

sports

Men's b-ball battling in second half

by Joe O'Connor

Drifting snow and salty shoelaces, voices hoarse from cheerful holiday indulgences, crumpled report cards, rumours of resolutions...it must be January. There is a dynamic front stirring beneath winter's frosty blan-

ket. A renaissance of sorts, in fact, a renaissance in sports. To my surprise this phenomenon has flourished in anonymity, escaping the watchful eyes of our politically correct, liberal-minded student body. Awake Dalhousie, a new age is dawning, and men's basketball is our Phoenix.

As proof of their arrival the Tigers used the Pepsi Rod Shoveller Memorial Tournament to shake off Yuletide rust and showcase their talents against several formidable opponents. The result, an impressive third place finish, expansive praise and coverage in the local media, and most importantly, Coach Greenlaw's players earned the respect of their AUAA counterparts.

Surfing on the crest of this emotional high the team returned to regular conference action this past week and promptly hammered the beleaguered St. Francis Xavier X-Men at home in Antigonish. Success comes to Dalhousie when the players maintain a sense of focus and play to their strengths. That is, the Tigers are a team that relies on speed and ball

movement to create openings and opportunities. A lapse in this prescribed mantra and we have on our hands a serious case of bad karma.

On Saturday night at the Dalplex our Tigers played host to the UCCB Capers. A second half bout with the ball movement blues undermined a decent overall effort and resulted in a 85-74 defeat. However, the game did not pass without some notable performances for the black and gold. Shawn Plancke, who in his second year is on the brink of all Canadian stardom, contributed 25 points and 10 rebounds. His size and quickness more than adequately compensate for the departure of former standout Dean Thibodeau.

In talking with Coach Greenlaw I asked him to evaluate his team's pros-

pects for success. He was firm in his conviction that the weight of responsibility lay upon the shoulders of veteran guard Shawn Mantley.

"Mantley must score and score consistently each night for us to have a good chance of winning."

Well, there you have it, Shawn Mantley has his responsibility, and we as fans have ours.

On Tuesday, January 25, at 8 pm, tear yourself away from the maddening pressure of university life and come out and watch as Dalhousie plays host to St. F. X.

The good things in life are still free.

Hockey team downs St. FX

by Sam McCaig

The Tiger Train just keeps on rolling.

1994 has seen the hockey Tigers skate their way to a perfect 3-0 record in league play, improving their overall standing to 8-2-4.

The Tigers are at home for two games this weekend. Saturday, they host Mount Allison at 7 pm while Sunday they tangle with UNB. That game is a 3 pm start.

The latest victim was the pre-season CIAU favourite St. Francis Xavier X-Men. Playing for a crowd of 600 at the pond in Antigonish, Dalhousie sent the hometown fans away disappointed by claiming a 5-4 victory.

Leading the way for the Tigers was veteran George Wilcox, who scored twice and also chipped in with two helpers.

St. Francis used their home-ice advantage by jumping to a 2-0 lead before the game was six minutes old. However, Dalhousie battled back to tie the match on tallies by Anthony MacAulay and Wilcox. Not to be outdone, X-Man Dan Leblanc gave his team a 3-2 edge by scoring late in the first.

Dalhousie rose to the occasion in the second by firing three unanswered goals. Linemates Joe Suk and Ken MacDermid each popped one to give the Tigers a 4-3 lead and George Wilcox scored what proved to be the game-winner at 19:53.

Duane Saulnier put the X-Men within one just seven seconds into the third frame, but that was as close as St. Francis would come and the tilt ended in Dalhousie's favour at a 5-4 count.

Goalie Greg Dreveny made twenty-nine saves for the victory.

So now you're probably wondering, "Where can I, a fierce Tiger fan, witness this rising juggernaut of a hockey squad?"

My advice to you, a fierce Tiger fan, would be to show up at Dalhousie's own Memorial Arena this Saturday, January 22, and maybe, just maybe, you will be able to witness the carnage first-hand as the Mount Allison Mounties (1-15-1) are being offered up for sacrifice.

The ancient Romans had the Christians versus the Lions; 2000 years later you've got the Mounties versus the Tigers. Hey, the more things change, the more they stay the same...



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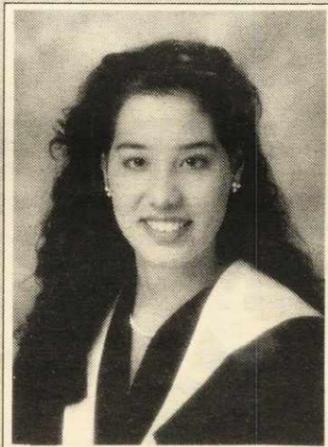
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