

# Dalhousie hockey wrap-up

by Gord Sutherland

The Dalhousie Tigers hockey season recently came to an end as the club lost their semi-final series in two straight games to the powerful Moncton Blue Eagles. The Tigers had a successful season, capturing second place in the Kelly Division with a regular season record of 10-9-2.

Coming into the 1989-90 season, the Dalhousie coaching staff was admittedly in the middle of rebuilding the school's hockey program. At the end of last year's campaign the team lost several key players including all-star goaltender Peter Abric, now with New Haven in the American Hockey League, forward Graham Stanley, Greg Rovce, Joel Brown, and Martin Bouliane. Most hockey analysts did not expect the youthful Tigers to be a force in this year's Atlantic Universities Hockey Conference action. How wrong they were!

For the second year in a row the Tigers won the General Motors Lobster Pot Hockey Tournament. The black and gold skated to a 6-5 double overtime win in the championship against the Acadia Axemen who were consistently ranked among the nation's top ten teams. The Tigers placed three players on the six-spot tournament all-star team and Dal defenceman Brian Melanson was named as the Lobster Pot's Most Valuable Player.

The Tigers success was not limited to the Lobster Pot Tournament. The team fared extremely well at this year's AUHC awards ceremonies. Craig Morrison finished among the conference's top ten scorers with 33 points in just 19 games. Morrison, a former Oshawa General (OHL), was recognized as one of three Kelly Division all-star forwards. Brian Melanson, a former member of the Toronto Marlbo-

ros (OHL) paired with Acadia's Kevin Stover to claim Kelly Division all-star honours at defence. Goaltender Pat McGarry, who sported an impressive 3.79 goals against average, picked up one of the conference's most prestigious awards. The freshman from Ottawa, Ontario was selected as the 1989-90 league Rookie of the Year.

McGarry, with fellow Tiger netminder rookie Kevin Stairs formulated a sparkling goals against average of 3.38. In a post-season interview, Head Coach Darrel Young said the statistics reflect well on the entire team. "All season we had the second best goals against average in the league and sixth best in the country. With a young defense and a young team, that is a pretty big accomplishment."

The rebuilding process has been in effect for two years and Young is pleased with the results. "At the beginning of last year

(1988-89) the coaching staff, Gerry (Gunther), myself and Kim Houston decided that our goal was to change the attitude and the character of the club. I think we have accomplished that. Now this year (start of 1989-90) we made some major acquisitions of top student athletes - the Wilcoxes, the Griffiths, the Bradleys, the McGarrys, the Stairs and the MacAulays. Now we just have to go the extra level and bring a few more good players that will give us that next level."

The Dalhousie hockey program is certainly on the upswing and next season looks promising. The Tigers may only lose one player from this year's squad. It seems Melanson, Morrison and Alan Baldwin (19 points this season) will all be back to play their fifth and final year of eligibility. Sophomore centre Scott Anderson (13 points), sophomore winger Scott Meek (9 points) and third year defenceman Bill Wise-

man (9 points) will all graduate this year but all three plan to pursue additional education avenues.

Next year's team should feature a favourable mixture of veterans and rookies. Coach Young believes the Tigers only need to acquire one defenceman with major junior experience and perhaps a forward with a left-handed shot. Undoubtedly Coach Young is one of the league's best recruiters and next season's team is guaranteed to be even better than this year's edition.

"I believe we are headed in the right direction," said Young. "The players who are in their first and second year of the program are going to be more mature and more experienced players. They are going to be adapted to our league and that is going to be positive for us. I figure we probably have three of the four top rookies in the league. That has to be a positive sign for the future."

# Basketball upset

by Brian Lennox

The AUAA has a history of upsets in the men's basketball playoffs. Rarely does the team that finished first in league competition win the conference's playoffs. Last weekend was no exception.

Acadia went into the playoffs as the third place team with an

11-7 record. They were not favoured to win the conference title. The first place St. Francis Xavier X-Men were the favourites with UPEI Panthers picked as the team who could upset the X-Men.

St. Francis Xavier won their semi-final against Saint Mary's Huskies, 77-67. Neither team played particularly well but the X-Men controlled the tempo

most of the way. Saint Mary's, who usually shoot very well from the floor, struggled throughout the contest.

In the other semi-final, Acadia executed their game plan superbly as they upset the Panthers 68-62. Acadia controlled the tempo from start to finish. They were patient on offense and defensively they shut down UPEI's transition game, forcing the Panthers into a halfcourt game. Ted Byrne dominated UPEI inside, scoring 27 points with Kevin Veinot adding 15.

In the final, Acadia again executed perfectly. They stopped the X-Men's transition game. St. FX had only one scorer in double figures. Ted Byrne was once again the dominant player inside for Acadia, scoring 23 points, the majority of which were on turnaround jump shots. The Axemen first team all-conference selection, Kevin Veinot, hit for 18 points in the final.

For Atlantic basketball fans, Acadia's win created the opportunity for two AUAA teams to make it into the tournament. The selection committee chose St. Francis Xavier as one of the two wild card entries; the University of Victoria was the other. Acadia will go into the tournament seeded eighth and will have to play the University of Alberta on Friday night at 7 pm in their first game. This could be the best game of the day. At 9 pm, the X-Men will play the Concordia Stingers. Last year's finalists, UVic and Brandon will play at 3 pm in what promises to be an interesting game.

# Hockey awards

by Gord Sutherland

The Dalhousie University Tigers announced their team awards last Friday. Here is a list of the award winners with brief profiles of the individual players:

**Rookie of the Year** - Pat McGarry (goaltender, Ottawa, 887 minutes played with a goals against average of 3.79) First-year recreation. McGarry also won the team Rookie of the Year award. He will continue the tradition of great goaltending at Dalhousie.

**Playoff Most Valuable Player** - George Wilcox (centre, Summerside, P.E.I., 20gp-7g-16a-23pts, rookie) First-year commerce. Finished third in team scoring, first in team penalty minutes with 130. Wilcox is an exciting player who plays with a great deal of emotion.

**Most Improved Player** - Bill Wiseman (defence, Sackville, N.S., 21gp-1g-8a-9pts, third year) When the Tigers lost the services of defencemen Marty Woodford and Paul Kleinknecht, Wiseman was quick to emerge as a more than capable replacement.

**Bob Haddow Award - for pride and desire** - Derek Pringle (winger, Dartmouth, 21gp-9g-13a-22pts, fourth year) If anyone in hockey gives 110 per cent it is Dal's assistant captain. Pringle is one of Dalhousie's top student athletes. He hopes to enter medical school next year. On the ice, Pringle leads by example and the Tigers hope to have his leadership again next season.

**Gerry Gunther Award - for best defenceman** - Brian Melanson (defence, Dartmouth, 21gp-1g-17a-18pts, fourth year) Melanson was also selected as a league all-

star. This year he completes his fourth year of physical education. As a player, he is noted as one of the league's most consistent performers. Melanson is a technical defenceman and a strong body-checker.

**Kim Houston Award - for best defensive forward** - Craig Morrison (winger, Kingston, Ont., 19gp-14g-19a-33pts, fourth year) Fourth-year physical education. Dal's captain won the team scoring title. He finished ninth in league scoring and was picked as a league all-star. Morrison was used on both the power-play and the penalty killing units. He is one of the best all-around players the AUHC has ever seen.

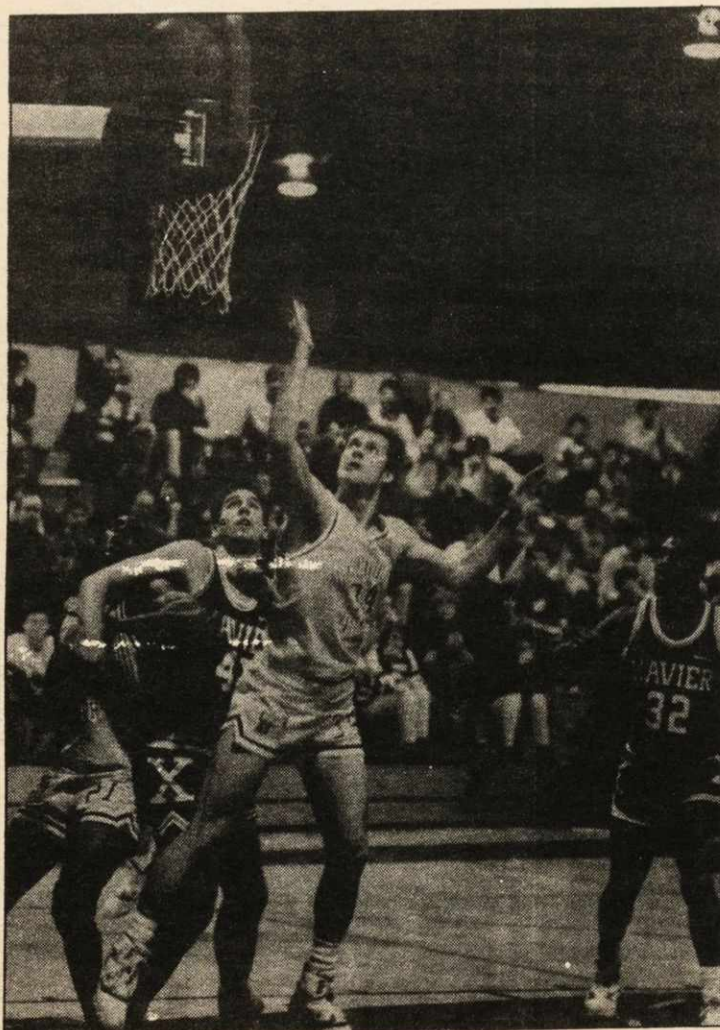
The team's Most Valuable Player will be announced on March 28th during the Dalhousie Awards Banquet.

# Track ends

by Brian Lennox

Two Dalhousie performers distinguished themselves at the recent CIAU indoor track and field championships. All-Canadian Lucy Smith won the 3,000 metres in a time of 9:14.82. Smith then placed second in the 1,500 metres with a time of 4:26.35.

Smith's teammate, Sue Comeau placed sixth in the 1,000 metres with a personal best of 2:53. This was especially impressive when you consider Comeau was ranked 13th going into the race.



Hey, that's my rebound!!

photo: Bill Jensen