



Spring training for the fans

Overtime
MARK ALBERSTAT

HAVE YOUR EVER WANTED to see a millionaire sweat? Well, not really sweat, but perspire. You, I and your neighbour Darryl can see millionaires sweat in Florida, California, and Arizona these days.

These millionaires are not the stock moguls or the real estate barons laying around poolside watching their bank accounts grow. They are baseball players in spring training.

These muscled millionaires are being, more or less, forced to stretch and jog on grass as green as their bank accounts.

Like most rituals, spring training has its pomp and ceremony, its wasted moments and of course its familiar chants. The chants are such things as "Sure I'll autograph that picture. What do you want me to say? To my best friend Joe Smith?" Or how about the legendary, "Where is so and so?" and the reply, "He got traded during the winter, he's a few miles down the coast, we should hit the green with him this afternoon."

Baseball fans everywhere rejoice when they hear that friendly voice on the radio telling them that "Today training camps open for pitchers and catchers." It's a call to arms like no other. It is hard to imagine what other words could stir the hearts and souls of so many seemingly dormant baseball fanatics.

This strange tradition of spring training is about 100 years old, and every year it becomes less and less necessary.

These athletes rely on their bodies for their bread and butter, and maybe a little caviar. Gone

are the days when baseball players had to take winter jobs to support themselves. Some players are getting paid more than the gross national product of some South American countries.

Today's players have too much on the line to let themselves get out of shape. With today's home gyms and health clubs on every corner they don't have to go to Florida to get in shape. One of the real useful things spring training does do is show who is on the team this year, who is the manager, and practice a few of the basic plays needed in all ballgames.

Who, you may ask, started this bizarre ritual we call spring training? The answer is: Cap Anson, skipper of the Chicago White Stockings.

Anson was appalled, or at least surprised, at what showed up squeezed into Chicago uniforms at a pre-season exercise gathering ordered by Anson some years ago.

Anson gathered up his out-of-shape charges and headed south to warmth and sun where they could get in shape and still enjoy themselves.

This is no logner needed by the players. The baseball fans, on the other hand, use it as a fix to revive themselves over the long winter drought. What other time of year can one see the Yankees, Red Sox, Dodgers, and Cubs all within the same state at the same time? The players are also usually more willing to talk to fans during this time of year.

For these reasons baseball aficionados have to realize that spring training is for the fans, not the players.



The UPEI Panthers were constantly chasing the home-town Tigers over the weekend. Although Dalhousie's Jerry Scott didn't score in the two home ice wins, he did play a definite part in the contests. Photo by Sean Forbes, Dal Photo.

Hockey Tigers advance to finals

By MARK ALBERSTAT

THE DALHOUSIE MEN'S hockey team needed back to back wins over the weekend over the tough University of Prince Edward Island Panthers to advance to the Atlantic Universities Hockey Conference finals this week — and they accomplished just that.

After losing Wednesday night in the semi-final series opener by an 8-5 score on the Island, the series spotlight shifted to Halifax and the Dal rink.

On Saturday, the Tigers won by a 6-5 margin, then won again Sunday afternoon by a 4-3 tally. The Tigers will now face Université de Moncton Wednesday night in Moncton, then play Saturday at Dalhousie and, if necessary, Sunday at the Dal rink.

"These two wins proved a couple of things. The first is we can come back with our backs against the wall, the second thing is we

can win a big game, and the third thing is we can show a lot of discipline. That's what won the game for us," said Dalhousie head coach Darrell Young.

The third game of the series saw the Tigers in the driver's seat through most of the game. In the first period Neal Megannety scored from a Phil Priddle assist at the 3:24 mark. Just a minute forty-four seconds into the second frame, the Tigers' Kevin Reynolds scored an unassisted stick side goal to give the Dal squad a 2-0 lead.

The Panthers, however, roared back, scoring three unanswered goals within seven minutes. At the 5:25 mark, Steve Fulton scored, and five minutes later Darwin McCutcheon scored. Two minutes later, Dave Shellington found the twine for the Panthers' third and final goal. Both Fulton's and McCutcheon's goals were scored on a power play.

Just so the Tigers wouldn't be trailing going into the third Neal

Megannety scored with about four minutes left.

The Tigers came out shooting in the third period when Kevin Quartermain scored with only 56 seconds expired. Quartermain's goal, which proved to be the winner, came from an assist from Jerry Scott.

In Saturday's game, Megannety was the standout, scoring twice, including the game winner. He also had one assist. Greg Royce also tallied twice for the Tigers in the game, while other Dal goals went to Reynolds, Jamie Jefferson, and Paul Herron.

Rookie Peter Abric was in the Tiger goal for both games, as was Tony Haladuick for the Panthers.

"I think goaltending was the difference. Abric was there, made the big clutch saves. He's that type of goaltender. I also think our guys are a lot calmer and realize that if we start acting up they're going to score on the power play," said Young.

Women Tigers place sixth

THE DALHOUSIE TIGERS women's basketball team lost to Laurentian University 58-50 on Saturday and settled for sixth place at the CIAU Championships at the University of Winnipeg. Laurentian had been ranked third heading into the eight-team event, while the Tigers were rated eight.

In earlier games, Dal defeated McGill 74-72 in overtime and lost to first-ranked Toronto 81-63.

Toronto downed Victoria 68-63 for the gold medal.

Peggy Johnson and Kathy MacCormack paced the Tigers against Laurentian with 14 and 12 points respectively, while

Sandy Stevenson led Laurentian's attack with 15.

The half time score was 34-31 in favour of Laurentian.



THE DALHOUSIE TIGERS women's volleyball team defeated the University of New Brunswick 15-1, 15-4 and 15-8 on Saturday to capture its third straight AUA championship.

The Tigers now advance to the CIAU Championships at the University of Moncton in two weeks.

The Tigers were led by tournament MVP Simona Vortel, who recorded a team high 12 kills in the championship match. Other Tigers who had an outstanding championship match were Karen Fraser with 10 kills, four ace serves and three stuffed blocks, Sue Furey with 11 kills and two

stuffed blocks and Paula Clark with seven kills and three stuffed blocks.

Tiger coach Lois MacGregor said that the entire team played well in both the final and semifinal matches and added that veteran player Beth Yeomans was the outstanding defensive player on the court.

Yeomans produced 15 digs and did not misplay any digging chances.

Janet Rhymes put in a strong performance in the setter position.

The Tigers had advanced to the finals by virtue of their 15-5, 15-5, 15-3 semifinal victory over St. Francis Xavier.

UNB had upset Moncton 15-13, 16-18, 15-7, 15-7 in the other semifinal.

The Tigers' Karen Fraser was named league MVP, while AUA All-Star awards went to Dal's Simona Vortel, Moncton's Julie Lapointe and Maryse Lallier, UNB's Cheryl Matchett, Mount Allison's Caroline Lulham and St. Francis Xavier's Kelly Black.

MacGregor was named the AUA Coach of the Year.

The Tigers ended the AUA season with a winning streak of 43 consecutive matches in AUA regular season and playoff competition intact.

Volleyball Tigers win third straight title