



Cinderella run by Tigers comes to an end in AUAA Final

BY MATT FELTHAM AND SUMANT KUMAR

Little was expected of the seventh-ranked Dalhousie Tigers entering this weekend's AUAA finals. However, they proved many critics wrong by pulling off two consecutive upsets, before eventually losing to the Acadia Axemen 73-66 in Sunday's championship final.

**DALHOUSIE (7) 77
SAINT MARY'S (2) 66
(OT)**

[QUARTER-FINAL]

Dalhousie All-Canadian Brian Parker was obviously feeling shafted after losing out to Acadia's Jan Trojanowski in AUAA MVP voting, and had something to prove voters and fans alike. In one of the most impressive all-round performances of the season, Brian lit up the Huskies for 29 points, 16 rebounds (a career high), and 6 steals.

In an evenly played first half, the teams entered the dressing room with SMU having a slight 37-34 lead. After the break, this lead was



Three-time All-Canadian Brian Parker attempts a three-point shot as Acadia's Chris Cain looks on. (Photo by Luke Dobek)

stretched to 7 points and it looked like the Huskies may have been on a roll. However, Parker wouldn't let the game go, nailing two consecutive 3-pointers in a 30-second span. From here, the lead changed hands on numerous occasions and, with ten seconds remaining, SMU was clinging to a 64-63 lead. After a Parker miss, Tiger forward Dale Jackson was fouled on the put-back with only eight seconds remaining. Jackson hit on one of two free throws, pulling the Tigers even and overtime seemed inevitable. However, SMU was given one last chance for victory as guard Jonah Taussig was sent to the line after a Dalhousie foul by Paul Williscroft. Thanks to the relentless screaming and antics of the "inspired" Dal fans, Taussig, an AUAA All-Star, choked royally and sent the game into overtime.

In the extra period, Dalhousie completely dominated play, outscoring the Huskies 13-2, with 11 points coming from the free throw line. In addition to Parker, Tremayne Howe had an outstanding game, scoring 26 points. The Tigers also dominated the glass by a count of 60-31 with Williscroft and David Mullally grabbing 14 and 13, respectively. Patrick Toulouse was the leading scorer for SMU with 18 points and 11 rebounds.

**DALHOUSIE (7) 70
UCCB (3) 60
[SEMI-FINAL]**

After defeating the Tigers three times prior to their semifinal encounter, the UCCB Capers were obviously a confident bunch and this showed as they waltzed through their warm-up. On the other hand, the Tigers were ready to go after their huge SMU victory the night before.

Straight from the tipoff,

Dalhousie took control and led 36-24 at half-time. In the second half, the domination continued as the Tigers were able to extend their lead to 24 points. Despite strong play by Dave Phillip, the Capers could not get back into this contest and the Tigers easily secured the victory. Howe led all scorers with 27 points while Dave Mullally scored 17 and grabbed 6 rebounds in 27 minutes. Paul Williscroft had an outstanding game off the bench, controlling the boards for 15 rebounds. Phillip led the Capers with 25 points and 14 rebounds.

**ACADIA (1) 73
DALHOUSIE (7) 66
[FINAL]**

The Tigers' improbable run unfortunately came to an end as the Acadia Axemen were crowned the AUAA champions at the Metro



Paul Williscroft attempts a three-point over UCCB's Kirt Mombourquette. (Photo by Luke Dobek)

Centre in front of 6000 fans.

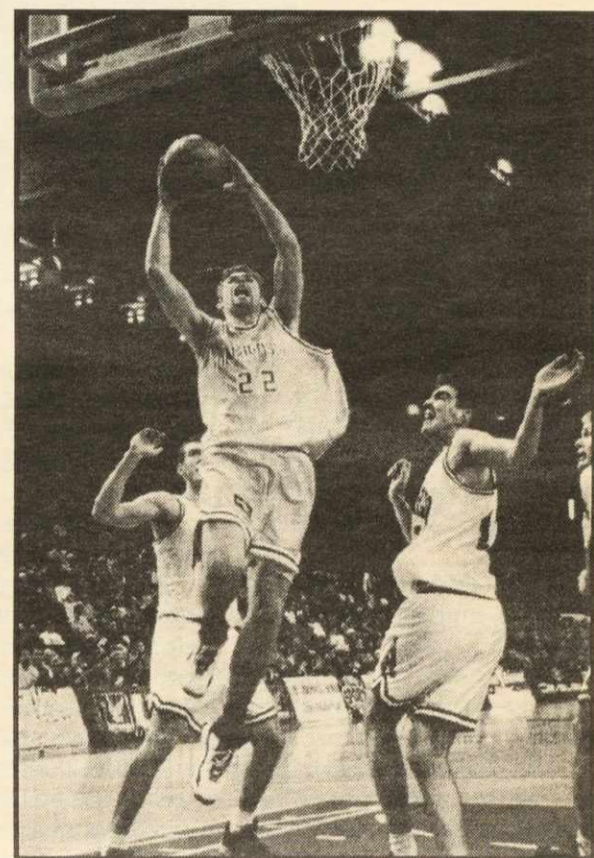
The Axemen jumped out to an early lead and, despite a strong effort by the Tigers, held a 37-30 lead at half time. Six minutes into

the second half, the Axemen went on a 9-2 run to lead 54-43, and it looked like the game may have been over. With ten minutes remaining, Axeman guard JP Fleurantin blatantly fouled Parker, leading to a scuffle in front of the Dalhousie students' section. For some odd reason, the 85-year-old security guards made matters worse by running in front of the Dal fans believing they may join the fray. Luckily, all Dalhousie students acted in an appropriate and respectable manner.

This scuffle seemed to inspire Parker as he went on a 10-2 run by himself to the give the Tigers their first lead of the game, 60-58 with 3:50 remaining. However, Acadia, led by the strong play of Derek Cotton, went on an 8-0 run to go up by six with 1:30 remaining. Tiger forward, Williscroft brought the Tigers to within three with a minute to go by nailing a three-pointer but this was the closest the Tigers could get as the Axemen made all their free throws, earning their trip back to Halifax this

weekend to compete in the nationals.

Trojanowski led the Axemen by scoring 26 points and grabbing 14 rebounds. In Parker's last game in a Dalhousie uniform, he scored 23 points, seven assists and committed



Paul Williscroft pulls down a rebound in the AUAA Championship final as Acadia's (l to r) Jan Trojanowski, Derek Cotton and Jim O'Grady look on. (Photo by Luke Dobek)

no turnovers, an incredible statistic considering it was against Canada's top defensive team. For his outstanding play this weekend, Parker was selected as playoff MVP, a fitting send-off for the soon-to-be three-time All-Canadian.

Laurentian leads the field at this weekend's Nationals

BY SUMANT KUMAR AND MATT FELTHAM

With their victory in this past weekend's AUAA Championship, the Acadia Axemen earned fifth-seeding and a date with the McMaster Marauders at 7pm on Friday. The Marauders, the one-time top-ranked team, are one of two wild card entries in this year's tournament. They will be led by All-Canadian candidate Titus Channer and outstanding rookie Rodney Baptiste.

The other wild card slot was handed to perennial power seventh-ranked Alberta Golden Bears who will face the second-seeded Quebec champions, the Bishops Gaitors in the 1pm game.

The 3pm game will feature the defending national and current Canada West champions, the third-seeded University of Victoria — featuring former Player of the Year Eric Hinrichsen — and fan favourites the Brandon Bobcats, ranked sixth and led by Shawn Gray. The Bobcats, champions of the Great Plains Conference, are making an unprecedented twelfth straight appearance in Halifax.

The final game of the night, at 9pm, will feature Canada's top-ranked team, the Laurentian Voyageurs, and the University of Waterloo who are the champions of the OUAA West. The Voyageurs are led by OUAA East Player of the Year Ted Dongelmans, a one-time Dalhousie Tiger.

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