

OVERTIME

Dropkick me Jesus

By LEX GIGEROFF

Here we are. It's the seventh game of the World Series between the Mets and Red Sox. A whole season of baseball has come down to this final game. Winner take all. The Whole Enchilada. You can cut the tension in the air with a spatula.

With the score tied 3-3, Ray Knight steps to the plate. Suddenly, behind the Mets' dugout a fan hoists a large, homemade sign so that the cameras can pick it up. It says "John 3:16". Oh. Moments later, Ray Knight hits a Calvin Schiraldi fastball into the left-centre seats, and the Mets go on to win the World Series.

In case you don't remember, here's what John 3:16 has to say: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Now, I'm a firm believer in the power of metaphor: it enriches and enhances our perception of reality. But I'm not so naive or disrespectful, as to try and draw some kind of parallel between the Good Word and Mets' hopes for winning a World Series.

These John 3:16 signs (and others steering us toward Revelations, Corinthians, etc.) have

been cropping up the past few years. I first noticed one on Monday Night Football in 1983. While the Raiders were thumping the bejeezus out of the Bengals on the field, evangelists were trying to convert the heathens in the stands by flashing the John 3:16 sign. Just what football needs, I thought. A little theology between punts.

Since then, however, the John 3:16 sign has moved to baseball, hockey, and even the World Cup. They always seem to find good seats: right on the fifty-yard line, or behind the home-team dugout. There were so many in the Astrodome during the playoffs they had two thirds of the New Testament hanging from the outfield bleachers. Except now I'm not so sure that their purpose is merely conversion: I have a feeling that these little reminders try to assure us that athletic competition and Christianity go hand in hand.

After the game, Ray Knight is mobbed by reporters. "I'd just like to thank the Good Lord for giving me the opportunity to play in a World Series," he says. Everlasting life? He's just been named World Series M.V.P.

The Reverend Norman Vincent Peale said that "if Jesus were alive today, he'd be at the Super bowl." Uh-huh. And the meek shall inherit the earth.

B-ball Preview

Suffering somewhat from graduation losses, the men's basketball team's hopes are still high. With the conference very much up for grabs, the Tigers hope that their fastbreaking style and pressure defense will allow them to lead the conference again.

Having lost three all-conference performers, the Tigers seem to have some big gaps to fill, but a productive recruiting year brought a number of good players to the team, in all positions. With the introduction of the three point line, Mike Gillett should have a good season and lead the Tiger veterans. The Tigers' front line will be bolstered by the return of 6'5" Jeff Burns, 6'6" George Leacock and the addition of 6'5" swingman Paul Riley and 6'4" Willem Verbeek, an All-Ontario forward.

Pluses for this year's Tigers are their depth, with at least two players at every position, and their crop of talented rookies. However, the Tigers are inexperienced and the number of rookies on the roster could show in turnovers and defensive play.

Win or lose, the Tigers, with their high-flying style of play, should offer an exciting year of basketball and the new format for the final eight should mean a great year for local basketball fans.

1985/86:
Record 20-13
First in AUAA
4th in Midwest Regional
Starters Post — 3 (Bo Malott, Greg Brown, Darnell Williams)
Starters Returning — 2 (Mike Gillett, George Leacock)
Rookies — 7



Dalhousie's women soccer team failed to capture the AUAA title for the first time in seven years.

Photo Ninan Abraham/Dal Photo.

Dal falls short

By HEATHER KAULBACK

The Dalhousie Women's soccer team finished their season on a losing note for the first time in seven years this past weekend with a semi-final loss to St. F.X. The team came up a bit short in their bid to capture the AUAA crown for a seventh consecutive season, losing 2-1.

The Tigers went into the championships with a full roster, except for national team member, Sally Pirie, who was hurt earlier in the season and unable to rec-

over in time for the playoffs. St. F.X. scored first on a 25 yard high shot from AUAA All-Star Heather Hickson. The Tigers had a few scoring opportunities late in the first half but couldn't capitalize. The teams went into halftime, St. F.X. leading 1-0.

St. F.X. jumped into a 2-0 lead early in the second half when they capitalized on a goal-mouth scramble. With fifteen minutes left, Leslie Leavitt scored her first goal of the season to bring the Tigers within reach. Unfortunately the team ran out of time

and, for the first time since 1979, the team failed to become AUAA champions. However, the Tigers will be back next year and they hope to return to their winning ways.

St. Francis Xavier went on to win the championship, defeating the Acadia Axettes 1-0.

Dalhousie placed two players on the AUAA All-Star team. Tigers Lesley Cherry and Donna Lamb joined two players from Acadia, two from St. Francis, three from St. Mary's and two from Mt. Allison on the team.

First Place in Promos

By JOANN SHERWOOD

If you've ever attended a home game of a Dalhousie Tigers' varsity team, you're bound to have noticed the often zany promotions that have been an added attraction to Dalhousie athletics for a good many years.

According to the Tigers women's volleyball coach, Karen Fraser, who is one of the Dalplex personnel who heads these fan attendance drives, it's just a matter of using your imagination. "We have come up with a few new ideas each year. The ones that we've been running for quite a while are the promotions that are most popular."

In the tradition of the typical sports fan, the games that attract the greatest number of spectators are those where the promotions pertain to enthusiasm (a.k.a. NOISE). According to former Dal Athletics Promotions Manager Craig Munroe, "Dal fans have a habit of sitting on their hands. The purpose of these promotions is to get them on their feet making noise."

Fraser said that promotions are scheduled for the best matches because people are more inclined to come out and watch high-calibre sports action anyway. Besides the usual television and local market that university athletics have to compete with, in Halifax universities are also faced with an almost saturated collegiate athletic market.

Fraser believes that Dalhousie offers a lot of promotions compared to the other universities on the area. Surprisingly, these promotions are not solely intended to lure out the university population. "Our promotions are not just for sports fans but are also entertaining."

The hockey Tigers weekend home opener consisted of a match against the UPEI Panthers. The game featured what else but a potato shoot out. Those in attendance postponed their stints in canteen or washroom lineups in order to witness the eventual "Mr. Potato Head" splatter spuds over the top of the net and make "mashed potatoes" all over

the plexiglass.

Munroe explains that the annual Dog Food Night versus St. Mary's "is kind of a play on the name Huskies". Doesn't strike you as being entertaining? Then how about Airplane Night where fans construct paper airplanes and compete to see whose will "fly" the furthest.

Fraser believes promotions are often directly beneficial to the teams. School promotions give junior and senior high school students an opportunity to see a team that they may want to try out for someday, so in that manner the promotions are recruiting tools. Also, outstanding athletes from the various teams are honoured on Coke Night where Coke, the sponsor of the Athletes of the Game and also the Athletes of the Week present prizes to the athletes.

As a former competitor at national team level, Fraser firmly believes that fan support can make a difference in a close game. Fraser adds, "It's fun to look forward to the next promotion."