

# Women's hockey: Provincial picture

By LISA TIMPF

THE BIG BLACK BANNER IN the Dalhousie Memorial Arena proclaims "Dalhousie Tigers Hockey" in bold gold lettering while the Tiger logo shows its teeth.

For most people, the image of Tigers' hockey is confined to men on skates. The existence of the Dal women's hockey club resembles a well-kept secret, or so one would surmise as one of two spectators viewing the women being put through their paces by coach Kim Houston in a deathly quiet arena at 11 pm on a Friday night.

While they may not have as high a profile as their male counterparts, the women's team, ironically, is headed for national-level competition—the women's ice hockey Canadian championships. The event, slated for Summerside, PEI, March 20-25, will feature representative teams from all ten provinces squaring off to contest national honours.

Shopper's Drug Mart is again sponsoring the event, as they have for the past three years. In fact, the company recently entered a new three-year agreement to continue to support the women's event.

That, according to Dal women's hockey club president Lynn Hackett, is good news for women's hockey.

Provincially, the sport is struggling to encourage increased interest among women, but finds itself in competition for players with ringette, broomball, and other sports.

Costs of ice time are prohibitive, making it extremely difficult for new teams to operate outside of the aegis of university club systems—hence the reason for the only two registered women's teams in the province being Dalhousie and Acadia.

The Dal club has seen increased participation this year. Twenty-two skaters started the season with Dal, and eighteen will be making the trek to the Nationals.

"Last year, we had to go looking for players at this time of year," says Hackett.

She would like to see more women out for the team next year.

"If we could get thirty girls involved, we could set up two teams," she says. "Then pull the best fifteen out for tournaments and championships..."

Anyone interested in joining the club next year can contact Hackett at 455-5804 (home) or 445-5325 (work) for more information.

## Women's hockey club tunes up

"IF WE GO TO PLAY GOOD hockey, we'll turn some heads," says Kim Houston, coach of the Dalhousie women's hockey club.

The Dal squad is preparing for the National championships in Summerside, Prince Edward Island, March 20-25. Houston hopes the team can improve over last year's performance, which saw them garner one win.

A key to the team's prospects will be their ability to cut down their goals-against average. Houston is optimistic about the possibility, noting that all four defensive players are experienced and have improved over the course of the season.

He is also confident about the ability of netminders Barb MacAuley and Terry Dick to keep the goals against average down, but is concerned about the scoring output from the forwards.

"We've been getting quality scoring chances, but we've been inconsistent in capitalizing on them," says Houston.

In exhibition action on Sunday, the Dal team tied Oxford Junior High 3-3.

Mick DeCeone scored Dal's first goal on a shot from the point, and Trish Selig added a second.

Heather McLean scored on an end to end rush with two and a half minutes remaining to put Dal in the lead 3-2, but Oxford came back to tie the game with 15 seconds left.

"(Goaltender) Barb MacAuley did an excellent job," said coach Houston. "She directed the rebounds well and covered up on the puck."

Dal's next opposition this Sunday, is against Major Stevens Junior High.

The Dal club will also put on a short exhibition game between the second and third periods of the Nova Scotia Oilers game Sunday.

## Final four beer bash

By CARLA CHAMPION

FOR THOSE FANS WHO enjoy beer as much as basketball, don't miss the Final Four Beer Bash following Saturday's CIAU Championship game.

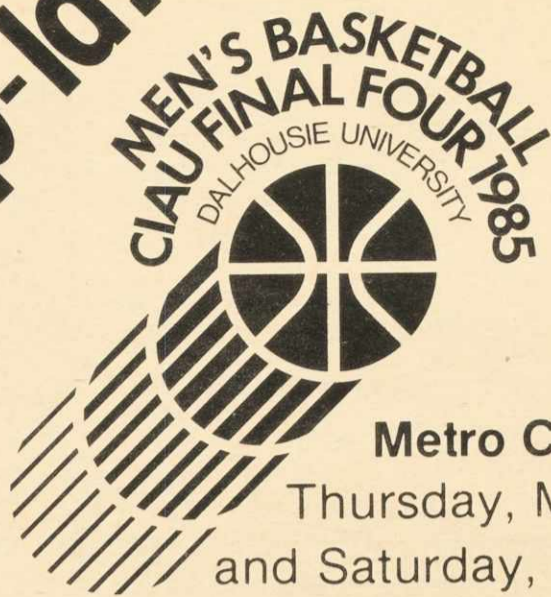
My Secretary's (below the Misty Moon) is more than well equipped for an enjoyable evening. Good food, great music, and a large dance floor and video

screen are the ingredients for fun-filled entertainment.

The Bash runs from 5:00—9:00 pm, with no expectations for cover charge. Those who wish to continue partying can do so till closing time at 1:00 am.

Both fans and players can top off the excitement of the best basketball in Canada and join the celebration at the Final Four Beer Bash.

Hoop-lal!



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\$10/day - Adults

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...be there at 10:00 PM and be eligible for our drawing for a  
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...also Alexander's Pizzas only \$2.25/each

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(11:30 - 2:30) —Steak n' eggs with toast & homefries,  
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DURING SATURDAY MATINEES (3:00-7:00 PM)

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