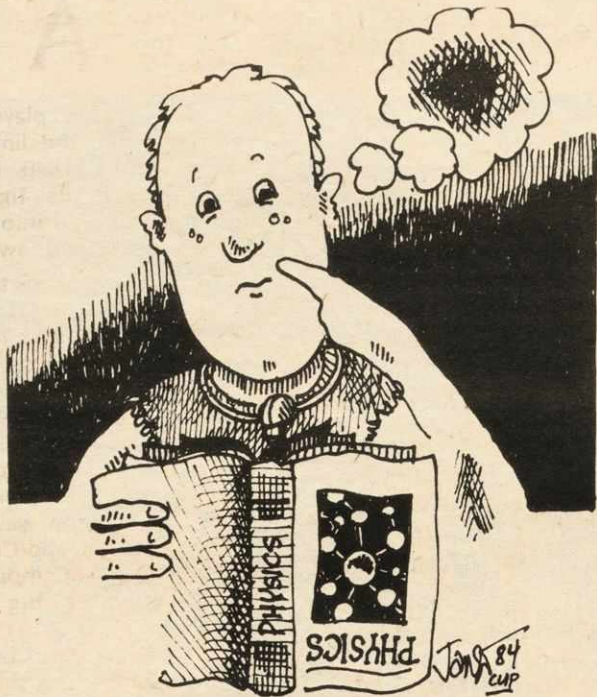


Overtime

Fighting the 'dumb jock' image



by Lisa Timpf

The "dumb jock" image is one which haunts the Physical Education student.

This image portrays the physical education student as someone who has little to do all day except run around and play games.

This stereotype is a source of irritation to students who struggle with courses in anatomy, kinesiology, biomechanics, and physiology while their counterparts in other faculties tell them they have it easy in Phys. Ed.

A few of the graduate physical education/health education/recreation students at Dalhousie were approached for comment on the "dumb jock" image, its validity or lack thereof, and what could be done to dispel this image.

Noted one student in exercise physiology, "When you tell people you're in physical education, they make the assumption that all you do all day is study stuff like the 'theory of basketball'."

Another said, "While males in physical education are often stereotyped with the 'jock' image, females are often perceived as 'tomboys' who never grew out of their interest in sports."

"The impression people get is that you're always wearing sweats and you never change out of them," said another. "A lot of people think the course is all non-academic, but really I find that the courses at Dalhousie are very academically-oriented."

"You feel intimidated to tell people you're in Phys. Ed," said Alison. "You almost feel like you have to live up to that image."

"People like to pigeonhole people," said Ron. "We all do it. The way people pigeonhole phys. ed. students is that they walk around in shorts and a jock strap doing pushups with a whistle around their neck."

"There are the jock strap and whistle types," he added. "But this image doesn't take in the breadth and depth of the program and the people."

"You're also perceived as a super fitness freak. People assume that you don't drink, party, or stay out late."

"The assumption is made that because you're in phys. ed., you must be a top-notch athlete," said a physiology student. "Often, the people who go into physical education might not necessarily be the best athletes."

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Dalhousie swimmers head for AUAA's

by David Lutes

The Dalhousie women's and men's swim teams are off to Moncton this weekend for the AUAA championship meet and are expected to perform well.

For Dalhousie, the meet, which begins today and continues through Saturday, is the final conference showdown against the other four AUAA teams: Memorial University, University of New Brunswick, Acadia and Mount Allison.

The Dal women's team is expected to dominate the meet. This seems somewhat of an understatement considering the team's record; The women have posted 42 consecutive wins in in-conference dual meet competition, with the beginning of the streak dating back to January 1979. Most of their wins this year came by lopsided scores.

The Dal women have also been the AUAA champions for the past three years. In the words of coach Nigel Kemp "I think physical absence may be the only way we might lose this meet."

On the men's side, however, the Dal team will face a considerably more difficult challenge from the Memorial men's team. Led by the all-conquering Chris Daly, the M.U.N. team swam to an undefeated record this season and hope to continue this record. At the championship meet last season these two teams battled it out until the final relay, with Memorial scoring a slim seven point victory over Dalhousie.

This year, Kemp feels the team could again push Memorial to the wire. "With outstanding performances from the entire team, we have a serious chance of taking the top position. Though we will be swimming with three fewer swimmers than last year's team, this year's fourteen have improved considerably." For the upset to come, though, the entire team will have to perform well.

This meet is also the final chance for swimmers to meet qualifying standards for the CIAU championship, coming up in early March. At this time eight women and two men have qualified, and Kemp sees three or four more women and four more men joining them this weekend.

"By sending sixteen swimmers last year and a potentially greater number this year, the emphasis is swinging toward CIAU's as the culmination of the season," Kemp said. The women's team finished third last year and have been in the top four for the last four years. The men finished ninth last year and are perennial top ten favorites.

The most interesting figure culled from the CIAU finals is the overall team total, which is unofficially (and strictly) kept. It shows that over the past five years Dal has never finished out of the top five, a record few other Canadian universities can lay claim to and one which attests to Dal's well-balanced attack.

Looking back



Football at Dalhousie: The beginning and the end.

by Lisa Timpf

This week, *Looking Back* looks at the factors leading up to the start, and the ending, of the sport of football at Dalhousie.

Legend has it that the sport of rugby football originated when a chap named William Webb Ellis picked up the ball and began running with it in the course of a soccer game at Rugby School in England.

The game of rugby was brought to North America by settlers of British extraction and by British garrison men, and found its way into the Canadian and American athletic scene.

However, adaptations to the game in order to better suit it to the different character of North American society resulted in the evolution of two new varieties of "football". The Canadian and American versions of the game, operating under slightly different rules to establish their identities as separate sports, introduced a more methodical, structured type of game.

And so it was that the long-established sport of rugby at Dalhousie University found itself competing with the comparative newcomer, Canadian football, when a decision was made in March of 1947 to field a Canadian football team at Dalhousie the following fall. (*Gazette*, March 14, 1947.)

A feeder system of sorts was already in place, since Halifax area high schools had been playing the Canadian game. (*Gazette*, October 31, 1947.)

In defense of the decision to institute the sport at Dal, the *Gazette* noted:

It should be obvious to all that the advent of the Canadian game here at Dal is one with the rise of college spirit. The Canadian game apparently suits the spectators to a "T" and gives plenty of room for mass demonstrations, hullabaloo and other ruckus dear to the college heart. (November 14, 1947.)

The *Gazette* added:

The move to Canadian Football put Dalhousie in the same sports strata with all Canadian universities—we have long been up there, and ahead, scholastically. (October 10, 1947.)

Harder times arrived in the 1970's. Increasing emphasis on national visibility through a strong football team on the part of some universities resulted in increased recruitment of talent from outside the Maritimes. Dalhousie, having relied to date on local talent, fell behind other area institutions in terms of strength of its football program (*Gazette*, September 18, 1975.)

By 1975, it was evident that Dalhousie was no longer competitive at the AUAA level. The team had posted a dismal 1-11 record in the previous two seasons (*Gazette*, November 27, 1975), and in 1975 had received a 61-7 thrashing at the hands of St. Francis Xavier (October 9, 1975).

As one reporter noted: "It has become painfully clear to this observer that again, the Atlantic Football Conference for all intents and purposes is a three team league and sadly, we're not one of them." (October 9, 1975.)

He perceived Dalhousie's alternatives to be as follows:

Well, we seem to have four alternatives. We can stay as we are and go on being humiliated by certain teams, a choice that doesn't appeal to me and to anyone else I know—especially the players and coaches. We can go to all-out recruiting and if necessary end up buying a team. This alternative besides being contrary to CIAU legislation—if not the letter of it then certainly the spirit—has some very serious inherent problems. The most noteworthy example being the mess that American colleges find themselves in after several decades of this practice. Thirdly, we could try and persuade the other "have-nots" in the conference to join us in forming a second league. Second class you say? Well maybe, depending on what you think college athletics is all about. The last choice is to drop out completely. But who wants that, other than a few super purists who would only be happy if universities taught nothing but fine arts and classics. (October 9, 1975.)

Temporary hope came in 1976 when a boost was given to athletic funding, including money to enable coaches to recruit (but not subsidize) athletes.

In terms of cost the Sport and Recreation Council has given athletics monies to cover inflation as well as a grant to help develop a better sports program. This year the focus is on the three high velocity sports of hockey, football, and basketball, however, the long range plan is to rescue the other sports. (October 7, 1976.)

However, this measure was not enough to salvage the troubled football program.

In October 1976, Dalhousie University pulled the plug on its football program after yet another disastrous season. The team's morale and the team's support was poor. The frustration was epitomized by head coach Bob Thayer's resignation four days after the season ended. After weighing all factors the Head of Athletics and Recreation Services, Ken Bellemere and his department in a written report decided "to recommend that Dalhousie University cease its participation in varsity football in the Atlantic Universities Athletic Association or in any other intercollegiate league or schedule." Dr. Henry Hicks, President of Dalhousie, under this advice, officially terminated the program. (November 15, 1979.)