

Woman's basketball Tigers preview

by Lisa Timpf

This year's edition of the Dalhousie Tigers' women's basketball team will be marked by "youth, depth and outstanding young players," in the words of head coach Carolyn Savoy.

Only five veterans are returning, but Savoy looks to these five as having the potential to help lead Dal to an AUAA title.

Veteran Heather MacLean, as the oldest Dal player, is expected to show leadership to the young

squad. MacLean, in her fourth year of Physical Education at Dal, played her high school ball with the Sydney Academy, and hails from Sydney, Nova Scotia.

Deb Claringbold, a third-year Commerce student, will also

bring experience to the team. "Expect Deb to be a starter in the two (guard) position," said Coach Savoy, "and a team leader as well."

Claringbold played her high school ball in Ottawa, and was a member of both the Ottawa Valley High School champions and the Ontario provincial senior champions.

Lisa Briggs and Shelley Slater, a pair of second-year players, were members of the New Brunswick Junior Provincial team, which this summer placed fourth at the Canadian Junior Nationals.

Slater, a native of Moncton, New Brunswick, is expected by Savoy to be "one of the leaders in the AUAA and on the Dal team in scoring and rebounding." She was the team captain of the New Brunswick Juniors.

Briggs, who Savoy says "had an outstanding freshman year as a Tiger," was also a member of the Woodstock High New Brunswick AA Champions as a high school player, and Savoy looks to her to provide scoring and rebounding power.

Angela Cauley, a second-year Arts student, rounds out the veterans. "Angie will be the starting point guard," said Savoy. "She'll be expected to be a team leader in that position."

This year's rookies include two more members of the New Brunswick Junior Team, Sherry Thuroutt and Christa Wheeler. Thuroutt and Wheeler are both from Moncton, New Brunswick. Thuroutt was a New Brunswick All-Star in high school, and is an "exceptional passer and good shooter," according to Savoy. Wheeler, a three-year member of the New Brunswick team, is a post player and is "expected to be a rugged rebounder."

Rookie Alice Cerny, a native of Halifax, played her high school ball at Queen Elizabeth High School, winners of last year's Nova Scotia Headmaster's Championship—with Cerny scoring the winning basket at the buzzer. A Nova Scotia MVP in high school, Cerny was also a member of the Nova Scotia Junior Provincial team, and a recipient of several MVP honours.

Cerny's talents are not confined to the basketball court—she is on an academic scholarship at Dal.

Peggy MacLean, from St. Peter's Bay, Prince Edward Island, was a member of the PEI Junior provincial team for a year. She plays the number three position (wing forward)—only fitting since that position has been exploited successfully by another Tiger originally from PEI, Anna Pendergast.

MacLean, a "good shooter" in coach Savoy's words, was on the PEI high school championship team, and a PEI All-Star as well.

Lynn Durkee, from Salmon Arm, comes to Dal as a transfer student. In third year Arts, Durkee played some basketball in

the United States before coming to Halifax. Last year, she was a member of the Red Fox Senior Ladies' Team.

Durkee is a "strong inside player and rebounder," says coach Savoy.

Sue Beaman, from Saint John, New Brunswick, is a point guard who plays an "excellent running game" and is a "quick passer." Sue is also a graduate of the same high school as coach Savoy.

Nadine Crowley, a Toronto, Ontario native, rounds out the rookie parade. Crowley, a point guard, was a Peel County all-star in high school, and is a "very quick player, an exciting player," in Savoy's words.

In the coaching corner, Dal has former Tiger star Anna Pendergast as assistant coach, and Carolyn Savoy as head coach.

Savoy, in her seventh year as Dalhousie women's basketball mentor, played varsity basketball at the University of New Brunswick. She has coached both basketball and field hockey at St. Francis Xavier University from 1969-71 and 1972-77, and coached both sports as well at Dalhousie for two years. In 1979, she began to concentrate her coaching efforts exclusively on basketball, serving, in addition to her duties at Dal, as Assistant Junior National Coach in 1979 and Junior National Coach for Nova Scotia in 1980.

In 1981-82, Savoy was voted as AUAA Coach-of-the-Year for women's basketball.

Assistant coach Anna Pendergast, a member of Canada's national women's basketball team, has been recognized while a Dal player as a first- and second-team All-Canadian, and a CIAU All-Star, and was the AUAA MVP two years in a row.

She brings to the job both technical expertise and coaching experience.

Coach Savoy expects this year's Dal team to be a threat "for many years to come."

"Nine players have three or four years of eligibility left," she explained. "Hopefully, the fans will come out and get to know the team now."

"Many of the players could be AUAA All-Stars or even All-Canadians—the potential is there," she said. "Now we have to see if the potential can be brought out."

The University of New Brunswick will, as always, be Dal's primary opposition in the AUAA. The CIAU championships are slated for March at the University of Manitoba, and the Tigers hope to be there.

"Look for the Tigers to fast break, play exciting ball, press, and thrill the fans," Savoy concluded. "All twelve of them can do it."



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