

Manitoba men capture title

By DEAN GOODMAN

The University of Manitoba Bisons men's volleyball team had little trouble with the opposition, winning 15 straight games on their way to the Dalhousie Volleyball Classic Championship. The host Dalhousie Tigers were also impressive, finishing fourth in the tournament and winning at least one game against every team except Manitoba.

In their first game against Sherbrooke, Dalhousie jumped into a game lead with a quick 15-5 win, but Sherbrooke battled back to take the next two games 17-15 and 15-10. At this point, the Tigers showed the character of a top ten team, taking the last two games, 15-11 and 15-8 to win the match 3-2. Rookie Jody Holden had a good match recording 20 kills, four blocks and one service ace. Travis Murphy also led the Tigers with 11 blocks.

The Tigers didn't fair quite as well against the Bisons, going down to the nation's third ranked team in three straight games, 15-13, 15-8 and 15-8. The Tigers were led by Jody Holden, with 11 kills and two blocks, while Myron Klysh, with 19 kills and 2 aces and Roger Valee, with 11 kills, 5 blocks and 3 aces, paced the Bisons.

The Tigers took their third match easily, upsetting the ninth ranked York Yeomen. The Tigers capitalized on York's mental mistakes in the first game, winning 16-14. After that close loss, York fell to pieces. Seeming intent on getting the "big hit" they couldn't muster much offense or defense and Dalhousie won easily, 15-4 and 15-5. Jody Holden again led the tigers with 6 kills. Tony Martino had a team high six kills for the Yeomen. The Tigers win gave them a 2-1 round robin record and a berth in the Championship semi-finals.

In the championship round, the Tigers ran into a very strong Laval team, ranked fourth in the nation. Dalhousie put in a strong showing with good hitting and strong blocking, but Laval's scrambling defense took away some sure points and, with the Tigers not completely able to cover their mistakes, the Red and Gold took the first game 15-7. The second and third games were both close contests. Neither team was willing to concede the game and each point was extremely hard fought. Dalhousie jumped into an early lead in the second game but Laval came back to tie the game at 14. The teams battled hard for the two points required to win the game. The Tigers eventually came out on top, winning the game 16-14. The third game was much the same. The Tigers jumped into an early lead but Laval came back, eventually winning 16-14. A number of mental mistakes in the fourth game proved costly for the Tigers as they fell behind early and could not get back into the game, losing 15-8. Laval was led by Anthony Bedard, who registered 16 kills and one block. Jody Holden had 21 kills, 4 blocks and one ace and Brian Rourke added 20 kills and 6

blocks for the Tigers.

Their loss to Laval put Dalhousie in the bronze medal match against Toronto. With Toronto's strong blocking and effective net play overpowering the smaller Dalhousie team, the Varsity Blues jumped into an early lead and won the first game 15-8. The second game saw a great improvement in the Tigers blocking. Falling behind 12-8, the Tigers came back to win the game 15-13. Unfortunately, Dalhousie couldn't hold the momentum and the Blues took the next two games 15-9 and 15-5 to win the match.



The gold medal match saw the two undefeated teams in the tournament squaring off. The Manitoba Bisons had advanced by beating York, Sherbrooke, Dalhousie and Toronto while Laval made the championship by defeating Waterloo, Toronto, New Brunswick and Dalhousie. The Bisons dominated the final as they had dominated all their previous matches. With superb net play by Manitoba matched by Laval's scrambling recoveries, the first game was knotted at 10-10. At this point, the Bisons' attack began to get the better of Laval and the team went on to win the first game 15-12. The Bisons received a scare in the second game when Laval jumped into a 13-5 lead. But Manitoba fought back, correcting their mental mistakes and eventually winning 16-14. The third game was all Manitoba as they dominated Laval in all facets of the game. Making it look easy, the Bisons finished strong with a 15-1 win to take the championship.

The Tigers did well individually as well as on the team level. Travis Murphy led all players with 34 blocks for the tournament and Jody Holden placed fourth in kills behind veterans from Toronto, Laval and Sherbrooke. Brian Rourke was named to the All-Star team, as were Marc Dunn of Toronto, Bruno Oullette of Sherbrooke, Myron Klysh of Manitoba and Gino Brousseau of Laval. The Tournament MVP was Dwayne Osbourne of Manitoba.

The Tigers performance at the Classic, one of the last major tournaments before the CIAU Championships, moved them up to eighth in the national rankings. This puts them in a good position going into the National tournament in March.

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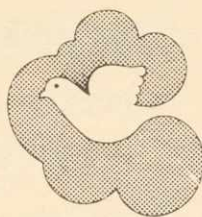
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Application forms available in the council office. Submit to executive vice-president on/before February 5th.

For further information contact:

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Ava Czupalay (v.p. academic)
424-2146