

Interview with hockey player Marc Warner

BY SCOTT HEPDITCH & JIM STROWBRIDGE

Welcome back hockey fans! We know it is hard to believe, but in less than two weeks time, we will once again see our beloved Tigers back in action. To shed some insight on the upcoming season, we sat down with sophomore forward (and our next-door neighbour) Marc Warner and had a chat. Here is what he had to say:

Q: How was mini-camp during the first week of September?

A: The veterans were very committed with a strong attitude for success. A lot of the fifth-year guys like Keifer House, Brian King, Stephen Maltby, and Corey MacIntyre, who really want it this year, carried a competitive, 'full-out' attitude into the mini-camp, and it set a good example for others.

Q: What are your expectations, for the team as well as personally, for the upcoming season?

A: I thought I had a disappointing rookie season. This year I know my abilities, and when and where to use them to help the team. I am very comfortable with my teammates and the other teams in the league. The fifth-year players are showing good leadership and I hope I will be able to learn from them and use that experience in my remaining years. If the guys come together and play their roles...boys, I'll be buying you each a ticket to TO [each year the CIAU Championship is held in Toronto].

Q: What effect will Coach Tom Coolen's departure have on Acadia's team this year?

A: I can't say that his leaving will have much of an effect because this is only my second year in the league. His name in Acadia helped their recruiting process. [Coolen's] going to an American Hockey League team; [that] will hopefully bring more recognition to the AUAA. People will see that there are more teams than Acadia or Moncton. I hope the publicity around his promotion will bring out more fans to see just how exciting the AUAA is.

Q: Will Coolen's leaving help the Tigers shake the nerves before match-ups against Acadia?

A: I don't think that his leaving will have an effect on our team. I remember the practice prior to the opening game of the division finals; how good of a practice we had, everyone was loose, and that is the key.

Q: What do you think you can do to improve on your horrible 1-7 record against Acadia?

A: A couple of times down in Acadia we just got some bad bounces. The officiating wasn't the best, either. As long as everyone sticks to what is asked of them, we should be successful.

Q: Are you looking forward to starting up the season?

A: Yes! We have our first exhibition game against Acadia on October 10 in Wolfville. The season starts the following weekend against the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI). During the season we will be heading to

Alaska for two exhibition games, to Dartmouth College, and to Yale, Stephen Maltby's old team.

Q: What's new about other teams in the Kelly Division?

A: There is a new coach in St. Francis Xavier. Dan Flynn, former bench-boss of the Sault Greyhound has joined the team. Coolen is gone from Acadia. X-Men star, Dale MacTavish, is now with the national team and won't be playing for his school this year. We lost Dany Bousquet, who also made the jump to the national team, as did Derek Cormier, who played with the University of New Brunswick for the last two years. Saint Mary's University, I expect, will rebound from last season and have a good team.

Q: When will you begin official training camp?

A: Camp opens the first week of October and anyone who thinks they have some talent to add to our team is welcome to come and try-out.

Q: Do you feel that the loss of Trent Gleason, Kevin Miesner, and Alan Cox will make the defense more susceptible? Will this place more emphasis on stronger-skating forwards?

A: We will miss Gleason's shot and aggressive style and Cox's reputation as a big hitter. Both guys will be playing in the East Coast Hockey League this upcoming season. As for Miesy, who is playing in Arizona this year, it will be hard to replace a player of his calibre. He is Dalhousie's all-time leading scorer for defensemen and was co-captain of last year's All-Star Team. However, guys like Martin Lapointe, Pat Russell, Richard Ujvary, James Bugden, and 'Big' Brian King should make it easier for (goalies) Greg Dreveny and Steve Pottie. If everyone fills their roles, there should not be any added emphasis on forwards to play a more defensive style. As far as I am concerned, we have the best one-two goalie combination in the AUAA, possibly in the CIAU.

Q: How good will Moncton be coming off a National Championship?

A: It definitely cannot hurt their program. There will be more recruits aware of the team and their winning season. My number one concern is the success of the Dalhousie Tigers, and we will be taking each team one game at a time.

Q: Will a positive drug test by a Blue Eagle following the National Championship affect attitudes surrounding the AUAA?

A: The only thing I can tell you is...because it was hockey and the AUAA, they [league officials] might be more stringent, I don't know.

We will be following the Tigers throughout the upcoming season. Hope to see you at the rink for some of this area's most exciting hockey action. If anyone has any suggestions or comments for our column, do not hesitate to contact us through the Gazette office (phone # 494-2507).

Remember to keep your head up and your stick down.



Tiger x-country rules the trail

BY JESS FRASER

Dan Hennigar and Chris Halfyard will clearly be the men to look out for this season, following their outstanding 1-2 finish at the St. Francis Xavier Open this past Saturday, September 23.

Hennigar, who recently broke the long standing 1500m N.S. Provincial Record, took an early lead on the 6.6 km rugged, rolling course. Halfyard, a former member of the National Junior cross-country team, and Neil Manson, a transfer student awaiting eligibility, fought a tough race close behind. Hennigar and Halfyard finished a solid stretch ahead of the field, in 21:12 and 21:26, respectively.

Dalhousie's top rookie of the day was local Tim Lindsay, a recent graduate of Prince Andrew High. In the last kilometre of the race, Lindsay came from behind to out-kick a pack of six men, finishing 6th overall in 22:22.

Tony Roache, Lindsay Pucholt, and Christian Murray,

also newcomers this year, followed in 9th, 11th, and 12th, while veterans Trevor Boudreau, Gary Newell, and Scott Fowler took 14th, 15th, and 18th.

The top five men's performances gave them a total of 28 points, followed by the University of New Brunswick with 54, and Université de Moncton with 80.

Coach Al Yarr was extremely impressed with the men's performance in particular, noting, "This is the first time in 9 years that the Dal men have had a lower score than the women."

The cross-country Tigers will be travelling to the AUAA race site, Université de Moncton, on October 7th, to recapture the trails.

Men's Cross-country (6.6km)

1. Dan Hennigar	Dal	21:12
2. Chris Halfyard	Dal	21:26
3. Michel Boudreau	UdM	21:44
4. Murphy	UNB	22:15
5. Tim Lindsay	Dal	22:22
6. Daniel Hipson	St.FX	22:24
7. Andrew Dunphy	UNB	22:28
8. Marc Chisholm	St.FX	22:39
9. Tony Roache	Dal	22:44
10. Dave Fraser	UNB	23:03
11. Andrew Ernest	Dal	N/A
12. Lindsay Puchlot	Dal	N/A
13. Christian Murray	Dal	N/A
14. Trevor Boudreau	Dal	N/A
15. Gary Newell	Dal	N/A

Women's x-country continue to dominate

BY DAN HENNIGAR

For the first time in a decade, it was supposed to be close, but it wasn't. The Dalhousie women's cross-country team has been undefeated in A.U.A.A. competition since 1985, but that dominance looked like it was about to be finally challenged at the season-opening meet last weekend on the St. Francis Xavier (St. FX) campus.

Both St. FX and the University of New Brunswick (UNB), sporting their strongest teams in years, were hoping to take advantage of what appeared to be a weaker than usual Dalhousie squad. Only two of last year's seven team members have returned to compete at Dalhousie this season.

Making matters even more tenuous were the absences of key team members such as Paula Peters, the 1995 C.I.A.U. gold medalist in the 600 meters indoors, and Ashley Evans, the Canadian 10 km champion.

Early in the race, Dalhousie began to take control and it quickly became apparent that this year's Dalhousie team would be just as dominant as their predecessors.

Dalhousie runner Cindy Foley ran with the race leaders for the entire race. She crossed the finish line in third place, only five seconds behind first place.

Julie Dupuis of Université de Moncton, Jessica Fraser, who sat out last year to prepare for the world Tri-athlon Championships in New Zealand, was Dalhousie's second runner.

She finished in fifth position. Margie Jenkins (8th), Cindy Toner (9th), and rookies Ellen Moore (10th) and Krista Wuerr (11th), clinched the meet, crossing the finish line only fifteen seconds apart.

The final score was Dalhousie 35, U.N.B. 53, St. FX. 59 and Université de Moncton 79. The Tigers next competition will be at the Université de Moncton on Saturday, October 7.



Women's Cross-country (4.4km)

1. Julie Dupuis	UdM	16:30
2. Lisa Dunne	St.FX	16:31
3. Cindy Foley	Dal	16:35
4. Beverley White	UNB	17:34
5. Jessica Fraser	Dal	17:38
6. Melonie Spinney	UNB	17:41
7. Ghlee MacKinlay	St.FX	17:48
8. Margie Jenkins	Dal	17:51
9. Cindy Toner	Dal	17:55
10. Ellen Moore	Dal	18:00
11. Krista Wuerr	Dal	18:04