

SPORTS

Ambitions high for men's soccer

BY ANGEL FIGUEROA

Reeling from last year's nearly undefeated season and spectacular team-work that almost won the division title, the Dalhousie men's soccer team is on its way to another great year of potential. This despite the fact that a key position has changed in the new 1991 roster.

With the loss of veteran coach Tony Richards, much momentum might seem lost. In fact, the opposite is true. Taking over the reins from Richards — largely regarded as the root cause of last year's success — is Ian Kent, whose abundant experience and expertise surprisingly does not include ever coaching a men's collegiate team before. But the ex-Tiger and present finance manager at Dalplex is unaffected by the pressure to lead such a talented squad to the division championship, a feat which has evaded Dalhousie for 14 years.



Experience will be the best teacher for new head coach Ian Kent.

Kent feels that as good as last season was, it was still just a foundation year, since many of the players were new and could only show the strong potential to be developed. Among these were British additions Andy Wheeler (half-back) and John Amis (sweeper), who both stayed for part of the summer to play for local teams, and John Richmond (striker), a veteran of the Bermuda national team. With a year's experience of playing together, the three have comfortably fit into the Dal program and can now fully demonstrate their formidable talents.

But complementing these three assets are an influx of high calibre players as much as the old guard of talented veterans who are each an asset in their own right: Ian Clarke (halfback), Rob Adams (striker), Tim Hall (striker), and Phil Samyn (keeper).

Among this year's new catches is Adrian Ibbetson, a former team captain of the English under-19 squad (yes, that's right — *the English national team*), whom Kent describes simply as "very, very, very strong...." As a right full-back, Ibbetson shows dynamic talent and his intense defensive abilities are considered among the team's most valuable assets.

"But not to take away from his defensive flair," adds Kent, "he can really drop a ball on a six pence — as they would put it in England."

In addition to Ibbetson, Kent boasts of Craig Janc, a national

tenders, and they shouldn't be counted out of the division race. Nor should Mount Allison or U.N.B. for that matter. Of these four rivals, Kent is particularly cautious of Saint Mary's, as they acquired Sean Wilke of Newfoundland, "an absolute speedster who is incredibly dangerous up front."

With the season nearly fully under way, Ian Kent will be the

first to admit that the quality of university soccer right here in Nova Scotia is going to be just incredible, but no game is a great game without fan support. So come on Dal, get out there and holler till you croak — you might just witness the making of a championship team. Your Tigers play Memorial on Sunday, September 15 at 3pm, at Studley field.

The team is already considered as pre-season favourites for the division crown

Kent's main goal for the team is to simply improve from last year. "We would like to comfortably qualify for the playoffs prior to the last few games of the season and not make the final game as critical as it was last year." However, with the sort of talent and dedication in his hands, the team may go much farther than merely losing the AUSA final in a nail-biting squeaker (as they did to Mount Allison, 2-1). Rather, a CIAU appearance might just be in order, as the team is already considered as pre-season favourites for the division crown.

youth team veteran, and Neil Sedgwick, a star player with the local Clippers. He regards the two as among the top 11 players in the province, and feels they are the final cards on the table which bid that "chances are good to improve on last year."

But once again Saint Mary's and Acadia will be the other big con-

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