

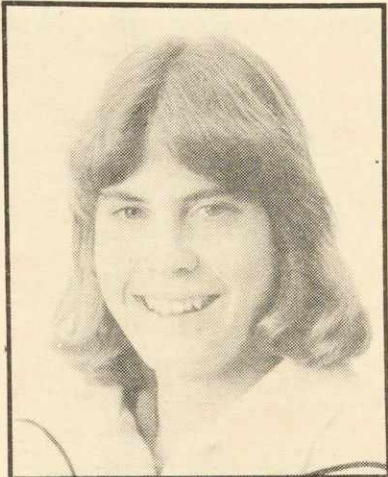
# Dal serves up volleyball classic

by Barry Dorey

The Dalhousie Volleyball Classic, billed as one of the country's premier tournaments, won't be tarnished this weekend as many of Canada's top men and women volleyballers meet at the Dalplex. The George Mason Patriots of Fairfax, Virginia, on the men's side and the host Dalhousie women are back to defend the titles they won in last year's Classic against seven challengers.

The tenth annual tourney gets underway against seven challengers, including the Dal men's first outing against the Regina Cougars. Dal head coach Al Scott is confident his seventh-ranked squad, along with the NCAA East's top-ranked team from Fairfax, will go through to the championship round from Pool C.

Dalhousie, looking to improve on its fourth-place finish at the CIAU finals last year, has eight returning players, including perennial AUAA All-Star and All-



**WOMEN'S COACH: Karen Fraser**

Canadian pick Brian Rourke. The fifth-year player leads a talented cast that boasts AUAA All-Star middle blocker Travis Murphy AUAA playoff MVP Jody Holden and two-time All-Star Brian Johnstone. Coach Scott said the Tigers and the George Mason team "should be duking it out for first in that

pool". The American contingent, under the school's only coach since 1974, Wayne Stalick, finished fourth at the NCAA finals last year and look strong with returning Classic All-Stars Efrain Lopez and Kris Grunwald. The University of New Brunswick Rebels, in what Scott called a "transition mode" after the loss of several starters, are the fourth team in the pool.

On the women's side, the 1989 Classic marks the return of a full slate of women's teams.

"Last year, we had only five teams and it's nice to bring back the calibre of teams and have a really competitive women's division," said Dal coach Karen Fraser.

The defending champion Tigers and number-three ranked Laval head Pool A. Laval, behind ex-national team members Josee Lebel and Guylaine Dumont, dominate games. The Tigers, who face the Rouge et Or at 9:00 on Friday, will expect big things from team MVP and All-Canadian Colleen Doyle, Sandra Rice, an All-Star at last week's Carleton Invitational, and Deanne Delvallet, an impressive rookie. Coach Fraser said added depth will give her more options from the bench. Saint Mary's Huskies, surprisingly strong for their first year in the AUAA circuit, and the Carleton Robins, led by Dartmouth native Marilyn Johnston, complete Pool A.

In Pool B, the seventh-ranked York Yeowomen and the Moncton Blue Angels, whom Coach Fraser said "deserve to be ranked in the top 10", should be the class of the field. AUAA All-Stars Julie Godin and Julie Robichaud and national team member Hubert Jaillet lead the UDM team, which coach Fraser says "doesn't have any weaknesses". The improved Brock Badgers, making their Classic debut, and the Mount Allison Mounties, laden with young talent, round out this second pool.

*The championship round starts Saturday at 5:30. The Men's final is at 11:30 a.m., the Women's at 1:00 p.m. Sunday.*

## B'ball Tigers lose

by Brian Lennox

If there is one certainty in AUAA women's basketball, it's that the University of Prince Edward Island Panthers have an incredible home court advantage. The Panthers are always tough but at home they are almost unbeatable. On Sunday the Dalhousie Tigers lost 67-54 to the Panthers.

The women's team entered the game ranked tenth in the nation, an extremely low ranking for a team that has beaten two top-eight teams. Following an easy win against St. Francis Xavier on Friday night, the Tigers went to Charlottetown looking to avenge two earlier losses to the Panthers. Early on it looked as if the Tigers might pull an upset as they led by as many as nine points in the first

half. Unfortunately, PEI got into the bonus in the first half and were at the foul line much of the first half. PEI does use a very effective full-court press and they create many turnovers.

In the second half, PEI went ahead by eight points. Head coach Carolyn Savoy thought the unforced turnovers the Tigers had really hurt them. However, poor officiating at PEI helped the Panthers' cause. In fact, the pathetic referee situation at UPEI has been around for a number of years. Any team playing at UPEI is essentially down 10-12 point before the game even begins.

The problem at UPEI is really out of hand, and there is concern players could get hurt because of poor officiating. The AUAA must do something about the lack of quality officiating at UPEI.

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