

# Varsity sports year in review

BY AARON "TOO TALL" BLEASDALE

Last year, Dalhousie won eleven out of thirteen possible AUSA titles. This year, the Tigers couldn't match this feat but had



a very successful season, capturing six titles.

The **men's soccer** team came back to Wickwire Field this year with the National Title under its belt and most of the championship roster returning. They rolled

game after game, but failed to put the ball in the net.

Acadia had dominated regular season play, but a 0-0 tie in the second last game of the season sent a message to the Axettes. Unfortunately in AUAs, it was St. FX that would prove to be a problem: the X-women defeated Dal in shootouts in the semi-finals.

The team still qualified for CIAUs because they were hosting. They tied their games against the University of Ottawa (1-1) and Laval (0-0), and earned the right to play Laurier for the bronze medal. Dal lost the bronze medal match 1-0 on a late goal, and left Nationals without a medal for the first time in four years.

Next year, the Ti-

one of the toughest national fields in years.

The men's team also won the AUSA Championship meet. Dan Hennigar and Neil Manson finished first and second, respectively. The Tigers finished fifth out of eleven competing teams at CIAUs.

The **hockey** team was young, small and fast. They played ten road games out of fourteen before Christmas and escaped with a 7-5-2 record.

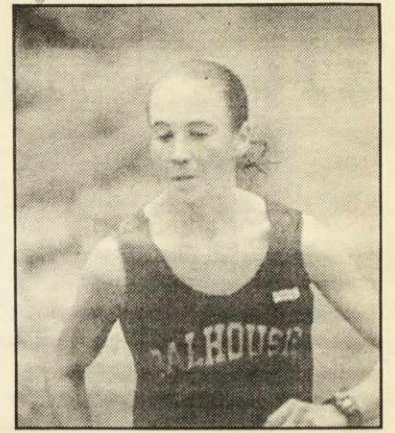
Starting goalie Greg Dreveny left over the holidays, but was replaced by Neil Savary. David Carson also joined.

After Christmas, Dal went on a six game unbeaten streak, beating Acadia twice, but a rigorous schedule tired them out. They finished

AUSA title. They played solidly and finished in third place in a very competitive AUSA.

In the AUSA Championship Tournament, the Tigers defeated Memorial in four sets, then blew away Moncton to face undefeated Saint Mary's in the final. The Huskies were too strong and Dal had to settle for second place.

Jennifer Parkes played out her eligibility this year and will be missed, but the team has lots of



Hutchinson who was returning to the Tigers after a sixteen year leave of absence.



young players who could step up next year.

The **men's volleyball** team had the best season in their history. At CIAUs, they competed in the gold medal match on national television against number one ranked Alberta. They lost the match, but brought home a silver medal and a little taste of glory.

They performed well at tournaments. At the Waterloo Warrior Classic, the team won its first ever out-of-region tournament ti-

Hutchinson started and in her first game recorded an AUSA record breaking quadruple-double performance.

They finished the season with a 16-4 record and headed into the playoffs on a ten game winning streak.

In the AUSA Championships, the first seed Tigers were upset by the fifth seed Acadia Axettes in a tight 53-50 game. It was a disappointing end to an exciting basketball season.

Next year, key players Sue Parkes, Danny Moe and likely Carolyn Wares are leaving.

The **men's basketball** team won AUAs last year and were expected by many to repeat this year. Unfortunately, things didn't go as anticipated.

The Tigers finished in third place with a 13-7 record. It was the first time in two years that they hadn't won the regular season title.

After knocking off the UCCB Capers 79-70 in the first round



into AUAs at Wickwire having shutout their opposition in six straight games, but things were not to be. Playing in near blizzard conditions, Acadia squeaked out a 5-4 penalty shootout win.

Next year, goaltender Trevor Chisholm, defender Matt Serieys and first team CIAU All-Star forward Mark Ellis are gone, but the CIAUs are being held at Dalhousie, so the Tigers will be assured another shot at the national crown.

The **women's soccer** team won silver at last year's Nationals, and hosted CIAUs this year. The Tigers had lost goal scoring wizard Kate Gillespie and had fifteen first and second year players on the roster.

Goal scoring proved to be a problem for much of the season. Dalhousie controlled the play

gers are losing All-Canadian goalie Leahanne Turner, defender Andrea Foreman and forward Karen Hood, but all those first and second year team members will be a year more experienced.

The **cross country** teams both performed well. The women's team, led by Cindy Foley, won its eleventh straight AUSA Championship. The team didn't fare as well at CIAUs against

third. After defeating St. FX in the first round of the playoffs, they once again fell to Acadia in the final.

Defenceman Jeff Letourneau graduates this year, but the team boasts eighteen players in their first or second years.

The Tiger **swimming** teams had a solid year. The women won the AUSA Swimming Championships for the thirteenth time in the last seventeen years. Angela MacAlpine led the Tigers with victories in the 50m and 200m backstroke and 100m butterfly; Amy Woodworth captured the 400m IM and 200m breaststroke and team captain Gail Seipp won the 400m and 800m freestyle titles. Many Dalhousie records were broken.

The men, though not as successful, surprised the competition at the AUAs. Team Captain Ed Stewart turned in a lifetime best performance and won the 100m backstroke — his first ever AUSA individual title. Sprinter Steve Indig raced to his first CIAU qualifying time, winning the 50m freestyle.

The **women's volleyball** team lost some key players and were doubtful to defend their

tle. They also won silvers at the Sherbrooke Invitational and Dal Digs Volleyball Classic.

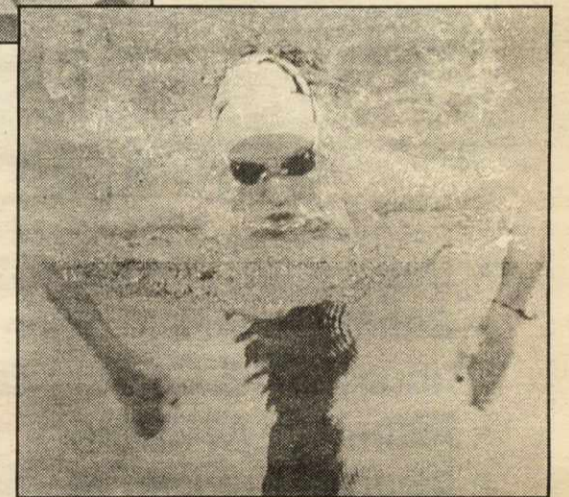
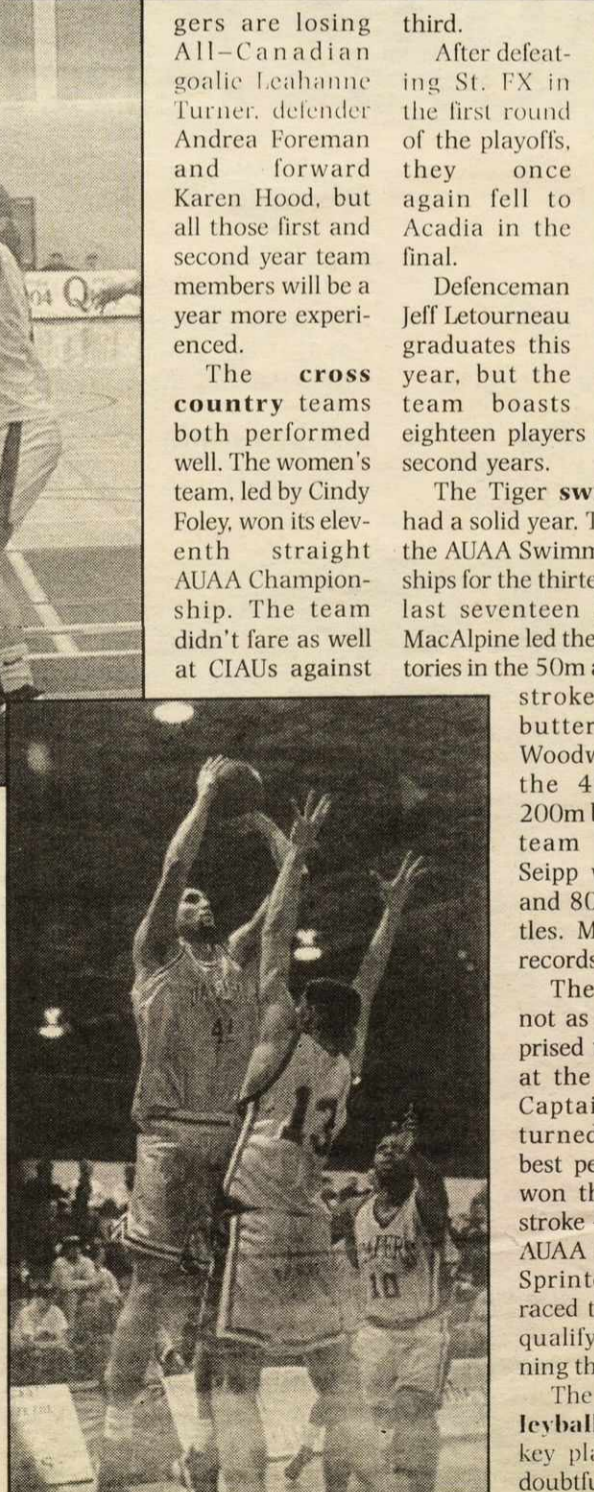
AUSA All-Star Eric Villeneuve played out his eligibility and will be missed.

Both men's and women's **track and field** teams repeated as AUSA champions this year. At the AUSA Championship Meet, both teams won all three relay events: 4x200m, 4x400m, and 4x800m.

The highlight of the year was Rachelle Beaton's CIAU high jumping gold medal, which she captured on her last jump. It was the AUSA's first CIAU gold in a field event.

Rookie Richard Menzies had a great year. He won athlete of the meet at AUAs, winning four gold medals, and then went on to place fourth in the 600m at CIAUs.

The **women's basketball** team saw six players return from their 1995/96 AUSA Championship team. They were strengthened by a crop of solid rookies and by the addition of Patti



of AUAs, they lost a nail-biter in the semi-final to the eventual champions, St. FX.

Point guard Brian Parker set single-season AUSA records for steals and assists, and tied the 3-point FG record at 55. He also led the CIAU in free throw percentage. Shawn Plancke led the league in rebounding once again, and won the prestigious TSN award.

The Tigers are losing Plancke, Dallas Shannon and Kannin Oseitutu but should remain competitive next year.

We rock. Although Dalhousie's title total dropped by five, every other school in the AUSA would kill to win as many titles as we lost this year!