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SPORTS

Success at Dal tainted by administrative screw-ups

by Sandy Smith

On their respective playing venues, Dalhousie's athletes did a fine job this past year representing both themselves and the university. In both championship efforts and those that fell short of "winning it all", the various Tigers were seen as competitors that were always giving their utmost. Their praises have been sung on these hallowed sports pages in the past, and it is now time to acknowledge that there were, however, other athletes here at Dalhousie who did not get the satisfaction others got from their season. This was not because the athletes didn't do all they could to make their season a success, but rather their lack of satisfaction was a result of some sort of administrative error.

The soccer team was undoubtedly bitter after a delay in obtaining information about a player's eligibility cost the team first place and a spot in the playoffs. After it was learned that the player, who had played in four games (three wins, one tie), was ineligible according to Atlantic University Athletic Association (AUAA) rules, the team was forced to forfeit the seven points earned in the four games. The error undoubtedly caused the players great pain as they watched a team no one but themselves had beaten, the University of New Brunswick Red Shirts, go on to win the Canadian Inter-university Athletic Union (CIAU) championship. The male golfers of Dalhousie had a similar fate when they had their AUAA title taken away as a check on a player's eligibility

after the tournament showed the player to be ineligible.

Positive signs were, however, displayed at last week's athletic banquet. These eligibility mistakes, although somewhat glibly passed over, were acknowledged. It seems the administration is not only aware of them, but it is eager to make sure that similar screw-ups do not happen again. Yet the mistake that had the most serious implications for Dalhousie athletes was the one that was, not surprisingly, left off the list of acknowledged mistakes.

Last November stories surfaced here in the *Gazette* and in the *Toronto Globe and Mail* about the fact that Peter Jacobs had been cut from Dal's men's varsity volleyball team because he would not cut his shoulder length hair. After Dalhousie President Andrew MacKay declared that he was not in agreement with team coach Al Scott's decision to cut Jacobs, Director of Athletics Ken Bellemare, who had supported Scott's decision saying that the coach must be able "to determine the operation of (his) team", said that guidelines for coaches and athletes would be drawn up.

It is now four months later, and the guidelines have not yet been completed. Indeed, only two sessions have been held and Bellemare reports that nothing, in detail, has been set down on paper. He does, however, add that the problem will be given full consideration after exams are finished and all of the coaches can get together. To be kind, it seems the issue has been

given a low priority by the Athletic Department and the guidelines seem to have been put on the back-burner.

It is imperative that these guidelines be given a high priority when the coaches do get together to draw up their guidelines. The coaches are more aware than anyone that their players sacrifice great amounts of time in order to play their sport and represent Dalhousie. Their players are adults and are undoubtedly aware of the drawbacks involved if they choose to wear their hair or beards long. There is no doubt that the decision to cut one's hair or make other personal changes to one's self rests with the individual and not his or her coach. There is no argument from me that coaches must have control over their players to the extent that they make sure players have gotten enough sleep or before games or any other such decisions that could effect the athlete's performance, for as Bellemare said, the coach must be able to determine the "operation" of his team. Personal appearances, however, do not seem to affect the operation of his team. I do not doubt that the guidelines will reaffirm the right of coaches to make certain demands of their players, but demands like Scott's cannot be condoned.

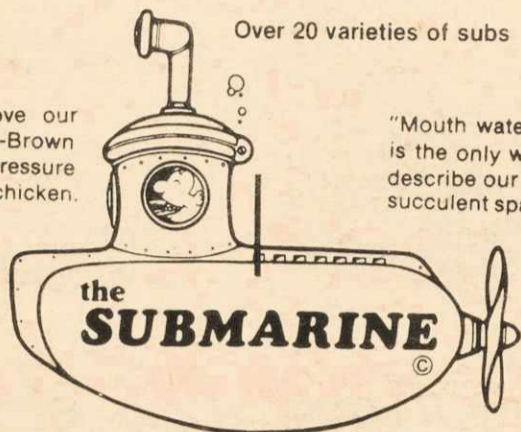
When the guidelines are completed, I am hopeful that they will make sure that incidents like the Peter Jacobs problem will never again taint other athletic successes at Dalhousie; after all, it would reflect badly on the university, wouldn't it?

Team banner disappears

Following the conclusion of the 1981 AUAA Swimming and Diving Championships, on the evening of Saturday, February 22nd, a magnificent 10 feet by 10 feet DALHOUSIE TIGERS swimming banner was removed by a person or persons

unknown from the Dalplex Pool. Three swimmers, all members of the Dalhousie women's swim team volunteered many hours designing, cutting out and sewing together this most unique and splendid banner.

Its disappearance was at first thought to be a friendly prank executed by another AUAA swim team. Investigations in this regard have drawn a blank. The Dal Tigers swimming teams are most anxious to have their banner returned.



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