstand the constant pressing defense of the X-Men, but to also take a half-time lead of 43-37.

St.FX came out in the second half with poor defensive rebounding and weak perimeter

defense, enabling Concordia to open up a 60-49 lead. An irate St.FX coach, Steve Konchalski, called a time-out, inspiring his team to a brief comeback led by fifth-year forward Marc McKay and narrowing the lead 69-65 with less than one minute to go. However, late turn-overs and clutch free-throw shooting by Prosper and Tournament MVP Mark Spence sealed their victory. Spence finished the contest with 16 points while McKay lead the losers with 14.

In the third-place game, an incredible performance by Brian Parker was wasted as Dal lost 97-96 in overtime to UCCB. Parker and Tremayne Howe came out on fire in the second half as the Tigers were able to open up a 55-47 lead at the 15-minute mark. After a brief UCCB time-out, Haligonian point guard Stephen Nelson led the Capers on a 8-0 run to pull even at 55. From here the Capers were able

to pull away slightly based on the strong inside presence of newcomer Dave Phillip. With only 35 seconds remaining, Howe appeared to bring the Tigers even when he took the ball at the baseline and dunked on three Capers, bringing the normally-uninspired Dalhousie crowd to its feet. An arguable technical foul was assessed on him for hanging on the rim, appearing to seal the victory for UCCB yet Caper Kirk Momberquette missed two consecutive free-throws, leaving Dal down by three points with 11 seconds to play. Unsurprisingly, the inbounds pass went to Parker, who rushed down the court and acrobatically nailed a three-pointer from NBA range with two defenders draped all over him, which sent the game into overtime.

Despite the heroic performance of Parker, who was playing on an injured hip, Phillip was just too strong inside as he scored 8 in OT,

enabling UCCB to come away with a 97-96 victory. Phillip led the Capers with 32 points and nine rebounds. Nelson also had an outstanding game, scoring 13 points and handing out 17 assists. Coming off the bench, Parker led scores with 36 on 12-19 shooting and 10 assists. Howe continued his strong play by pouring in 29 points on 11-15 shooting.

In earlier Sunday action, the nationally sixth-ranked Regina Cougars defeated the Ottawa Gee-Gees behind Kevin Gilroy's 41 points and 27 rebounds. The SMU Huskies also defeated the Toronto Varsity Blues in consolation play.

In opening round action, Concordia upset SMU 71-65 behind Kieran's 17 points. Cory Janes lead the Huskies with 24 points. The second game featured the sixth-ranked Regina Cougars and the Capers. UCCB were able to pull off a huge upset behind 34

points on 15-19 shooting by Phillip. The first evening game was a mismatch as the X-Men crushed the undermanned Varsity Blues 75-50. In the night cap, the host Tigers defeated the Ottawa Gee-Gees 84-82 behind Parker's 25 points.

In Saturday's consolation action, Toronto upset Regina 70-68 while SMU defeated Ottawa 99-86. In semi-final action, St.FX squeezed by UCCB 74-66. Fred Perry led the X-Men with 19 points while Phillip replied for the Capers with 18. In the other semi-final, Concordia ended Dalhousie's hopes with a 75-70 victory. Spence led the Stingers with 20 points.

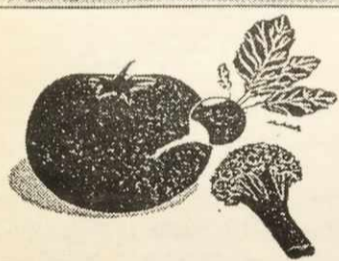
The Tournament All-Stars were Regina's Gilroy, UCCB's Phillip, St.FX's McKay, Concordia's Prosper, and to no surprise, Dalhousie's Parker. Concordia's Spence, capped of his great weekend by being named Tournament MVP.

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## Men's basketball impressive in Ontario

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While most Dalhousie students were still on vacation, the men's basketball team was in Toronto from December 28th to the 30th for the Ed DeArmon Tournament at Ryerson. This tournament was a chance for the Tigers to show Ontario that the best basketball is played east of that province as a number of top teams were there including the nationally-ranked squad from Guelph. It was also a chance for Brian Parker to show the skeptics in Ontario that he truly is the best player in Canada.

The Tigers' first game was against the Queen's University Golden Gaels, always a tough opponent. Despite a strong performance, the Gaels were no match for Dal which took the 94-87 decision. The backcourt for the Tigers was on fire as Darryl Baptiste led the way with 28 points on an amazing 10-12 shooting. Tremayne Howe, playing only his first game of the season, dropped in 23 on 9-14 shooting. Parker rounded out the top scorers by netting a cool 21 points.

The Tigers' next game proved to be the toughest as they faced Alleghany College, one of the top college programs in the United States. This time the game went into

overtime, as the Tigers' Paul Willisroft blocked an Alleghany shot with no time remaining which would have won them the game. In OT, the Tigers took charge and pulled away for a 94-87 victory. Parker led the Tigers with 26 points and seven assists, while Howe continued to show no rust from his lay-off, pouring in 25 on 11-15 shooting.

The Tigers then faced nationally-ranked Guelph in the final. Once again the Tigers were victorious as the over-confident Guelph Gryphons dropped a 101-91 decision. Parker saved his best for the final as he humbled Guelph for 31 points, 9 assists and 5 rebounds. He was 8-13 from the floor, 5-7 from three-point range and 10-12 from the free-throw line. Howe was equally impressive as he scored 31 points on 9-16 shooting and 11-12 from the free-throw line.

This impressive weekend landed Howe on the Tournament All-Star Team, while Parker was named the Tournament MVP. This tournament against top teams clearly showed the Ontario fans who the best player in Canada was, and one can only hope there is no regional bias from Ontario when it comes to naming CIAU Player of the Year in March.

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