



SPORTS

Volleyball sweep to victories to host AUAs

BY CARMEN TAM

The Dalhousie men's and women's volleyball teams are looking to represent the Atlantic Conference at CIAUs, but will first have to win the AUAA Championships which will be hosted by the Tigers this weekend. Both squads won their respective home matches last weekend to finish the regular season in first place.

"It was a good way to end the season playing two tough teams," said setter Michelle Aucoin of the women's performance. "We had a light first term — in the second term we played a lot more league games and tournaments."

In women's action, the Tigers needed only 80 minutes to down the Mount Allison Mounties 3-0. Tiger Aucoin had 8 digs in the victory and was named Player of the Match for setting up Cara MacKenzie for 10 kills and 9 digs. Dal captain Jen Parkes, Denise Chapman and Alicia MacFarlane contributed 8 kills each for the Tigers, while rookie Melanie Hanson added 4 kills and 10 digs in the win.

Cherie Campbell and MacKenzie led the offense in the first set opening up a 10-2 lead that the Tigers held to take the game 15-4. Great defensive plays by Karen Martin for two points highlighted the set.

The second game was closer but the Mounties failed to generate any threat as the Tigers won 15-9. MacFarlane served for the first 7 straight points in the third game before winning the set 15-7. Mount Allison's Dara Connolly had 6 kills and 9 digs in the loss.

On Sunday, Dalhousie captured their 15th consecutive league win with a 3-1 victory over the Université de Moncton Aigles Bleus. The nationally 15th-ranked Tigers dropped their first game 15-12 before completely turning the match around to take the next sets 15-11, 15-5 and 15-6 in just under two hours. Once again, aggressive serving and digging from Dal dominated the Tiger attack. Campbell's jump serve showcased the Tigers' exceptional serving which gave them a team total of seven service aces. The games were marked by long rallies as shown in the third set where tough defense by Parkes and Campbell opened up a 7-0 lead. Parkes served for the last five points of the set to end it while Chapman served for four consecutive points in the fourth, including two aces.

Middle blocker Parkes had 14 kills and 11 digs to be recognised as Player of the Match. MacKenzie amassed 14 kills and 25 digs while MacFarlane totalled 11 kills and 24 digs. Moncton's Annick Picard had 14 kills, 17 digs and 2 blocks while teammate Carole Bourgeois had 26 digs in the effort.

Dal tops the conference standings at 17-1, tied with Memorial University. The two teams' single defeats this season

came from each other, Dal finishing with more game wins.

"We are a completely different team since we played Memorial in November," said MacKenzie of their season-opening game. "We played MUN early in our season and we haven't seen them since."

"We were well-prepared and played like a team," added Parkes. "We had a lot of fun and, regarding the outlook for AUs, we are very excited and it has certainly put a new, refreshed look at practise. We're looking forward to this weekend."

The Tigers will welcome Memorial, Moncton, Acadia, UNB and SMU for the AUAA Championship. Dal and Memorial enjoy a bye to the semi-finals with Dal facing the lowest seed winner from the quarter finals on Saturday at 2pm. The final will be held on Sunday at 1pm.

Dal was swept 3-0 by the Huskies in last year's AUAA Championship final. First-year Tigers head coach Lori Welsh-Hawley, who led the Huskies to their first AUAA title last year, brings her winning ways to Dal who were AUAA champions in '95-'96. Welsh-Hawley is a two-time AUAA

Coach of the Year ('94-'95, '96-'97) and a former volleyball Tiger.

"With Moncton, we have played



Photo by Jenn Sabean

them quite a few times and know their game plan and we were ready for them," said MacKenzie. "Everything we have been doing

leads to AUs — all our plays are gelling now and we hope to peak for this weekend.

"We are looking forward to the Championships, especially with AUs being at home. We are not taking any team lightly."

Welsh-Hawley presented her graduating players — Parkes, Aucoin, MacFarlane, Chapman, Kelly Collier, Melanie Hopper and MacKenzie — with gifts at the end of the match.

"Coach said it was really important playing with no regrets and, to end the league season on a good note, I think we did that," said last year's captain

MacKenzie.

Dalhousie will be looking to earn a berth in the CIAU Championships which are being held at the

University of Alberta, home of the defending national champions.

"The team is playing well together, in sync, which is positive for this weekend," says Aucoin. "It's great to win the regular season but standings mean little or nothing now. I think whoever has a good two or three matches in a row takes it. We are going to take it one match at a time."

The men's team, last year's silver medalists, are also looking to go West to Alberta where their CIAUs will be held at the University of Calgary for the third-consecutive year at the Jack Simpson Arena.

Dal swept the UNB Varsity Reds 3-0 on Friday the 13th at Dalplex to earn the right to keep the AUAA Championship at home. The two squads had entered the AUAA tourney tied for first place in conference standings. In a pair of matches in Fredericton last month, the Reds pushed Dal to five sets and won the second match 3-1.

The nationally sixth-ranked Tigers followed their game plan and kept their composure, in spite of the lead changing several times. Big blocks and huge digs rather than kills won the match for the Tigers.

Three Tigers roar for Dal swimming

BY SCOTT SANCTON

The Dalhousie swimming teams qualified five additional swimmers for CIAUs over the past weekend. The Tigers were in Fredericton for the AUAA Championships.

Both female and male teams lost to UNB. For the females, the University of New Brunswick scored 209.5 points, the Tigers 176.5, Mount Allison University 58 and Memorial University 21 points. On the men's side, UNB won with 202 points, Dal followed with 173, and Mt. A and Memorial brought up the back end with 45 and 18 points, respectively.

Despite the loss, Dalhousie qualified Steve Indig, Megan Hannam, Gail Seipp, Mike Ritcey and Chris Stewart for CIAUs which will be held at Sherbrooke. This added to the team of Stuart Kemp, Angela MacAlpine, Sarah Woodworth, Amy Woodworth, and Lindsay Eller, who had qualified earlier in the season.

Stewart, who was named AUAA Rookie of the Year, is the only first-year who qualified, and commented that he feels it will be really good to experience higher levels of swimming.

"Things just came together for me at the right time," Stewart said, when asked about the award. "I'm pleased and I'm looking forward to next year — the pressure's on."

Sarah Woodworth competed in her last AUAA championship and was named Meet MVP. After winning four individual events the past weekend, she is setting her sights on Sherbrooke.

Kemp is looking forward to the

CIAUs as he commented that it will be easier to compete with fellow team mates Stewart, Indig and Ritcey at his side for support. The Tigers will also be able to compete

was probably the number of people that qualified for CIAUs, approaching one of our highest numbers ever," said assistant coach David Fry. "It will make us more

than, some years that we have won the titles. [The teams] rose to the occasion admirably."

Fry will take over as head coach of the Tigers' swim teams next season.

"We might have lost, but we lost as a team" said men's team co-captain and CIAU qualifier, Mike Ritcey. The support the members had for each other was outstanding both in and out of the water.

While there were several CIAU qualifiers, the number of swimmers supporting them was excellent. Swimmers such as Kelly Zwicker who came out of a summer swimming program to make finals in all three of her events; Danny French who helped round out the top three in many breast stroke races; D'Arcy Byrne who put out an excellent showing in all his races; Sarah Mathieson who took 20 seconds off her 800m freestyle best; Chris Swift who took off twelve seconds in the 200m backstroke to creep into finals; and others such as Mike Murray, BW Wildsmith, PJ Cowan, Janet Ritcey, Emily Thompson, Susan Gray and Sarah Conrad who helped secure much-needed back-up points, keeping UNB on their toes.



Standing (l-r): Stuart Kemp, Chris Stewart, Steve Indig. Seated (l-r): Gail Seipp, Megan Hannam, Angela MacAlpine, Sarah Woodworth, Amy Woodworth, Lindsay Eller. Missing: Mike Ritcey. (Photo by Ryan Lash)

in relay events, allowing them to establish themselves nationally.

Tigers head coach Nigel Kemp commented that it was very pleasing to have so many best swims and significant drops in times, and that all across the board everybody swam very well to come as close as they did.

Kemp reached a major milestone this weekend as he coached his final AUAA Championship. He will be retiring at the end of the season after 27 years at Dalhousie. Over his career he has had many highlights, including coaching Nancy Garapick to the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal.

"The highlight of the weekend

competitive on the national edge which is really one of the goals for a program like ours.

"It's disappointing not to win the Championships but, ironically, I think that we swam like a team as well as, and in some cases better

PARKER LEADS TIGERS IN WEEKEND GAMES

On Saturday, the men's basketball team took on St. FX at Antigonish. The X-Men fell 84-72 to the Tigers. On Sunday, the UCCB Capers edged Dal 83-80 in Sydney.

Brian Parker led the Tigers with 22 points in each game, while Mike Sabol added 16 points and 11 rebounds on Saturday. Fred Perry led the X-men with 26 while UCCB's Kirt Mombourquette was Sunday's top scorer with 30.