



Dalhousie women claim CIAU soccer gold

# Dreams can come true

by Sam McCaig

Once again, the opponent was the University of British Columbia (UBC) Thunderbirds.

Once again, the two squads battled to a draw at the end of regulation time.

Once again, two 15-minute overtime periods solved nothing.

So once again, the CIAU women's soccer championship was to be settled via the gut-wrenching route of penalty kicks.

There was, however, one slight difference this time around.

Namely, the Dalhousie women's soccer team returned to Halifax Monday night as CIAU champions.

The Tigers avenged last year's heart-stopping loss to UBC by prevailing 3-2 after outscoring the Thunderbirds 5-4 on six penalty kicks.



Dana Holmes

After ninety minutes of regulation play, the two squads were tied 2-2. Jane Walton of the Tigers accounted for all of the scoring in the first half when she drove a direct free kick from the top of the box past the UBC keeper in the 25th minute. However, the Thunderbirds showed the true colors of a championship team by scoring twice within the first five minutes of the second half. Not to be outdone, the Tigers battled back to tie the match when coura-

geous forward Dana Holmes headed in first team All-Canadian's Carla Perry free kick in the 61st minute.

The two overtime frames decided nothing and it was on to the do-or-die penalty kick format. Dalhousie's first five shooters were Perry, Kate Gillespie, Valerie Hutchings, Walton and Pam MacDonald. After the initial five strikes by each squad, the two teams were knotted at four goals apiece. This meant a sudden-death showdown where one player from each squad would take a penalty kick until someone was stopped and a victor could be declared.

Karen Hood was the first Tiger shooter and she buried her opportunity deep into the UBC net. Then, she celebrated along with the rest of her teammates as the sixth UBC shooter's blast hit the post and stayed out.

"I really wanted to take one (a penalty kick)... when it came to the sixth shooter, someone called my name and I took off my coat and ran out onto the field. Someone told me that it (the ball) went into the top left corner... I just know it went in," commented Hood on her winning goal.

The team came directly to the Dalplex from the airport on Monday night for a reception that attracted about 400 well-wishers. After having 24 hours to dwell on the magnitude of their victory, they were still obviously overwhelmed but fiercely proud of what they had accomplished.

"Right now is absolute satisfaction, it's indescribable," stated fourth-year striker Kate Gillespie. "It's starting to sink in and it's hitting us now; being back here (Halifax) really brings it home."

Dana Holmes — who injured her left foot in Friday's game but persevered and played in the final — said, "I'm not feeling any injury right now when I'm holding this medal. It's sweet... this team had a lot of heart



Women kickers celebrate CIAU glory.

PHOTO: MIKE DEVONPORT

and desire and I'm really proud of them."

Keeper Leahanne Turner — who earned second team All-Canadian honors — added, "We wanted it more. When I stopped the first penalty shot, I thought, 'Yeah, we're bringing it home'."

Before bringing it home, the Tigers first had to get out of their pool. The road to the final was highlighted by a 2-0 victory over the Western Ontario Mustangs on Thursday and a 1-1 draw with the Alberta Pandas on Friday. Saturday witnessed the Mustangs and Pandas battling to a 2-2 saw-off, giving the Tigers the best record in their respective pool and a birth in Sunday's final.

Gillespie — the leading scorer in the AUAA this year and a second-team All-Canadian — provided all of the offense on Thursday by pot-

ting two goals against the Mustangs.

On Friday, AUAA all-star Holmes notched Dal's only marker in the tie against Alberta. In what could have had tragic consequences, Holmes suffered her foot injury about midway through the second half and was forced to play injured for the remainder of the match and was doubtful for Sunday's final. However, the fifth-year student would not be denied and suited up for the gold medal game.

Head coach Neil Turnbull was proud of Holmes' efforts, saying, "Full credit to Dana. She wasn't 100% but she did what was asked of her. She went out there and really performed."

Turnbull — who has spent two seasons at the helm and has a CIAU gold and silver to show for it — said of his short but impressive legacy, "We're building a tradition that is

respected right across Canada. It's a start and hopefully it'll just get better."

He continued, "It's very sweet. I'm very proud to be associated with this team, they're a fine group of young women and good ambassadors for the university."

"I feel relief that the season's over; we had some inconsistencies but those just make the championship that much sweeter. I don't know if right now, the players appreciate the fact that they beat such a good team," he added.

Turnbull concluded by noting that, "I feel that the saying that number two tries harder is a falsehood. I think champions have to work harder to stay on top. We're going to rest a bit now and then start preparing for next year."

Can't wait, coach. Can't wait.

# Kudos to Currie

by Dan Hennigar

It was the most exciting race of his university career.

Rorri Currie's silver medal performance at the CIAU cross country running championships held in London, Ontario last Saturday was one of the most daring runs in the meet's history. His second place finish is the highest any Dalhousie runner has finished in the men's race since Richard Munro won the event in the early seventies.

"I had a great race," Currie said. "I stung a lot of guys."

Currie's strategy was to put in a series of surges and then break the competition early in the ten kilometer race. Within the first five kilometers Currie had managed to outrun all of Canada's top university runners. His time of 15:15 at the half-way mark put him on pace to smash the course record set in 1986 by Norwegian running legend John Halverson.

By the three-quarter mark Currie had pulled thirteen seconds ahead of

second place Joel Bourgeois of the University of Moncton, but his incredible early pace was beginning to take its toll. Bourgeois, the silver medalist in 1992 and long-time rival of Currie's, saw his opportunity and managed to put in a final burst to take the gold medal. Currie finished courageously but had to be content with the silver.

Dalhousie's cross country coach, Al Yarr, was very impressed with Currie's performance.



"Physically and mentally he [Currie] was easily the best runner there. It was just the tactics," he said.

Yarr added that he felt Currie had run harder than he should have during the first half of the race.

Currie, however, had no regrets. "Joel (Bourgeois) played it casual and patient... but I had a good run. It was well worth the sacrifice."

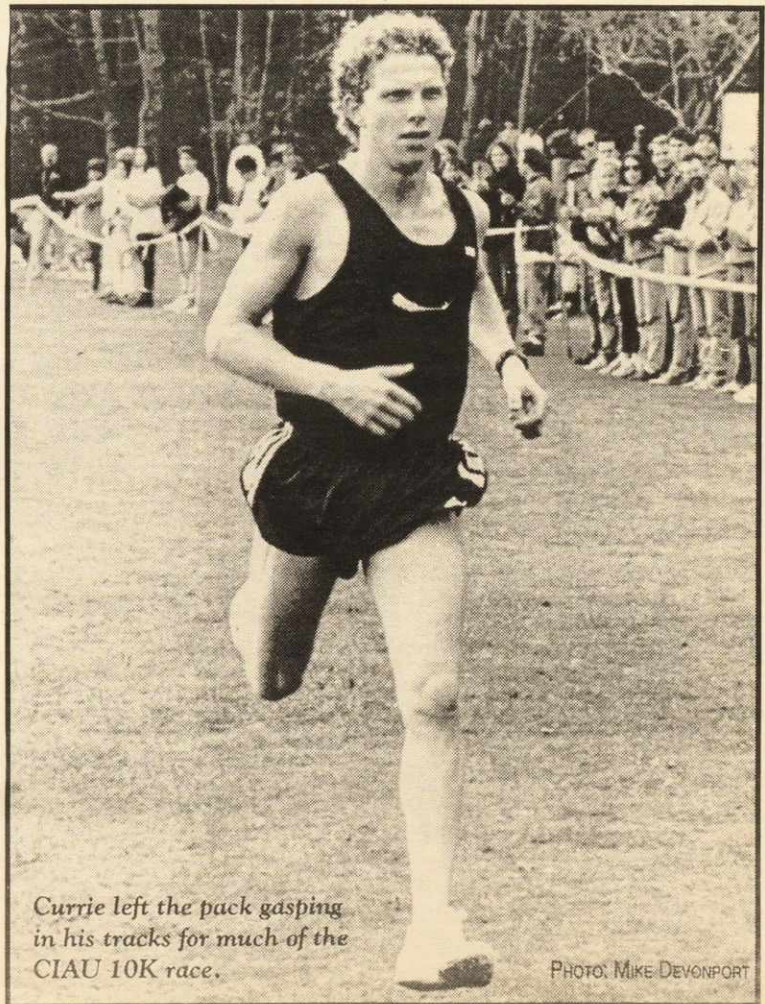
The men's team as a whole did not have as much success. The team — which has been plagued by inju-

ries and illness all year — finished seventh in the team standings. Brent Workman and Chris Halfyard both had solid races to finish 31st and 32nd respectively.

The Dalhousie women's team finished a strong fifth place in the increasingly competitive women's division. Rayleen Hill, who has been Dal's top runner all year, ran a very impressive race to finish 11th. Hill was named to the second team All-Canadian in recognition of the impressive season she has had this year.

Cindy Foley, who is recovering from an illness which prevented her from competing in the AUAA championships, was Dal's second runner. She crossed the finish line in 18th place.

Tracey Hoskin, employing her usual tactic, started out moderately but finished with an incredible second half to complete her best race of the season. She finished only one spot behind Foley in 19th place. Other strong performances came from Heather Ostic (24th) and Ashley Evans (31st).



Currie left the pack gasping in his tracks for much of the CIAU 10K race.

PHOTO: MIKE DEVONPORT