

Dal prepares for fifth volleyball classic

Preparations are underway to stage Dalhousie's Fifth Annual Volleyball Classic January 20-22 at the Dalplex.

As Dalhousie's final major tournament of the season, the event is a popular one, boasting participation from some of the top-ranked university teams in Canada. In addition, returning men's champions, the Penn State Nittany Lions from Pennsylvania, will lend an international flavour to the tourney.

The Classic is slated to start at 5 p.m. Friday, January 20 with games between Laval Red and Gold and UNB Reds (women), Dal and Moncton Blue Eagles



Al Scott
(men), York Yeowomen and Moncton Blue Angels (women)

and Sherbrooke Green and Gold and Penn State (men).

The 4-court action will continue until late Friday evening, to start up again at noon on Saturday. Consolation semi finals will begin at 4 p.m. on Saturday with championship semi finals slated for 6:30 p.m.

Look for the consolation final for men and women at 10 a.m. on Sunday, followed by the women's final at noon and the men's at 1 p.m.

Dalhousie's Director of Athletics and Recreational Services, himself a former volleyball coach, is enthusiastic about the Classic.



Lois MacGregor

season) and Laval (3rd in CIAU last season). Not to be counted out are the Tigers, UNB and Moncton--all playing well in the AUA this season.

Tiger women's head coach Lois MacGregor said that the women's matches will be equally exciting.

Included in the competitive lineup are the York Yeowomen (OWIAA champions last year), the Tigers (second in the AUA last year and first in the CIAU in 1981-82) and Laval, who have made 5 appearances at the CIAU Nationals over the past 6 years.

The UNB Reds come off a strong season, having captured the 1982-83 AUA title, while the Ottawa Gee Gees come to the event with a 9-0 '82-'83 record to their credit.

Last year's women's champions the Winnipeg Wesmen return to the Classic this year with a gold medal from the Tait McKenzie Classic at York already to their credit.

Also slated to participate are the Moncton Blue Angels--new to the Classic--and the exciting Sherbrooke Green and Gold, 2nd in conference play in Quebec last season.

Men's volleyball wins at UNB

Bernie Derible set two team records and Peter Hickman set one as the Dalhousie Tigers men's volleyball team swept a pair of AUA matches from the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton on Saturday, January 14th.

Derible recorded a record-breaking 32 kills and a plus-minus total of 25, while Hickman collected a new team record of nine digs in leading the Tigers to a 3-1 victory over UNB in the first match. The Tigers defeated UNB by scores of 15-10, 14-16, 15-8, 15-13.

Derible also accounted for three blocking points and a 100 per cent service return ratio.

Other Tigers who played well in the first match were Jeff Bredin who also broke the old plus-minus mark by recording a

total of 21. In addition, Bredin added 22 kills, and a team high of nine blocking points. Vincent LeBlanc contributed 11 kills, four blocks, three digs, and one ace serve on match point, Chris Lohnes had 13 kills, two digs and four blocks, while Andy Kohl played in just over two games and accumulated seven blocking points.

In the afternoon match, the Tigers continued their strong performance by defeating UNB in straight games, 15-12, 15-11, 15-12.

Derible again led the Tigers with a 91 per cent service return ratio, 15 kills, two blocking points and three digs. Lohnes added 13 kills, two blocks, three digs, and a team high of three ace serves, Bredin contributed nine kills, four blocks and had an 82 per

cent service return ratio, LeBlanc totalled six kills and six blocking points, and Kohl recorded three kills and seven blocking points.

Tiger head coach Al Scott said, "We have improved greatly on our service reception, our quick offense, back court defense and our middle blocking. Derible played incredibly for us, as did Jeff Bredin who played his best matches of the season."

Scott said that most of Kohl's blocks came against 6'5" spiker Don Pierce, who the Tigers controlled throughout both matches.

Scott added that the Tigers will benefit from a tremendous boost of confidence from the matches, which saw their record climb from 3-6 to 5-6 in league play. UNB now has a record of 6-5 in AUA competition.

Tigers ready for Classic



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Veronika Schmidt and Karin Maessen were on the 1981-82 CIAU Championship team, while Maessen and Fraser are currently on Canada's National team.

Other veterans which add to the Tigers' experience are Brenda Turner, Donna Boutilier, Cathy Blight, and Nicole Young. Czechoslovakian rookie Simona Vortel adds youth and international flavour to the Tiger line-up.

The Tigers, second in the AUA last year, are currently in second place in the league standings. They have the Moncton Invitational Championship title to their credit so far this season, along with the consolation award at the Tait McKenzie Classic in October.

The return of Fraser and Maessen to the Tigers' line-up, along with the experience of the Tigers' attack, should be enough to make them contenders at this year's Classic, and the AUA Championships.

Although there might have been a slight gap between the inexperienced Men's Tigers volleyball team and the AUA leaders at the outset of the season, that gap was officially closed last

Saturday when the Tigers defeated UNB at home 3-1, 3-1, to improve their record to 5-6.

The young Tiger squad has shown steady improvement throughout the season, and seem to be peaking at the right time.

The Tigers will be led in the Classic by 6'1" spiker Bernie Derible. Derible set two team match records last weekend (most kills, 32, and highest plus-minus, 25) and provides the Tigers with both experience and leadership.

Peter Hickman also established a Tiger record against UNB (most digs, 9) and along with Jeff Bredin should play well in the Classic.

Other Tigers who are playing well and should help the Dal team make a run at the championship title are Andy Kohl, Vincent LeBlanc, Jim Bethune, Leander Turner, Chris Lohnes, Chris Moore and Greg Marquis.

The Tigers are the defending AUA champions for the past four years and although it appeared the reign might end at the beginning of the season, the Tigers have improved greatly under Al Scott's guidance, and appear ready to meet upcoming challenges.

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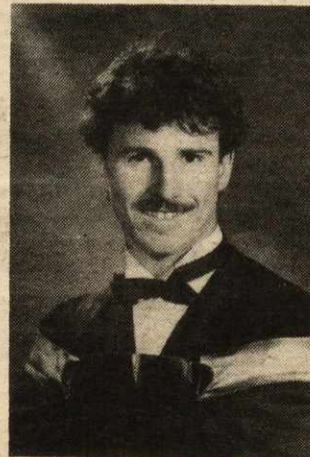
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