



Men's volleyball prepare for Dalhousie Classic

BY CARMEN TAM

The Tigers started 1998 and the second term on a high note with a pair of wins over the Memorial University Seahawks at Dalplex last weekend. Despite losing All-Canadian Terry Martin and middle blocker Peter Thurlow to injuries, the Tigers swept both matches easily.

On Saturday night, Player of the Match honours went to fourth-year veteran Jason Trepanier who totalled 15 kills and 2 digs to lead the Tigers to a 3-0 sweep of Memorial. Game scores were 15-8, 15-4 and 15-5. Rookie Chris Wolfenden had 11 kills in a dominating performance, while captain John Hobin added seven kills in the victory. Russ Jackson

had seven kills and six digs in the Seahawks' losing effort.

On Sunday, the Tigers downed Memorial in one hour and fifteen minutes to take the match 3-0 (15-9, 15-2, 15-11). Third-year leftside hitter Matt Hartlen was named Player of the Match for 10 kills while Wolfenden chipped in nine kills for the win.

"This weekend went well," said Hartlen. "While it is unfortunate about Terry [Martin] as he is such a large part of our offense, it was good to play without him as we have raised our level of play [to compensate for the loss]."

The nationally sixth-ranked Tigers improve to 5-1 in the Atlantic University Volleyball Conference while Memorial remains winless.

a 3-0 shocker at the hands of the UNB Varsity Reds in their last game before Christmas.

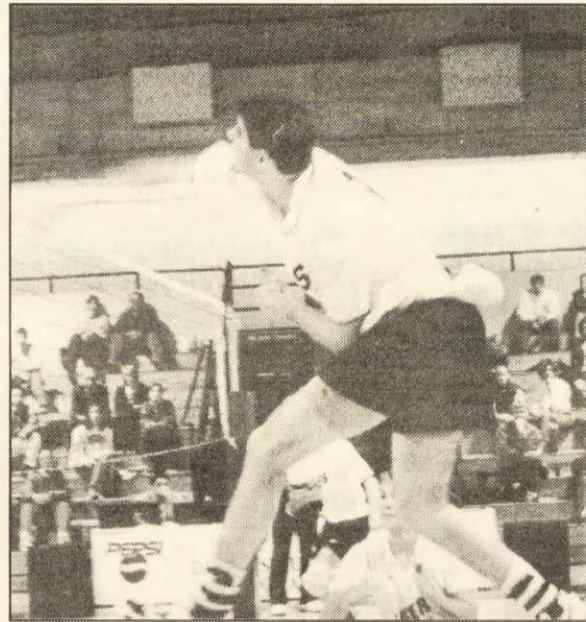
The Tigers' next test will take place this weekend at Dalplex where Dal will host the 19th Annual Dalhousie Classic, one of the top tournaments in the country. Dal looks to improve on their silver medal finish from last year.

Dalhousie has medalled 13 times in the eighteen-year history of the Classic, with three gold medals and a silver since 1991. This year Dalhousie will welcome the Université de Sherbrooke who are ranked third in the CIAU and the defending title holder, the University of Waterloo, the University of Manitoba and Memorial.

The Tigers begin round-robin play against the Waterloo Warriors on Friday at 12 noon. They will then battle the Vert et Or from

Sherbrooke at 6pm. Look for Sherbrooke to avenge a gold medal

matches will start at 10:30am on Sunday.



Matt Hartlen goes for the kill during Sunday's game. (Photo by Ryan Lash)

Dal, CIAU silver medalist in 1997, has a chance to move up the national rankings and are confident they will have a strong performance this weekend as they have defeated every team entered in the Classic at least once this season.

Dal will be seeking more hardware to add to their bronze from the Waterloo Warrior Classic and a first-place finish at Sherbrooke, including a 3-0 sweep of the Calgary Dinosaurs in the Mizuno Challenge. Sherbrooke is the only team that has beaten Dal this season in tournament action.

The Tigers will certainly miss the dominating presence of Martin who was named an All-Star in previous tournaments this season.

"We are looking forward to a good, competitive tournament," said Hartlen.

final loss to Dal at the Sherbrooke Vert et Or Omnium Tournament which took place in late November.

On Saturday Dal will play Memorial at noon and then the Manitoba Bisons from the Canada West Conference at 6pm. Medal

Year of the Tiger? We'll see

BY EUGENIA BAYADA

The men's hockey Tigers started off 1998 with a promising 6-1 win over Manitoba in exhibition play on January 2. Their luck ran out pretty quickly the following Wednesday as they fell 1-3 to division leaders St.FX and 3-6 on Sunday to Acadia.

"I thought we had a little bit of a tough go," said forward Derrick Pyke. "I thought we had a great game at St.FX — we came out strong, things went well but we just came up a little bit short."

"We came out strong for the first game against Manitoba — we rolled our four lines and we played well," noted forward Mark Alexander. "I don't think we came out with the same jump [at Acadia]. At times, we showed signs that we can have that jump and work hard but that would only last for a few minutes at a time and then wasn't existent so I guess the score was the result."

The past week also saw the return of forward Luke Naylor to the Tiger line-up. Naylor, Wednesday's lone Dal scorer, attended art school in Mexico for the first term and has rejoined the team for the latter half of the season. Head coach Darrell Young welcomes his return.

"I think he glosses our line-up," he says. "He gives us a scoring threat — he's probably the most natural goal scorer we have."

At Wolfville, the first period saw a choppy start for both teams. Tiger defenceman Martin LaPointe was quick to test Acadia goaltender Trevor Amundrud from the blueline but was denied repeatedly. Forward Bryce Classen opened the scoring

for a short-handed home team at 9:38 as he caught Tiger goaltender Neil Savary off-guard with a low slapshot from the slot. Russell Hogue and Darryl Moxam broke through the Tiger defense to add another short-handed goal before Dal could score.

"Last game [at Acadia] was very simple — our power play was 0 for 9," said Pyke. "You can't win a hockey game when you have nine power play chances and you don't score on one. We gave up two short-handed goals."

Pyke put the Tigers on the board at 17:43 of the first frame as he went one-on-one with Amundrud and put the puck away over the Axeman's right shoulder. The Tigers evened the score out early in the second as Alexander slapped home a rebound through the five-hole.

Dal blueliner Shane Gibbs took a shot from the face-off circle less than a minute later but failed to score as the puck hit the goal post. Moxam gave Acadia their go-ahead goal at 4:17 on a wraparound deflection through the five-hole and the home team never looked back. Kevin Tucker scored on an identical play to increase their lead to 4-2.

Acadia were quick to score in the third and forward Chris Pittman countered by flipping the puck into the top of the net for the Tigers' final goal.

"We just have a few things that we have to work on," notes Alexander. "It's not like it's the end of the world — it's only the last few games and we can still regroup."

"It all comes back to doing the little things right and our guys aren't doing the little things right," adds Pyke. "We're not working hard

enough to get the breaks... It all comes back to working hard and we'll go from there."

"We showed some signs of being a good hockey club," concludes Young. "Obviously we're going to have to work hard [on areas] such as our power play, the defensive part of our game and cutting down on the number of goals against. We have some games where we're great and some games where we're erratic — we're lacking some consistency."

"The season's all about progressing and getting better and learning our strengths, learning our weaknesses and preparing for the playoffs. We made the playoffs in October so now it's a matter of refining some parts of our game."

Dal Baseball elects new president

Dalhousie University Baseball welcomes Ryan Clarke as the new president of the Tigers for the 1998 season. Clarke, a member of the 1997 Fall Classic champion team, brings much experience and leadership to the team that won a national title in 1996.

The Tigers start winter training next week and welcome old and new members. At this time, the organization is accepting applications for coaching staff for 1998. See next week's Gazette for more information.

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