

A league of their own: 47 runs in hit parade

BY VIVEK TOMAR AND CARMEN TAM

The Dalhousie Tigers captured their second Fall Classic title with a convincing 14-0 shutout over the Acadia Axemen in the gold medal game at the fifth annual tournament held in Kentville on October 11-13. The Tigers earned their third straight trip to the Canadian Intercollegiate Baseball Association National Championships giving them the opportunity to defend the national title they won last year.

The Tigers, despite losing CIBA MVP Craig Higgins and CIBA All-Star Jason Irvine, held a 9-3 regular season conference record before going undefeated in the playoff tournament.

The Tigers' ace pitcher and CIBA record holder, Trevor Wamback, needed only five innings to polish off the Axemen in the final. Wamback, a member of Nova Scotia Senior League's Sackville Chiefs, threw a two-hitter and only allowed one runner as far as second base when the mercy rule was enacted.

Dalhousie's Craig Cooper went 2 for 3 with a single, a double and 4 RBIs. Rookie Billy MacKenzie had a triple and a single. Brian E. Clarke hammered two doubles and the other Brian Clark had a pair of singles while teammate Curtis Falls also added two singles.

The Tigers were surprised to be facing last-place Acadia for the Fall Classic banner. The Axemen had a tough regular season and only made the final based on their runs scored against. SMU was favoured to make the final but had a tough tournament losing by one run to both Dal and

Acadia.

The opening game of the Fall Classic featured the Dalhousie Tigers versus the St. Mary's Huskies. After falling behind 3-0 in their tournament start, the Tigers rallied in the final inning, scoring 4 runs to take the win. Pinch hitter Kevin Abriel was instrumental in the win, driving in the tying run and scoring the winning run. Starting pitcher Jeremy Drumm went the distance, pitching 7 complete innings of baseball for Dalhousie.

The next day, the Tigers humbled the UCCB Capers 23-3, scoring 13 runs in the first inning alone. The starting pitcher for UCCB, Chris Corbett, only lasted two-thirds of the inning before being chased off the mound by the Tiger bats. The Tigers were determined to make a point in this game since head coach Cecil Wright was unable to attend the morning match up. However it appeared that UCCB forgot to show up for the game as the Tigers capitalized on their poor defense.

Tigers' pitcher Falls easily got the win as the Tigers beat-up on the Capers. Shawn Woodworth hit a home run, and had another scored as a ground rule double due to a bad call. Assistant coach Matt Christian was heckled by the UCCB bench for running up the score in the game, despite Dal taking out half of their starters by the third inning.

Their second match of the day saw a 6-0 shutout of the Acadia Axemen courtesy of pitcher Scott Sturgeon. Sturgeon, a CIBA All-Star, struck out 12 batters and tossed a complete game 1 hitter. Losing pitcher Iain LaPointe walked 4 batters in the first inning, all of which scored. He only

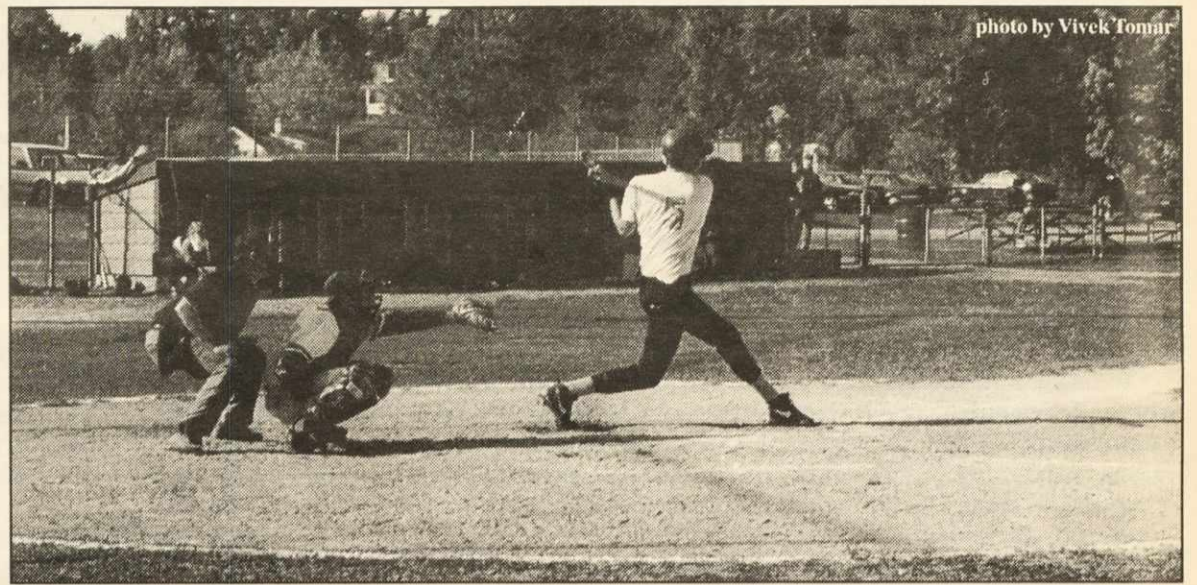


photo by Vivek Tomar

lasted 2 innings and was tagged with the loss. At the plate, Tigers outfielder Falls had a single, a double and a RBI, while third baseman Chris Sperdakes belted 2 singles.

Dalhousie's Woodworth was named tournament Most Valuable Player. Sturgeon was also named the top pitcher for his shutout performance and Clark was named the top defensive player. Other tournament All-Stars were: Dal's Falls (leftfield), Woodworth (rightfield), Sperdakes (third base) and Cooper (designated hitter); Acadia's LaPointe (centre field) and Chris Salsman (catcher); SMU's Rob Hanson (first base) and Jeff Murphy (shortstop); and UCCB's Donnie Burke (second base).

"The coaching staff has been pleasantly surprised by the depth and quality of the players, especially Bill MacKenzie," remarked head coach Wright. "He was originally ninth in our line-up and has worked his way to our lead-off player. All other

players have lived up to our expectations."

Wright is looking forward to defending the Tigers' crown in St. Catharines, Ontario in the Final Four Championships.

"Teams from Atlantic Canada get no respect. We have to go up there and take people's respect and defend our title."

The Tigers are nationally second-ranked entering the championships, behind top-ranked University of York. Laval University and Brock University will also compete for the title this weekend.

This year's Tigers roster is made up of outfielders Kevin Abriel, Ian Bower, Devon Covey, Curtis Falls, Bill MacKenzie and Shawn Woodworth; catchers Brian Bursey, Trevor Butler, Craig Cooper, Jay LaPointe and Mike Swim; pitchers Jeremy Drumm, Eric Hemphill, Ryan Clarke, Eric Neubolte, Aaron Rogers, Scott Sturgeon and Trevor Wamback; shortstop Brian E. Clarke.

Brian Clark and Jamie Fraser are at second base, Chris Sperdakes is at third and Nick Hounsel is a utility player.

TOURNAMENT SUMMARY

FRIDAY OCTOBER 11
UCCB 14 Acadia 6
Dal 4 SMU 3

SATURDAY OCTOBER 12
Dal 23 UCCB 3 (this is not football)
Acadia 11 SMU 10
Dal 6 Acadia 0
SMU 13 UCCB 7

SUNDAY OCTOBER 13
Bronze Medal Game:
UCCB vs. SMU
(cancelled at request of both teams)
Gold Medal Game: Dal 14
Acadia 0

Sweep victory for men's volleyball Tigers

BY CARMEN TAM

The Dalhousie Tigers, national silver medalists from the 1997 CIAUs, started off their pre-season with an impressive 3-0 sweep of the Calgary Dinosaurs at the fourteenth annual Mizuno Collegiate Volleyball Challenge last weekend.

The Dinos, still stinging from last season's semi-final loss at the national championships which Dal won to reach the gold medal final, had hoped to avenge the loss with a strong showing at the prestigious tournament. Dalhousie trampled those intentions with a solid team performance by rolling over Calgary without dropping a set in the three game series.

The exhibition matches were held in Moncton and Lunenburg, before concluding at the Dalplex on Saturday where 200 fans watched the Tigers go undefeated with a 15-8, 15-8, 15-3 win over the lacklustre Dinos. Team captain and workhorse John Hobin was named player of the game for Dal with 13 kills and 6 blocks. Teammate Terry Martin, a 1997 All-Canadian, totalled 16 kills and 5 blocks while Mark Ellingson had 5 kills for Calgary.

Dalhousie opened the series at Moncton High School with a 15-12, 15-8, 16-14 victory over last year's CIAU fourth-place finalist. A confident Tiger squad showed solid all-round abilities with the offense provided by Martin, who pounded in 15 kills, 13 blocks and 3 digs for Player of the Game recognition. Dal powerhitter Jason Trepanier and Hobin chipped in 14

and 11 kills respectively for Dalhousie in the two hour match-up. Middle Neil Thember was Player of the Game for Calgary with 8 kills and 9 blocks.

On Friday night in Lunenburg, the Dinos played a more competitive game which was held at Lunenburg Junior/Senior High School. However, the Dinos were not able to overcome the determination and drive of the Tigers, who rallied over early deficits twice to take the second contest of the series 15-13, 15-11, 15-4 in just 95 minutes. Martin had 16 kills, 7 blocks and 2 service aces in the win. Continuing to impress for the Tigers was former Ontario provincial team member Chris Wolfenden with 10 kills and 7 blocks, certainly a contender for top rookie conference honours this year.

Head coach Al Scott, in his 18th season with the Black and Gold, illustrated the depth of the Tiger team by starting three different line-ups in each match. Setter Dave Cox was named Player of the Game in an outstanding performance for Dal. James Latkin had 11 kills in the Dinos' loss and was named Player of the Game for Calgary.

The aim of the annual tournament is to expose, promote and develop volleyball in various regions of Nova Scotia. That goal has certainly been accomplished this fall as over 220 enthusiastic local fans cheered on the Tigers with their second decisive win over the Dinos. Notes series host Derek

Nowe, "We made some fans of volleyball tonight."

Hobin is pleased with the positive outcome of the weekend.

"We had expected to be very competitive against Calgary and I think we have achieved that," says the fifth-year veteran. "We did make some mental errors which comes from not playing for a while."

"However, we want to keep improving and as long as we stay

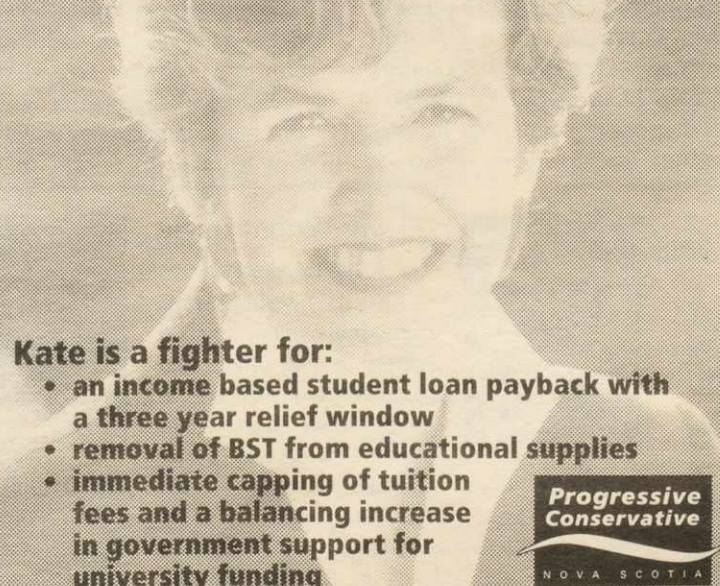
competitive, the results will come. Overall, we are satisfied with the results."

The Tigers' next test will be in Waterloo where they will defend their tournament title in the University of Waterloo Warriors Volleyball Classic on October 31 - November 2. In addition to their regular AUAA season, the Tigers are also competing at the esteemed Sherbrooke Omnium

Vert et Or Tournament next month, as well as Dalhousie's own Digs Classic in the new year.

The Tigers are looking to make a return trip to Calgary where the national championships will be held for the third straight year. If this weekend is any indication of what is to come, then the '97-'98 season will prove to be an exciting chapter for the Dal program.

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Authorized by Tom Rose official agent for Kate Carmichael

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