

sports

Goodbye to a star player

by Joe O'Connor

After talking with Shawn Mantley this past Monday I feel a little nervous writing an article about him. Not to play the pessimist, but whenever you meet a genuinely good person and then have to write about that person you find yourself scratching your head and searching for ways to do them justice. Thus, I beg a favor of you Dalhousie, especially those who have had the pleasure to meet Shawn. Please don't think of this as an article, think of it as a tribute to a gifted student-athlete who is truly a classy guy.

The story begins at the Metro Centre in Halifax, March 1989. A group of underdogs from Queen Elizabeth High School are on their way to winning a provincial championship. Starting at power forward, a five foot ten (yes five) senior by the name of Shawn Mantley. Absolutely cocky, and thus most definitely nineteen, Shawn ends his career as a winner. Oddly enough the AUAA recruiters aren't shopping for many forwards under six feet.

Enter Bev Greenlaw. He coaches our protagonist at the Canada Games and asks, not recruits, asks Shawn to come and try his hand at point guard. Who is this coach? Who better an authority than a player who has 'grown' up under his guidance. Shawn describes Coach Greenlaw as "most importantly, a good friend, a man of his word, ...someone who teaches his players that in life as in basketball it is okay to lose sometimes, but never quit." Sound advice taken to heart by a student-athlete who would like to be remembered by his peers as "a team player, ...a hardworker who wanted to win, to have fun, always stay focused... and to lead by his example off the court."

I think this is a fitting testimony that embodies the type of player Shawn Mantley is. Yet every athlete remains a person first, and this character who wore number 12 with such pride thinks Duke is going to win the NCAA tournament (I'll take Arkansas and a check). His favourite player: Jordan; team: Chicago. Why? Their defense. His favourite colour

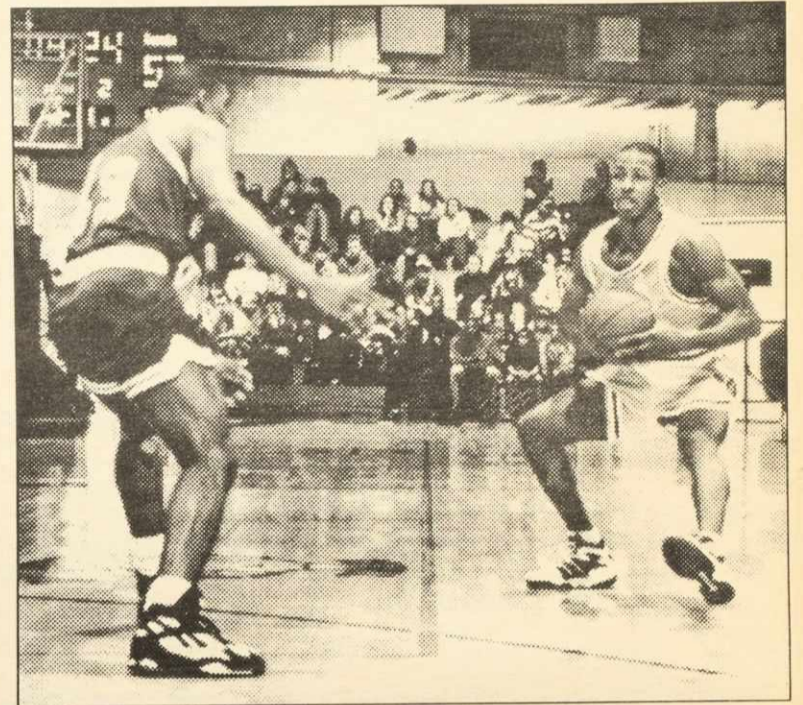
is black, and the perfect performance? Fifteen points, 9 assists, 7 rebounds, 2 steals, no turnovers, 2 blocks, perfect from the line; a team victory fortified with a healthy dose of fun.

When you cut away this meat and reach bone you are left with an intelligent 23-year-old who is determined to re-enter his community and offer his knowledge and skills in life to underprivileged children. Maybe as a social worker, the head of a rec centre, or as a coach.

Shawn possesses strong convictions, and says quite logically that you can "never forget where you come from." Hearing this, I have the strange suspicion that whichever path he walks will be the right one for him.

Good luck Shawn, I think you deserve the last word.

"Thank you, first to my family; my coach Bev Greenlaw, Mark Parker, my teammates, the fans (even though we didn't always win), and Dalhousie for the education and my degree."



Shawn Mantley finished his career at Dalhousie this year by being named most valuable player for the basketball team. DALPHOTO: MIKE DEVONPORT

Villeneuve wraps up college time on high note

by Carmen Tam

Dalhousie University's Paul Villeneuve had two surprises when he attended the CIAU Men's Volleyball Championships Awards banquet at the Prince George Hotel in Halifax early last March.

First, his parents from Gloucester,

Ontario were there to greet him at the door. Second, they were also there to see their son accept the first annual TSN Award for the Canadian university male volleyball player who best exemplifies academic achievement, athletic skill and citizenship.

His parents flew down to the ceremonies after the school's athletic department was notified of Villeneuve's award. Villeneuve's younger brother Eric, who also plays volleyball for Dalhousie, knew about the honour and was the one who contacted his parents. Eric remarked, "He had no idea that they were going to be there."

TSN has two well-known awards including the TSN Dr. Randy Gregg Award given to outstanding athletes in CIAU hockey and the TSN Russ Jackson Award for the best in football.

This year TSN has added four more awards to strengthen its involvement in Canadian university sports, to honour individuals in men's and women's volleyball and basketball. Each of the recipients received a trophy and a \$2,500 bursary.

Says Villeneuve, "It is a huge honour to have been chosen as the first recipient of such an award."

Villeneuve returned in the second term after graduating last year to lead the Dal Tigers to a bronze medal finish in the national men's championships hosted by Dalhousie. It was the best finish in a decade for the Tigers. Villeneuve started for Dalhousie for the past five seasons and served as the Tigers' captain for the past three. In his university career Villeneuve collected numerous all-star awards and is a two-time AUAA

MVP and CIAU All-Canadian.

Villeneuve has obtained a Bachelor's degree in Physical Education and holds a grade point average of 3.58. In the summers he has volunteered his time as a coach at volleyball camps and is a volunteer worker at a local high school. Currently Villeneuve is working at the school's athletic department as one of their varsity promotions directors.

TSN's Executive Producer Scott Moore hit the nail on the head when he called Villeneuve "an outstanding person on and off the volleyball court."

He'll be returning to Ontario this summer and says he has no regrets coming to Dalhousie.

"I couldn't have picked a better place to go to school or have better friends than here."

He will be leaving leadership responsibilities to such players as Chris Schwarz, Anton Potvin, Rob Ager and his brother Eric who was the captain in the first term. So the Tiger tradition of excellence continues.

Those crazy Dalhousie fans

by Carmen Tam

Dalhousie's fans are some of the best in the varsity scene and it never became more apparent at the CIAU Men's Volleyball Championships hosted by Dalhousie. It was the culmination of a very busy month for athletes and fans. Vocal spectators backed the Tigers to a bronze medal finish in their best performance of the year.

The players certainly appreciated the support at the volleyball tournament as the enthusiasm helped them

to a bronze medal finish. Kirk Yanofsky, a middle blocker for Dal didn't expect to get quite the support they did.

"We knew there was going to be a good crowd but this is beyond anything we expected." He added, "It's the type of crowd you dream of playing for."

Sunday afternoon, loyal fans ignored their hoarse voices to see the Tigers finish the season with a bronze medal, their best result in a decade.

It was a weekend that will not be forgotten by those who were there to

witness a great display of volleyball at its best and enthusiastic crowds at theirs. It will be talked about for a long time.

It was a weekend that everyone came out a winner: Al Scott's classy Tigers who played with their hearts to show that on any given night they can be as good as anyone in the country, the organizing committee and the fan support that rocked the Dalplex. The Tigers have earned their stripes.

Hockey wrap up

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Dalhousie any post-season hardware, they are qualities that a university should rally around.

I know that an AUAA or CIAU championship would be the ultimate, but this squad should not be slighted for losing to a team that was, quite simply, overloaded with talent and experience.

Besides, it's the time of year to look back on past successes and to look forward to future conquests. This year saw the game-by-game improvement of rookie goaltender Greg Dreveny, and we also got a glimpse of what speedster Mike Polano will be dishing up over the next few seasons. Not to mention, we were treated to one last helping of the one-two punch

of Joe Suk and Ken MacDermid and we waved goodbye to veteran blueliners Kevin Meisner, Brian MacDonald and Anthony MacAulay.

Does the future hold a championship for the Tigers?

Maybe, maybe not.

It's in the hands of twenty-five

guys who are at the arena five or six days a week from the beginning of September until the middle of March. The only thing the rest of us can do is make sure we get to the games and let them know that Dalhousie is behind them.

See you at the rink.

Frank's Thanks!

This is just a tiny bit of thanks to this year's sportswriters. You did some good! Thanks to Sam McCaig; Joe O'Connor; Carmen Tam, Paula (Poolaa) Jardine; Angel Figueroa; Matthew Christian; John Yip; Devin Maxwell; Jennifer Beck; Danny MacLeod; Saurabh Popat; Andy Thompson; Satish Punna; Geoff Ineson; Jasen Gannon; Graham F. Shaw; Ajay Bhardwaj and Dave Jackson.

First Baptist Church Halifax

1300 Oxford Street (across from Shirreff Hall)

April 3; 10:30 a.m. Easter Service

Sermon: *from Death to Life*

- Rev. John E. Boyd

Music: Darke, Vaugh-Williams, Willan

BEST WISHES to the CLASS of '94

Ministers: Rev. John E. Boyd

Rev. Adele Crowell

Director of Music: David MacDonald