



## Thank goodness for cliches

From the Armchair  
By CRAIG MUNROE

The thrill of victory or the agony of defeat. On how many occasions over the past 25 years have sports fans heard these words spoken in relationship to an athletic event? What originated as an introduction to an extremely successful sports telecast has turned into one of the numerous cliches associated with sport. The number of cliches surrounding our various athletic pastimes is astronomical and they explain or relate to virtually any given situation that arises.

For example, how would we know when the game was over if someone did not tell us to turn off the lights or if the fat lady did not begin to sing? Conversely, how would we know when the game was not over if the King of Cliches had not once said, it's not over til it's over and you're not out until you're out of it?

How would a team be able to record come-from-behind victories if they were not certain that winners never quit and quitters never win or, you gotta believe, or a team of destiny, or how about winning isn't everything, its the only thing?

How would young aspiring baseball players learn to hit if they were not told to hit it where they ain't, or to see the ball and react?

Is someone telling you that competition is unhealthy? Just reply that if winning didn't matter we wouldn't keep score.

Cliches also help to explain the intricacies of various games. It's a game of inches or, the next time

you have to justify violence in a particular sport, just simply say, it's the nature of the game.

Where would our sportscasters be if they had not contrived such statements as: they dodged a bullet there and he better get on his horse?

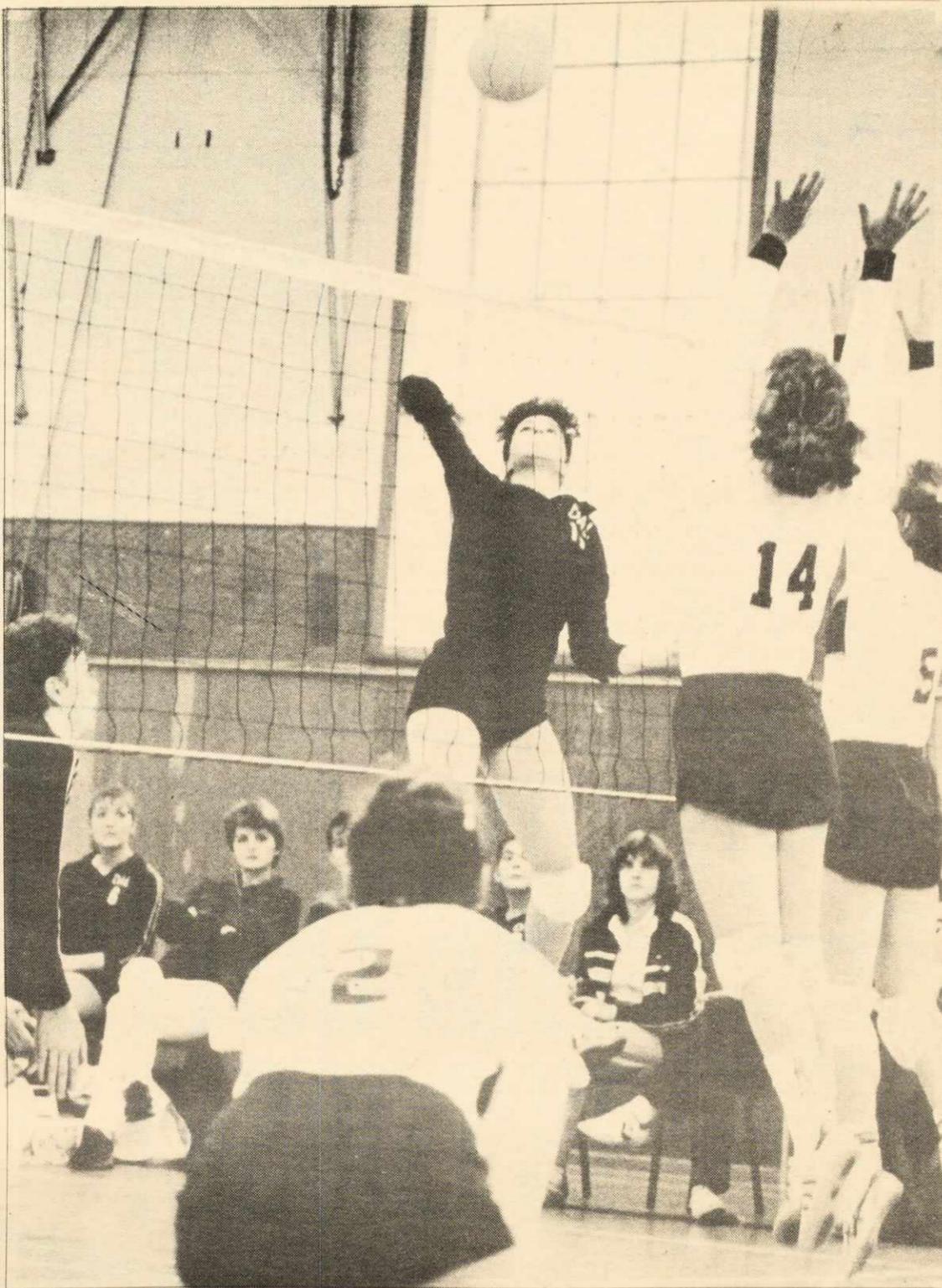
How would coaches be able to perform their duties if someone hadn't once said, it's my way or the highway, or lead, follow or get out of the way?

Cliches tell us about situations in a nutshell (sorry), there's no tomorrow, their backs are against the wall, nothing to lose, and he has all winter to rest.

They tell us who loses: nice guys and they console the distraught fan — there's always next year".

So what do all these cliches mean or do they have any real purpose? Some, in general terms can help teach youngsters valuable lessons. We have all heard the classic; "It matters not if you won or lost but how you played the game". Well, others could no doubt be dissected and proven to have deep rooted meaning that in some cases represent problems in society, what is good in society, or in certain cases, that the originator requires help.

For the sports buff, however, most cliches are simply statements that help make sports the colourful pastime that it is and you have to wonder where we would be without them. God love 'em, every one!



Dalhousie Tigers no. 11 Andrea Borysiuk leaps to spike the ball past the Memorial defenders. Photo by Russ Adams/Dal Photo.

## Tigers Lose Classic

By DEAN GOODMAN

In front of a quiet crowd of about 100 spectators at Sackville High on Friday, October 31, the members of the Dalhousie men's volleyball team were very quiet themselves as they lost their second straight match to the University of Toronto Blues.

The match started slowly, with the first game featuring sloppy play by both teams, including a great number of missed serves and scrambling recoveries. As hard as the Blues tried to give this game away, the Tigers just couldn't take advantage. A spectacular dive by Toronto's Jeff Vermass seemed to wake the Blues up and they blew past the still scrambling Tigers, winning 15-8.

The action picked up in the second game with both teams executing much more efficiently. The Tigers setters, Brian Johnstone and Brian Rourke, were effective and their work led to a number of kills for Jody Holden and Travis Murphy. Rob Taylor and Sean Hiscott, two former provincial team members, showed glimpses of outstanding play, but were basically

ineffective.

Once again mistakes made the difference as a large number of ceiling hits and missed serves spelled the Tigers' downfall. Impressive play by Toronto spiker Marc Dunn and middle blocker Edgar Lueg, backed up with sound play by the rest of the team, allowed the blues to win the second game, 15-6.

In the third game, Dalhousie came to life and challenged the Blues in the early going. With key plays from Brian Johnstone and rookie Jeff Densmore, the Tigers pulled within three points at 8-5. After a great scrambling play by Rob Taylor the Tigers seemed ready to make a move, but a missed serve and several mental mistakes, along with good play from the Toronto veterans, changed the flow of the game and the Blues pulled away, winning 15-7.

The teams played a fourth, exhibition game which was quite exciting. With a number of second stringers in for both sides, the play, though at times scrampily, was spirited and displayed a

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## Dal Sweeps Memorial

By DEAN GOODMAN

In impressive style, the Dalhousie Women's Volleyball team walked over Memorial University in the two matches played this weekend.

In the season opener on Saturday, the Tigers beat Memorial 3-0 and on Sunday the team won 3-0.

The Tiger's opened Sunday's match quickly simply by overpowering the inexperienced Memorial team. Despite their good positional play and the outstanding efforts of Memorial's Donna Mercer, they couldn't get on track and the Tigers, through team effort, blasted their way to a 15-5 victory.

The early part of the second game featured good play, with Memorial, led by Sherry Butler, moving into a 5-2 lead. The score remained at that notch for several minutes as neither team could hold serve. Dalhousie came to life first and moved into the lead with good play from spiker Debbie Merry and middle blocker Paula

Clark. A long string of serves by Canada Games team member Michelle Young allowed the Tigers to take control and they won easily, 15-6.

Memorial came back in the third game, playing excellent scrambling defence. Lori Walsh, another Canada Games team member, kept Dalhousie close with two good hits and some great defensive play. With the score tied at nine, Memorial took control and a 3 pt lead. Two clutch hits from Tiger's Andrea Borysiuk turned the game around, while some key kills by Colleen Doyle, brought the score to 15-14 Tigers. A good tip by setter Janet Rhymes put the game away with the Tigers winning 16-14.

The game star was Dalhousie's Paula Clark with 5 kills and 7 blocking stuffs. Other Tiger standouts were Sandra Rice with 11 kills and 6 blocks, Andrea Borysiuk with 5 kills and 3 blocks and Colleen Doyle with 7 kills and one block.

Coach Karren Fraser felt the team's first two games of the season were a "good experience". "We got a good feel of the play for our first two games." Fraser feels that the team needs to work on their communication on the court so that two players aren't chasing the ball at the same time. As the season progresses, she expects they will think more for themselves on the court in terms of varying speed and finding an empty spot on the opposition's side of the net. "Our serve reception and blocking was good but it's hard to tell because Memorial was such a short team and their attack wasn't strong."

The Newfoundland team consisted of only three returning players which effected their offensive prowess, however their defence did keep them in the game.

The women's volleyball team will see action again when they play two games against UNB over the weekend at Studley Gym.