



Men's volleyball Tigers earn a silver at Classic

BY CARMEN TAM

The fans who came to support the Tigers last Sunday watched the seventh-ranked Tigers capture their second consecutive silver medal on the weekend at the Dalplex. Playing without one of the best players in the country, the Dalhousie Tigers gave a good show in front of 400 enthusiastic Tiger fans. Dal lost a tough match to the second-ranked team in the country, the Université de Sherbrooke Vert et Or, by game scores of 10-15, 15-4, 15-6 and 15-12.

The Tigers jumped to a 8-4 lead in the first game which they held on to win 15-10. 1996/97 CIAU Rookie of the Year Jean-Francois Mercier proved to be ineffective against Dalhousie. Mercier was much more of a factor in the second and third sets. Sherbrooke regrouped and completely shut down the Dalhousie offense with strong blocking from the Vert Et Or trio of Pierre Chamberland, Bruno Lambert and Martin Dostie.

The Tigers failed to force a fifth game despite a commanding 11-2 lead in the fourth set before the Vert Et Or chipped away at Dal's lead to tie at 12-12. The game was marked by long entertaining rallies and strong play by captain John Hobin and Trepanier. Sherbrooke rookie Sebastien Ruette was solid for the Vert Et Or who won the set 15-12 for the victory.

Despite the loss, an outstanding performance for Dal came from fourth-year veteran Trepanier with 30 kills and 5 digs. Rookie Chris Wolfenden had 10 kills and 3 stuff blocks, and teammate Matt Hartlen contributed 14 kills and 7 digs. With the win, Sherbrooke successfully defended their Classic title and solidified their rank in the nation.

Dal setter Dave Cox said, "We played hard and followed the game plan by the coaching staff which was to continue to serve tough and play hard defense. Sherbrooke is a tough and experienced team...it would have been

nice to go to five."

Sherbrooke setter Jean-Sebastien Nault, an 1997 All-Canadian, was the key player for the Vert Et Or as he pulled his team out of a nine-point deficit.

"That is experience showing," said Cox, referring to Nault's game, "but we never gave up and played to the dying end."

"We were out for revenge," said a Vert Et Or player, referring to their gold medal loss to Dal when Sherbrooke hosted a tournament in late November. Dal swept Sherbrooke 3-0.

The Tigers added another silver in their rematch from last year. Dal has now medalled 15 times in the 19-year history of the Classic. Like past Classics, the tourney showcased some outstanding performances for Dal, like Wolfenden's exceptional passing throughout the tournament and Hartlen's consistently strong serves.

Manitoba captured bronze with a 3-0 sweep of Waterloo by game scores of 15-13, 17-15 and 15-8.

The Tigers went 3-1 in round-robin action. They faced a much-improved team from Waterloo in the opening match on Friday. Dal won the first two games 15-11, 15-4 before the Warriors rebounded with an 8-0 lead in the third game, eventually winning 11-15. The Tigers found their stride to take the final game 15-6. Leftside hitter Trepanier had 27 kills, 8 digs and 4 service aces while Hartlen added 16 kills and 12 digs.

Later that evening, Dal was swept by the Vert Et Or by game scores of 15-11, 16-14 and 15-7. Sherbrooke controlled the match despite a valiant effort by the Tigers. Continuing to be a force was Trepanier who racked up 31 kills and 4 stuff blocks while Wolfenden had 21 kills and 6 digs in the loss.

Trepanier totalled 17 kills while Hobin added 11 kills on Saturday when Dal defeated Memorial 3-0 (15-5, 15-4 and 15-3) in a noon warm-up before meeting the Manitoba Bisons in the evening. It was here that a gelled Tiger team treated Dal fans to a convincing

3-0 (15-4, 15-5, 15-11) win over the

Bisons who were not able to overcome a determined Tiger squad. Cox gave a

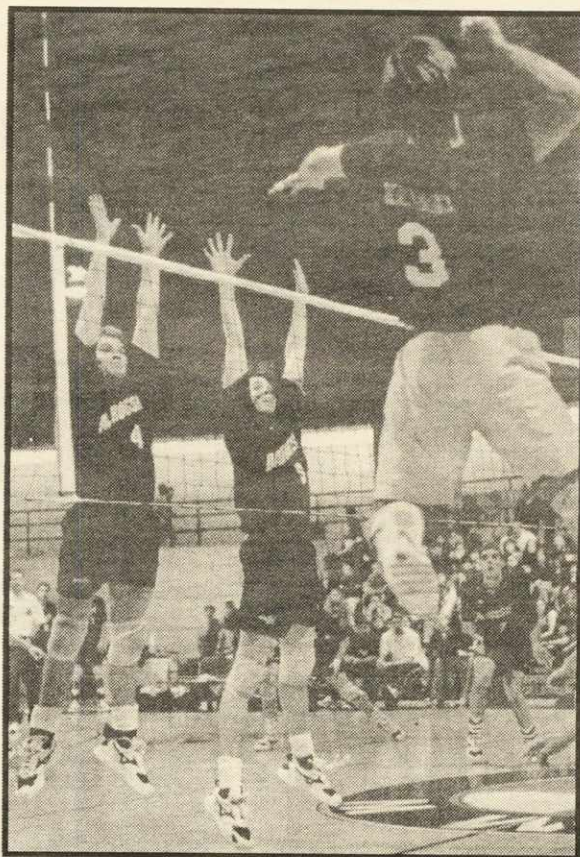
solid performance, setting up Trepanier for most of his 27 kills and 8 digs. Hartlen and Wolfenden had 12 and 10 kills, respectively. Middle blocker Peter Thurlow shone for Dal with 11 digs and 4 service aces. Both the Tigers and the crowd expected much more of a challenge from the Canadian West competitors who were national champions twice in the last three years. Cox noted crowd involvement, as well as playing the initial couple of matches without injured CIAU All-Canadian and

National Team-member Martin, as factors in giving them time to adjust their game. Martin suffered sprains to both ankles and has been out of action for the past six weeks.

"We knew what was at stake and knew we had to beat [Manitoba] to make the final," said the second-year

setter.

Sherbrooke had a flawless 4-0 record in round-robin, while Waterloo



Dalhousie's Dave Cox and captain John Hobin block an attack by Sherbrooke's Jean-Francois Mercier during the Dal Classic final. (Photo by Ryan Lash)

finished at 2-2, Manitoba at 1-3 and Memorial was outclassed 0-4.

Trepanier's leadership was rewarded as the powerhitter was named AUAA male Athlete of the Week. The Orleans, Ontario native established the offensive rhythm for Dal with 128 kills. His play, along with fifth-year veteran Hobin's

performance, were recognized as both were named to the All-Star team along with Jason Hubbard from Waterloo and Rob Janson from the Manitoba Bisons. Rounding out the selection was Mercier and Ruette from Sherbrooke while teammate Nault, was named the Classic's MVP for the second consecutive year.

Currently Dal sits on top of AUAA standings at 5-1 and will play a pair of matches against the UNB Varsity Reds this weekend in Fredericton. The Tigers, 1997 CIAU silver medalists, will look to avenge a surprising 3-0 loss to the Reds in their last match in December. UNB is 3-1 in the conference.

The Tiger bench should be enhanced by the return of Martin to the line-up in upcoming conference matches and their next tournament in Laval at the end of this month. Expect the Tigers to seek some vengeance of their own when they meet up with Sherbrooke again.

"We are looking forward to this weekend and we are all excited at the opportunity to play [UNB] again," said Cox. "We are committed one hundred per cent to beating those guys as badly as we can."

"We have to be successful and, in hindsight, the loss [to UNB] was probably good for us 'cause it made us more hungry."

Special mention must go to the organizers for staging a well-run tournament that provides a showcase for national talent. It is regarded as one of the top tournaments each year for contenders of the national title.

Tigers improve at Classic

BY EUGENIA BAYADA

The women's volleyball Tigers captured a bronze medal at the 19th Annual Dalhousie Classic this past weekend, improving on last year's sixth-place finish. Dal defeated the AUAA top-ranked Acadia Axettes 3-2 in the bronze medal game by scores of 13-15, 15-5, 12-15, 15-2 and 15-5. The Montreal Carabins turned the final around, beating the McGill Martlets 3-2 (13-15, 5-15, 15-5, 15-11, 15-5).

The Tigers were 2-2 following round-robin play, sweeping Acadia 15-12, 15-10, 15-4 in the opening match and dropping 3-1 (4-15, 11-15, 15-12, 9-15) to the Carabins on Friday, while

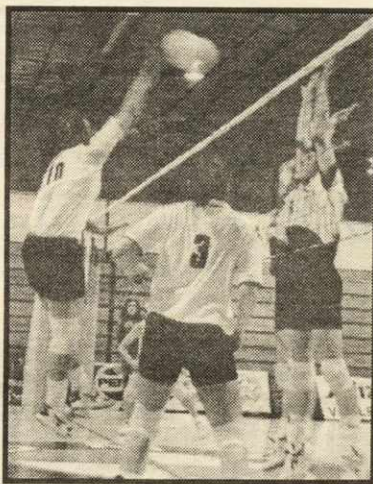


Photo by Ryan Lash

on Saturday they were swept 4-15, 7-15, 10-15 by the Martlets before beating the Université de Moncton Anges Bleus 3-1 by game scores of 9-15, 15-21, 15-7 and 15-6.

McGill posted a perfect 4-0 after round-robin play while Montreal was at 3-1, Acadia at 1-3 and Moncton at 0-4.

Tiger Denise Chapman contributed six kills, two stuff blocks and ten digs in the bronze medal game and was named to the All-Star team, along with Axette Erin Hogan, Martlet Anouk LaPointe and Carabins Caroline L'Heureux, Marianne Melanson and Isabelle Morin. Martlet Wendy Whelan took tournament MVP honours.

Athletes of the Week



DENISE CHAPMAN
VOLLEYBALL

Denise helped the Tigers capture a bronze medal at the Dalhousie Volleyball Classic on the weekend. She led the Tigers in blocks and served strong consistently throughout the tournament. Denise is a fourth-year Science student from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.



JASON TREPANIER
VOLLEYBALL

Jason recorded 128 kills and 13 blocks in the five matches the Tigers played at the Dalhousie Volleyball Classic on the weekend. He helped the Tigers capture a silver medal and was named to the tournament All-Star team. He was also selected as the AUAA Athlete of the Week. Jason is a fourth-year Economics student from Orleans, Ontario.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE:
CAREERS IN TEACHING

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS
AT
SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY

INFORMATION SESSIONS

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
Student Union Building Rm. 224
January 26, 1998, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY
Loyola Rm. 169
January 26, 1998, 1:30 - 3:30 pm

Coordinators and Faculty from the
Education Department
will be available to answer your questions.