

Dalhousie Tigers up and down in first half

By JOANN SHERWOOD

The first half of the 1986-87 varsity sports season at Dalhousie University has had its share of disappointments. Of the few sports that wrapped up in the fall, only the women's cross country team captured an AUSA title. Based on the performances of the varsity teams currently engaged in regular season action, the second half of the AUSA sports

season should prove more top place finishes and opportunities to fare well in national competition.

WOMEN'S FIELD HOCKEY

The women's field hockey squad went through the dilemma of rebuilding this year. Rookie head coach Carolyn Merritt had only four players who were past their first or second year of eligibility, led by leading point-getter

Gail Broderick. The Tigers' record of 2-5-3 put them in last place in the eastern division. Dalhousie trailed St. Mary's by only two games for the final playoff position in the AUSA. Merritt felt that the pair of scoreless contests the team played on the final weekend of the regular season play could have made the difference.

MEN'S SOCCER

The men's soccer team also just missed qualifying for the playoffs because of their performance on the final weekend of regular season play. The Tigers tied St. F.X. 2-2 in their second last game of the regular season. Unfortunately, the men suffered a 2-0 setback to their across town rivals to take them out to the playoff picture. The team's record placed them in third place in the eastern division tied with S.M.U., who qualified because they had one more win than Dalhousie.



Annick DeGooyer

the first time that the AUSA has had two cross country women make the All-Star squad.

HOCKEY

The hockey Tigers are solidly in command of the Kelly Division, with a 9-1 record. The only spot on their otherwise untarnished record was a 5-2 loss to UPEI on the opening weekend of play. The team has suffered from

played the University of Toronto Blues in the Air Canada Challenge Series and travelled to Manitoba for exhibition matches against two of the top men's volleyball teams in the nation, Winnipeg and Manitoba. Though the Tigers failed to win a match in either series, the team gained valuable experience that should help them regain the AUSA title they lost to U de M last season.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The women's basketball team got off to a good start for the 1986-87 season by capturing the Tipoff Tournament in Acadia. Dalhousie has expressed hopes of dominating the league in going on to improve their performance at the CIAU.

So far this season, the team has been plagued by what head coach Carolyn Savoy calls "a lack of intensity". The Tigers have only managed to play .500 ball in their first four league games. The team will have to improve their fifth place standing to qualify for post season play in the new year.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The men's basketball team has felt the absence of the three All-Conference players from last year. The productive recruiting year that has brought the likes of Willem Verbeck will probably see the Tigers improve in the new year.

Dalhousie captured the consolation final at Acadia's Tipoff Tournament by defeating Mount Allison 85-64. In AUSA action thus far, the Tigers won only once in their first four games, leaving them in second-last place in the AUSA.



WOMEN'S SOCCER

The women's soccer was the only one of the three recently reclassified athletic squads to make the playoffs but the path there was not a smooth one. They headed into the last weekend of the regular season in the unfamiliar position of third place. The Tigers picked up a win in their last two games to give them the playoff berth. St. F.X. defeated Dalhousie 2-1 in the AUSA semifinals to prevent the Tigers from defending the soccer crown they had possessed for the previous six years.

injuries to such key players as forward Jamie Jefferson, but coach Darryl Young has been blessed in having the healthy team members fill in.

Dalhousie's next two games are against the U de M club and could well decide who will represent the AUSA at the national.

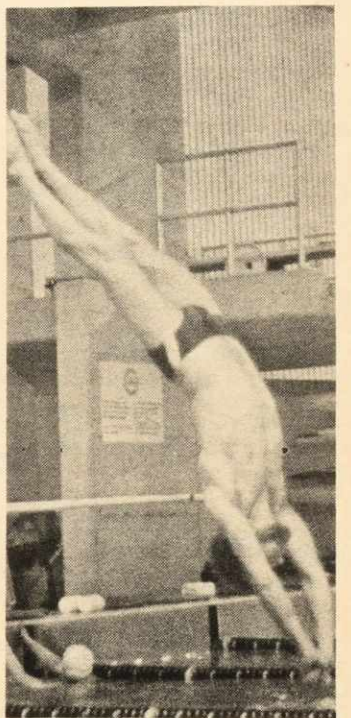
WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

The women's volleyball team lost six players from last year's squad but the fresh talent that has arrived on the scene has effectively filled the vacancies. The Tigers break for the holidays after having compiled a 5-1 record, good for second place in the standings, one win behind Moncton.

The team's only loss so far this season came at the hands of the Blue Angel squad, who will probably be their toughest opponent in their bid to regain the AUSA women's volleyball crown again this season. At the U de M Invitational Tournament this past weekend, the Tigers lost only one match in the preliminary round to U de M, before succumbing to Mt. Allison in the semi-finals.

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Al Scott's volleyball team can relax over the holidays, having remained unbeaten throughout their first nine matches. Outside of league action, Dalhousie



SWIMMING

The swim Tigers have dominated almost every competition which they have participated in this season. The men have compiled a perfect dual meet record of 5-0 while the women's team has a 4-1 mark. The women's squad loss to Mount Allison was only their second dual meet loss this decade.

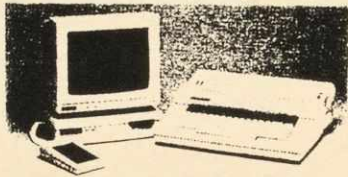
So far four Dalhousie swimmers have qualified for national competition. Darryl Dutton is the only male so far; he is joined by Nicole Deveau, Mary Mowbray, and Sue Hall.



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