

A Dal coach for all seasons

BY NIK MADAN.

"Keep the change," I yell, as I stagger out of the cab, and run into the Dalhousie Memorial Arena. I'm late for an interview with Darrell Young, head coach of the hockey Tigers. He accepts my mumbled apology with a smile and a wave of the hand. I feel immediately at ease. I wait a couple of minutes for him to deal with the lineup of people waiting to speak to him. When he's done, he smiles again. We walk over to Robin's for a cup of coffee. Before we reach the counter, he's stopped to acknowledge greetings from two people. I'm already losing patience, but Darrell takes it all in his stride. His manner is always the same, polite and respectful.

At a table in the cafeteria, he throws his head back and laughs. It's an infectious laugh, full of warmth. He's been telling me about his "Uncle" Bruce, who has lived with the family for about forty years. "We're not related by blood or anything. He's just always been there, and we've always looked after him."

Looking out for family is something Darrell Young has grown up with. For the first years of his life, he lived with his parents, five brothers and sisters, and Uncle Bruce in a two bedroom house in Halifax's North End. He tells me proudly how no one in his family ever got into trouble with the law, and how five out of the six children went to university, despite their environment. He cites the influence of his parents as the main reason for this.

"It's all about making sacrifices to get where you want. My father would get up at five every morning, and walk my brother and I down to the Forum so we could practice. He'd do our paper route for us, and then pick us up and walk us home, before going to work at eight."

Just like me, Darrell likes to

talk. For one of the few times in my life, however, I find myself contented to sit back and listen. I am entranced. The easy laughter and the twinkling eyes have a quality all their own. He's been talking for ten minutes now, and neither of us have touched our coffee.

Darrell tries to convey this sense of family to his team. He encourages them to spend time together off the ice, and to help and support one another as much as possible. Thus, in recruiting players, he cites character as the most important quality that he looks for. He tells me about a talented player that he cut from the team a few years ago, because he didn't have the right character.

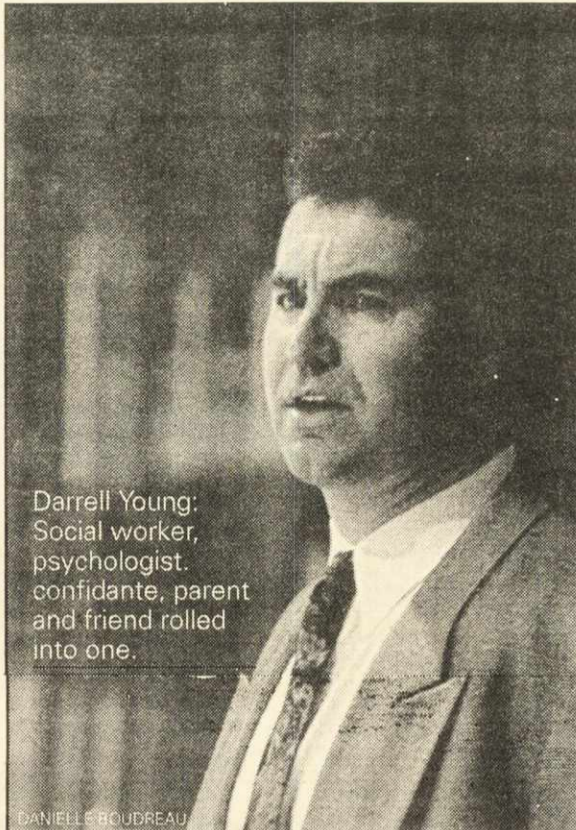
"The guy transferred to another school, and went on to become CIAU Player of the Year. People gave me a lot of stick about it. I have no regrets. The guy wasn't right for our team."

He pauses to sip his coffee, and looks at me quizzically. I decide not to say anything, and wait for his reaction. I'm not in the least bit surprised when he decides to continue talking.

"I usually bring my kids out to practices. It helps to relieve stress, for me and the team. The guys like joking around with Connor. He loves to shoot on the goalies." Before I have a chance to ask, he's anticipated the question. "He's four years old, and Mackenzie's seventeen months." The ready smile is there again.

I ask him what he expects from his players. He has an instant answer.

"Dalhousie is not an easy place to play, by any means. We have



Darrell Young: Social worker, psychologist, confidante, parent and friend rolled into one.

DANIELLE BOUDREAU

high expectations of our team, both as players and men. We need players who are willing to work hard, and who will represent their school and their community to the best of their ability."

Without my asking, he explains further. Only one player has failed in the last twelve years, and he thinks that's one too many. Three of his former players from the last two years are now coaching kids' teams, and thirty-six have made it to the professional ranks.

This is where he sees the real success of his hockey program. It's not the number of division titles that concern him, but rather how much his players come away from Dalhousie being both the best student and the best player they can be.

"If you asked me to choose between winning the CIAU title, and having one athlete not gradu-

ate, it would be no contest. My responsibility is to make sure the athlete graduates."

I ask him how he would describe his job. His answer surprises me, because he doesn't mention hockey once.

"We try to teach the guys life skills. Things like accountability, responsibility, setting goals, and how to achieve and maintain them."

"That's something that's missing at university. No professor can have the same amount of involvement with his students as a coach can."

Darrell takes it upon himself to fill this void. He sees himself as a social worker, psychologist, confidante, parent and friend rolled into one. "I probably only spend ten per cent of my day coaching," he adds.

If you think this emphasis on off-ice activities takes away from his coaching, then you couldn't be further from the truth.

According to his fellow coaches, he is the best. Last week, Darrell was picked to coach the CIAU All-Star team at the World University Hockey Championships in Detroit next April. This effectively puts Darrell at the pinnacle of his university career.

I ask if he has any plans to move on, and coach at a professional level. For the first time, the smile disappears. He looks a little upset. It's not a question of moving on, he tells me. He leans forward now, and looks me straight in the eye.

"The only measure of success is yourself. You have to find challenges within yourself. You don't have to coach in the NHL to be

successful. Anyone who measures success that way is using the wrong measuring stick."

I realize that this was the wrong question to ask. Dalhousie without Darrell would be like the Bulls without Jordan - just not right. This is the man, after all, who attended Dalhousie, played for the Tigers, has coached here for twelve years, and who spends his spare time attending plays, soccer games, basketball games and volleyball games at Dal. This is the man who has turned down at least five job offers in the States and Europe in the last couple of years.

"My friends call me Dalhousie Darrell," he says rather ruefully. No kidding.

So it was somewhat surprising to learn that his wife, Glorianne, attended Saint Mary's.

"No big deal," he jokes. "All SMU girls look for Dal men. They're the best kind."

Darrell leans back in his seat, and gulps his coffee. The grin is back.

I'm being more careful now. "So you like Halifax?" I ask.

"Oh yeah," comes the instant reply. "My family is here. My wife's family is here. That's why I won't leave. It's important for the kids to see their grandparents every day. Sometimes you have to sacrifice the short term advantages, more money in the States or whatever, for long term gain."

My time is up. We've been talking for over an hour, and I know he has a meeting to go to, but I want to stay and talk all day. We stop in at Robin's for more coffee.

"Hi Darrell," chorus the women behind the counter.

"Good Morning, ladies," he replies. He exchanges a joke or two before we leave. I can still hear them laughing as we get outside. He thanks me, and walks quickly towards his office, and I...well, I just walk. For once in my life, I feel that I have learned something.

Moncton hands women first loss

BY NATALIE MACLELLAN

The Dalhousie women's volleyball team has held on to third place in the AUA and are in great position heading into Christmas break. The Tigers are boasting a 5-1 record, after suffering their first regular season loss Sunday against Université de Moncton.

Dal trounced Acadia in three straight sets last Wednesday evening at the Dalplex. The women took the match 15-12, 15-6, and 15-5. Cara MacKenzie was named player of the game, contributing 2.36 (out of three) serve receive and 8 digs. Kia Johansen was also impressive, pounding out a 70% kill efficiency.

The Tigers were off to New Brunswick for the weekend where they faced off against Mount Allison on Saturday. The Mounties put up a good fight, but the Black and Gold were stronger

and took the match in 5 sets: 15-12, 8-15, 13-15, 15-8, and 15-11. Alicia MacFarlane hit hard with 44% kill efficiency and setter Michelle AuCoin contributed 46 assists.

With a five-game winning streak behind them, Dalhousie was off to play the second place team in the AUA, the Université de Moncton. It was here that their luck ran out. Moncton dominated, taking the match in three sets: 15-13, 15-11, and 15-7. Fighting hard for the Tigers were Denise Chapman and Jenn Parkes, each with two service aces and incredible blocking — 3 straight for Chapman and 5 straight for Parkes.

Look forward to some more great ball from the women in the new year. They'll be hosting first place Saint Mary's at the Dalplex, January 15.

need a job???

GAZETTE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Gazette is looking for two distribution managers, January till early April. Vehicle required **Each position earns \$45. a week** (for approximately four hours of work). For more information call Shelley at 494-2507. To apply, drop off a letter stating interest, qualifications and commitment to the Gazette Office, Room 312 of the Student Union Building.

\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$