

Volleyball Tigers edged out of playoffs

by Carmen Tam and Danny MacLeod

The Dalhousie Tigers met Saint Mary's Huskies in women's volleyball action last Wednesday at the Tower in a match which would basically decide who would remain in the playoff hunt and who would realistically be eliminated.

In a hard fought, emotional, battle in which both teams realized the significance of the match, SMU edged out the tigers 3 games to 2. Scores were 15-6, 16-14, 12-15, 13-15, and 10-15. The match saw Dal jump out to a seemingly insurmountable two game lead only to have SMU claw back with three straight wins.

This past weekend the team travelled to New Brunswick with playoff hopes still a remote possibility with a sweep of the N.B. teams. However, it just wasn't meant to be as the Tigers lost their first match to the Mount Allison Mounties three games to none. Scores were 10-15, 12-15, and 6-15. Rookie middle blocker Cherie Campbell led the Tigers with 10 kills, 1 block, and 6 digs.

Sunday's action saw the Tigers rebound and reach the .500 level for the season with a three games to one win over the Université de Moncton. Scores were 15-7, 14-16, 15-9, and 15-8. Second year middle blocker Jenn Parks led the Tigers with an outstanding 22 kills, and 3 stuff blocks. Cherie Campbell continued her strong play with 15 kills compiling a 52% attack efficiency, as well as 8 digs. Dartmouth native and rookie setter Michelle Aucoin also had a strong game with a total of 59 assists for the match.

Sydney native Jenn Parks reflects: "In our last two matches we were playing for pride, and i think we showed a lot of character."

This marked the conclusion of



Cherie Campbell sets up her spike serve.

PHOTO: BILL JENSEN



Middle blocker Jenn Parkes keeps an eye on the ball in AUAA volleyball action.

PHOTO: BILL JENSEN

the season for the women's team. There is reason for optimism as fourth year head coach and former national team member Leslie Irie is quick to point out. The Tigers, in their second year of a rebuilding phase, reached the .500 level with an extremely young and talented core of young players. Up to nine members

of the team are in no more than their second year eligibility, and at least six of these contributed heavily as starters through out the year.

This serves as a warning to the other AUAA teams that the Dal Tigers are a team of potential and will be a force to be reckoned with down the road.



Parks predicts, "We are really looking forward to next year. A lot of young players gained a lot of experience this term, so we have reasons to have high expectations for next season."



Carla MacKenzie



Unidentified Tiger guard eyes her defender.

PHOTO: BILL JENSEN

Bench testing time



by Sam McCaig

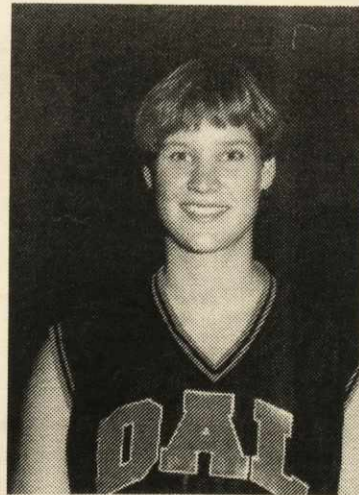
In women's basketball action, the Tigers had a rare weekend off. Their last action was last Thursday night at Dalplex as they shut down the Acadia Axettes by a final score of 63-54.

The 13-2 Tigers cruised to victory against the overmatched 2-12 Axettes. Dalhousie jumped to a 41-27 halftime lead and led by as many as 18 in the second half before settling for the nine point win.

Once again, Carolyn Wares was the big gunner for the Tigers as she pulled the trigger to the tune of 18 points. Corey Ennis also had an impressive showing as she poured in 14.

On the defensive end, the Tigers fell just short of their goal of holding Acadia below 50 points. This was due to a few mental lapses that enabled the Axettes to tighten the score from time to time. In fact, the Axettes climbed to within six points (53-47) with four minutes remaining. However, Dalhousie clamped down and hung in for their third win over Acadia this season. Leading the way defensively for the Tigers was Jennifer Offman as she checked in with another strong game.

Unfortunately, the victory came at a tall price. The Tigers lost the height of Kathie Sanderson's game



Corey Ennis as she went down with a severely sprained left ankle in the second half. Sanderson joins veteran Danielle Moe and Gen MacDonell, both of whom were already sidelined with injuries. Last Tuesday, the Tigers felt the loss when they were defeated by the Saint Mary's Huskies 58-48 at Dalplex. It was Dalhousie's third loss of the season.

Despite the losses of these valuable players, the nationally eighth ranked Tigers boast of a deep bench, and this bench will have to come to the forefront in the upcoming games to maintain Dalhousie's position atop the AUBC. Currently the Tigers remain in first place boosting a 10-3 record with Memorial University 6 points behind.

The Tigers next play on Tuesday, February 21st as they host St. Francis Xavier at 6 p.m. at the Dalplex. St. FX presently resides in fourth place, trailing the Tigers by 10 points.



Jennifer Offman