

New Dalhousie women's soccer team prospering

by F.A. MacLeod

This year will mark the first time Dalhousie has had a women's soccer team. Terry McDonald, Dalhousie's soccer coach, was one of those responsible for getting women's senior soccer going at the club level four years ago in this area. This summer he coached the women's team, Halifax Explosion, to the finals of the Nova Scotia championship, which they lost to Lunenburg. Currently there are six senior women's clubs in the Halifax area and ten or twelve in the rest of the province.

Previously there had not been a place for women to go (apart from the club teams) after playing high school soccer. According to McDonald most high schools in the province have a women's soccer team but few have field hockey programs, the traditional women's fall sport at local universities. Soccer's popularity has undergone a tremendous increase in North America in the past five years and McDonald believes that it will eventually replace women's field hockey as a varsity sport because of the small number of field hockey players in the schools at this time.

This will be the first time university level women's soccer will be played in this area. According to McDonald the University of Toronto and McGill have had teams but he is not sure whether they played against university or club teams. Presently

women's soccer is not classified as a varsity sport but the Dalhousie coach believes it will be within three years.

The first team practice was held September 16th with more than 30 Dalhousie students trying out for the team. Since then 10 more women have joined. An inter-squad game was held on Sunday and a second one was scheduled to be held on Tuesday. By Wednesday Terry McDonald expects to have selected his players but he says that late arrivals will be allowed to join the team if they are talented enough. Most of the women trying out have been playing the game since they were young girls, they range from first to fifth year students.

The women's soccer team will have new uniforms to wear and will be classified as a club team. They will be training twice a week and will play at least one game a week. Exhibition games may be scheduled against senior teams. The team will have its practices (Tuesdays from 5:00-7:00) and its home games on Studley Field. They will be allowed to play on the busy Studley Field because the men's soccer team gave up some of their own scheduled time on the field and will have to go to other fields in the area for some of their practices. Despite being inconvenienced by this the men's team are very supportive of women's soccer, according to McDonald, and

he hopes that the two teams will have a positive influence on each other.

The women's competition will come from Acadia, Mount Saint Vincent, Saint Francis Xavier, and Saint Mary's. The University of New Brunswick won't have a team and it isn't known as yet whether or not Mount Allison will field a team.

The future seems bright for women's soccer in this area and in the rest of Canada. This summer a senior women's national final was held for the first time. The tournament was held on the Halifax Commons and drew sixteen entries, including teams from Calgary, Montreal, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, and Nova Scotia. Many teams from Ontario and one from British Columbia had to be turned away because the sixteen team limit had been reached. Green Dory of Halifax won the national championship in the final against Chateaugay of Montreal. Judging from the response to this year's tournament it appears that in future years national championships will become a regular event.

Anyone interested in joining the team is asked to go to one of the practices or to contact Eva Molsan or P.J. Temple by leaving a message at the Dalplex Information Desk.

The team will have its first game Sunday, September 28th, 3:00 at Studley Field where they will play against Mount Saint Vincent University.

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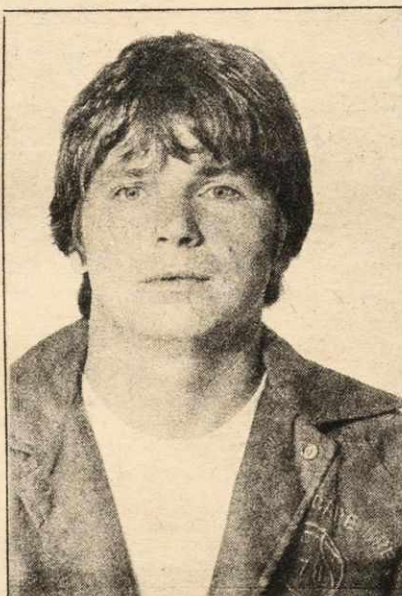
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ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



PAM TAYLOR—Field hockey—The third year recreation student from Halifax scored four goals during the week to lead the Tigers to two wins in defense of their AUAA title. Taylor, a member of Canada's training squad, scored once in Dal's 3-0 win over Acadia Wednesday and came back Saturday with a hat trick in a 6-0 win over ST. F.X.

HIGGINS
DAL PHOTO



JACK HUTCHINSON—Soccer—Returning to the Tigers after a two year absence, the centre back was a defensive standout in Dalhousie's 2-1 win over University of New Brunswick last Saturday. Hutchinson, from New Waterford, provided the leadership and held the defense together as Dalhousie took a 2-0 half time lead and then played a defensive second half.

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