

# Baseball growing at Dal

BY CARMEN TAM

Dalhousie University Baseball, in its third year of operation, had another successful season, capturing their second AUAA Fall Classic title and making their third-consecutive appearance at the Canadian nationals.

Last month, the Canadian Intercollegiate Baseball Association (CIBA) announced that the national tournament will be held in Kentville, Nova Scotia after stints in Montreal and St. Catherines, Ontario. The winner of the Fall Classic will

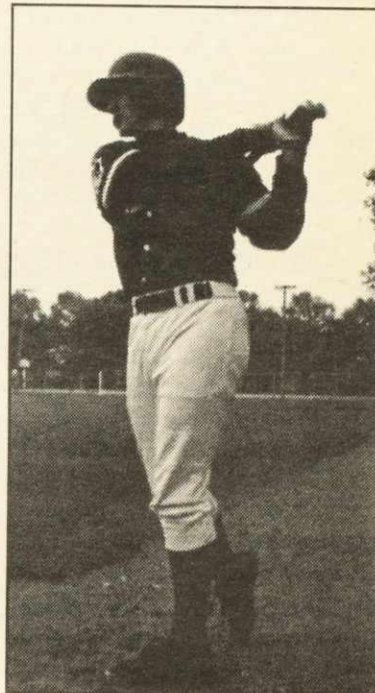
represent the Atlantic Division in Kentville in October.

The four-team conference, consisting of Dal, Acadia, UCCB and Saint Mary's, is expected to expand this year as other universities have expressed interest in fielding a team.

Dalhousie Baseball will be hosting two three-day instructional clinics, one starting May 23 and another in September. These camps will be geared toward Mosquito and Bantam-aged players. Each athlete will receive 10 hours of instruction at \$50 per player. The clinics will be run by current and former Dal baseball standouts, including CIBA all-stars Jason Irvine, Trevor Wamback and MVP Craig Higgins, who were all part of Dalhousie's 1996 national championship team.

Tryouts for the Tigers will be in early September 1998. The team is currently accepting applications for the positions of head coach and assistant coaches for the 1998-'99 season. Please send a resume and any inquiries to PO Box 22150

Halifax, Nova Scotia B3L 4T7. The application deadline is April 17, 1998.



Dal's lead-off hitter Billy MacKenzie practices his swing at Nationals last October. (Photo by Viv Tomar)



## MLB preview 1998

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Jose Valentin, Jeromy Burnitz and David Nilsson.

The most interesting name on the Cincinnati Reds' roster is not a player. Manager Jack McKeon walked in last year and turned around a directionless team. The Reds don't have a starting lineup of any note, but their relief core is excellent. Jeff Shaw and Stan Belinda are a solid one-two punch that locks away any eighth-inning lead. Barry Larkin, Reggie Sanders, and Mel Nieves provide the punch but the Reds could use a lot more.

The payroll of the Pittsburgh Pirates has crept dangerously high, approaching \$15 million. In comparison, every team which finished above .500 last year had a payroll of at least \$33 million. With the Cardinals, Astros and Brewers all spending money, the Pirates can just forget it.

### National League West

This is arguably one of the most exciting divisions in baseball. There are four teams here, each with high payrolls and great top-to-bottom lineups. There is absolutely no doubt that this year's wildcard team will come from this division. As always, the deciding factor will be pitching. Some have it, some don't.

The Los Angeles Dodgers are the only team in the division who are solid throughout their roster. Its consistency will hold them together. The starting rotation is anchored by Ramon Martinez, Chan Ho Park and Hideo Nomo. Antonio Osuna and Scott Radinsky are the heart of a strong bullpen. Mike Piazza is the best catcher in the majors. Todd Zeile and the injured Eric Karros man the hot corners, while Eric Young is a solid lead off-hitter. Raul Mondesi's arm in right is amazing combined with 30/30 numbers, making him a team star.

The San Diego Padres have come a long way under John Moore's ownership. Florida ace Kevin Brown was bought to lead the rotation. Andy Ashby has tremendous potential while Pete Smith is incredibly reliable. Ken Caminiti and Wally Joyner are both productive infielders and solid leaders. The almost inhuman Tony Gwynn is back again and solid as ever. Greg Vaughn is in an almost pressureless situation. He could resurrect the Vaughn of old.

The Colorado Rockies have all the hallmarks for a successful team, but the question is whether they have enough of them. The Rocks won the Darryl Kile sweepstakes and he will

join Pedro Astacio and Kevin Ritz. The bullpen is gambling on Jerry Dipoto to produce in line with his second half last year. The Rocks had one of the best infields in baseball pillaged last year. Todd Helton and Neifi Perez are the new kids in town and they join exciting Montreal veteran Mike Lansing and the amazing Vinny Castilla. Colorado still has the best outfield in the game with Larry Walker, Ellis Burks and Dante Bichette all providing punch. No shortage in offense here, but a lot of pitching questions after Kile and Astacio.

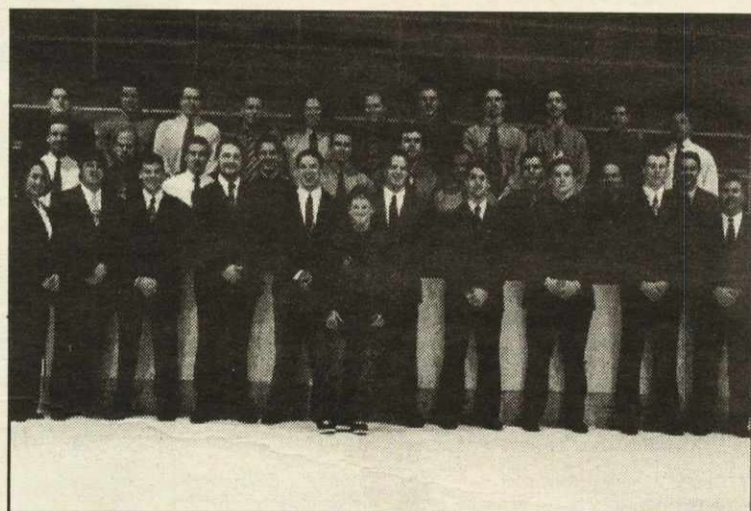
The San Francisco Giants have pitching troubles. The Giants lost Wilson Alvarez, Roberto Hernandez, Doug Henry and Rod Beck all to free agency. The only replacements were Orel Hershiser and former Marlins closer Robb Nen. The Giants still have a decent pen. Jeff Kent surprised everyone last year. JT Snow is a solid producer at first. The outfield is good with Barry Bonds

doing the offensive work. What defines the Giants offense are five guys capable of hitting .290 with 20 home runs.

The expansion Arizona Diamondbacks have clearly decided to make their presence known. The team spent \$82.75 million to sign third baseman Matt Williams and shortstop Jay Bell. Offensively, Arizona pulled a real coup by acquiring phenom Travis Lee. Veteran Devon White was nabbed from the Marlins and will anchor their outfield. While they won't be contenders this year, Arizona is primed to be a perennial contender in four or five years' time. They spent their money far smarter than the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

The division winners are fairly cut and dry in the Los Angeles Dodgers, St. Louis Cardinals and Atlanta Braves. Fighting over the wildcard will be the San Diego Padres, Colorado Rockies, San Francisco Giants, New York Mets, and Houston Astros.

### '97-'98



## Dalhousie Hockey Awards

- FITTEST PLAYER.....Shane Gibbs
- ROOKIE OF THE YEAR.....Chris Pittman
- MOST IMPROVED PLAYER .....Dallas Gray
- KIM HOUSTON AWARD
- (BEST DEFENSIVE FORWARD).....Jan Melichercik
- GERRY GUNTER AWARD
- (BEST DEFENCEMAN).....Martin LaPointe
- KAREN DECKER AWARD
- (UNsung HERO).....Trevor Doyle
- BOB HADDOW AWARD
- (HUSTLE, DESIRE, TEAM SPIRIT).....David Haynes
- DR. BOB STALKER AWARD
- (PLAYOFF MVP).....Neil Savary
- MOST VALUABLE PLAYER .....Jan Melichercik

## The trophy winners from the '97-'98 Intramural season received their awards at the Intramural Awards Banquet, March 31.

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|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Coed Doubles Badminton Tournament   | McBean & Malaviarachichi    |
| Mens Doubles Badminton Tournament   | Gibson & Malaviarachichi    |
| Mens Squash                         | M. Adams                    |
| Mens Badminton Tournament           | Malaviarachichi             |
| Coed Beach Volleyball Tournament    | Med Spikers                 |
| Coed All Night Broomball Tournament | Commerce                    |
| Coed Softball Tournament            | Law                         |
| Womens Softball Tournament          | Psychology                  |
| Coed PARTY Broomball Tournament     | Cameron                     |
| Coed A Soccer                       | Turbodites                  |
| Coed B Soccer Division 1            | Pharmacy                    |
| Coed A Broomball                    | Medicine                    |
| Coed B Broomball                    | Physio                      |
| Coed A Volleyball                   | Cougars                     |
| Coed B Volleyball                   | Bronson Smith               |
| Coed C Volleyball                   | Mad Doc's                   |
| Coed A Basketball                   | Oxford                      |
| Coed B Basketball                   | Occupational Therapy        |
| Coed Innertube Waterpolo            | Medicine                    |
| Womens 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament | Medicine                    |
| Womens Soccer                       | Law                         |
| Womens Volleyball                   | Pharmacy                    |
| Womens Softball                     | Psychology                  |
| Womens Basketball                   | Oxford                      |
| Mens Ball Hockey Tournament         | Law                         |
| Mens 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament   | Medicine                    |
| Mens A Soccer                       | Outsiders                   |
| Mens Residence A Soccer             | Killer Cod                  |
| Mens A Hockey                       | Dukes of Hazzard            |
| Mens Residence A Hockey             | Henderson                   |
| Mens B Hockey                       | Pharmacy                    |
| Mens Residence B Hockey             | Eliza Studley               |
| Mens C Hockey                       | 5 Guys & a Goalie           |
| Mens A Basketball                   | Medicine                    |
| Mens B Basketball                   | Froggers                    |
| Mens Residence A Basketball         | Eliza Studley               |
| Mens A Volleyball                   | Laying Pipes                |
| Mens B Volleyball                   | Henderson                   |
| Mens Residence A Volleyball         | Cameron                     |
| Coed Flag Football                  | SAPHER-K                    |
| Ultimate Frisbee                    | Ultimate Rascals & Pig Dogs |

### Intamural Staff Awards

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|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Outstanding Convenor   | Danielle Merryweather |
| Outstanding Official   | Gary O'Neil           |
| Outstanding Supervisor | Cathi Sabiston        |

### Supremacy Awards

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|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Men's Residence Supremacy    | Studley / Eliza |
| Women's Supremacy            | Law             |
| Coed Interfaculty Supremacy  | Medicine        |
| Mens Interfaculty Supremacy  | Medicine        |
| Coed Residence Supremacy     | Bronson / Smith |
| Outstanding Male Participant | Jamie Flinn     |
| Outstanding Female           | Andrea Murphy   |
| President's Award            | Pharmacy        |