

The boys behind the balls

BY TRACY MAJOR

Well people, it's that time of year again when we can see great talent, loads of Tiger spirit and (for all you ladies) hot legs. Yes, it's basketball season.

I know that many of you basketball fans have been waiting with anticipation for the new season to begin. With the great effort put out by last year's team, who wouldn't be?

Head coach Tim McGarrigle, in his third year with the Tigers, believes this year's team has great potential. There are good returning players and talented new players. "The guys on the team this year are very competitive, and that will allow them to be successful," said McGarrigle.

There are eight new additions to the team this year. Darryl Baptiste is a hard-working guard from Winnipeg, Manitoba. Guard Jesse Brothers is an economics major who calls Halifax

home. Montreal's Dale "Action" Jackson is a freshman guard who has talent but knows he has a lot to learn. Toronto's Stanleigh Mitchell (guard) is a transfer student from UNB, who's "hyped" for the new season. Forward Dennie Oliver hails from Halifax and has attended Dal's basketball camps in the past so he knows what to expect this year.

The Tigers have two new players from Washington, D.C. Ray Fountain plays small forward with a "killer attitude," and forward Mike Sabol hopes for a crowd at every game to cheer the team on this season.

Several strong players are returning from last year. Guard Brian Parker, this year's team captain, thinks the team is of "championship calibre," and fashions some of his game after Magic Johnson's. Power forward Tim Elliot hails from King City, Ontario and is in his third

year with the team. Point guard Dwayne Hopkinson is a busy player that also has time to be enrolled in the big brother programme at the YMCA. Shooting guard/small forward Tremayne of Montreal feels that the squad has really good chemistry and optimism. Third year point guard Tim Maloney is a two-sport man who almost played Dal soccer this year as well. Guard Kannin Osei-Tutu is from Winnipeg and considers himself a confident and aggressive player on both offense and defense. Forward Shawn Plancke of Elgin, Ontario is in his fifth year and is an aggressive presence on the court. Third year forward Blair Pollopson of Orillia, Ontario considers himself a '5' as a basketball player: "If I was anything higher, I would be in the N.B.A." Centre Dallas Shannon lives in New Glasgow and chose Dal because he had played for coach McGarrigle before.

Tiger spirit, that's what it's all about. The team appreciates the fans that come out to support them and they agree that the crowd's momentum drives them to perform at their best. Their first game is at 7 p.m. tonight at the Metro Centre against Western. Admission is free with a Dal ID.

Vikings raid wrestling's "Dal dual"

BY GAZETTE STAFF

Coming off a successful inaugural season, which saw their first AUSA Champion since 1982 and a successful summer wrestling camp, the Dalhousie Wrestling Club (DWC) is off and wrestling in their second season.

This summer, Coach Scott Aldridge ran the first ever Dalhousie Wrestling Camp, and this year he hopes that, hosting a pair of meets, "the powers that be will grant us varsity status."

The first of these events took place on Friday, October 18th in Dalplex. The hosted the "Dalhousie dual" against the Valley Vikings from CFB Greenwood. The matches were tough; most of the club members hadn't wrestled in a very long time.

When the dust finally settled, the more experienced Vikings won the day 8 bouts to 6. Paul Lewardowski (57kg), Logan Ward (61kg), Gavin Tweedie (68kg), Jason Schomberg (68kg), and Keith Olivella (72kg) were impressive in their matches but all lost due to minor mistakes. Newcomer, Shaun Bigg (65kg) was an unexpected natural and pinned his opponent. J.C.

Rioux (65kg) easily defeated his opponent 10-0 and was named the Outstanding Dalhousie Wrestler. Coach Aldridge (90kg) laced his boots and won three matches. The club's lone female grappler and 1995 N.S. High School champion Jaimie Hamilton competed despite being under the weather. Despite losing both her matches, she's expected to do very well this year.

The event was loosely tied to Homecoming and featured an alumni match between law grad Peter Coulthard and the DWC's Ward. Coulthard wore his twenty year old Dal Wrestling T-shirt with pride, despite the fact that it was older than a lot of the club's current members.

Aldridge took advantage of the occasion by nominating five time AUSA Champion Greg Wilson to the Dalhousie Sports Hall of Fame. "I think these things are vital and I know that a sport like wrestling often gets overlooked," said Aldridge.

"If I didn't do it, who else would?"

The DWC will be hosting their AUSA Open in the new year and they would like to thank people who came out and made this first-ever event a great success.

Varsity/Club schedule:

Thursday, October 24

Basketball (Men's) vs. Western, @ Metro Ctr.

Friday, October 25

Hockey @ St. FX, 7:30 p.m.
Soccer (Men's) @ SMU, 4 p.m.

Saturday, October 26

Rugby men's and women's firsts semi-finals
Rugby men's seconds final
Basketball (men's) vs. Western, 7 p.m.
@ Dalplex
Track and Field AUAAs @ UNB
Swimming — AUSA Invitational @ Dal (until Sunday)

Sunday, October 27

Soccer (Women's) @ SMU, 3 p.m.

Wednesday, October 30

Hockey @ SMU, 7:30 p.m.

Women's cross country prepares for AUAAs

BY DAN HENNIGAR

The CIAU cross country championships are two weeks away but to attend Dal must first bring home the AUSA banner.

The Dal women will be strong favourites at this weekend's AUSA championships but victory is by no means a foregone conclusion. Although Dalhousie has won all three regular season meets, UNB has mounted serious challenges on each occasion.

Their most recent clash occurred on the muddy fields of the St. FX campus. Dal's Marnie Dickens, Jessica Fraser, and Cindy

Toner started aggressively and splashed their way into the lead pack. Dickens courageously stalked eventual race winner Lavina Gough (St. FX) for over half the race before finally being forced to concede.

But it was the get out fast, hang on, then gobble-them-up tactics of Fraser and Toner that finally secured the Dalhousie victory. The duo ran an impressive final loop, passing several key runners en route to third and fifth place finishes. Dickens finished in fourth.

Two pleasant surprises for the Dal team came from rookies

Andrea McNeven and Eva Stalstad both of whom finished in scoring positions. For Stalstad it was her first cross country race ever.

Dal's top two runners, Cindy Foley — undefeated this year — and Krista Wuerr, did not compete but will be wearing the Black and Gold this weekend.

Despite the string of victories Dal coach Al Yarr is not taking anything for granted.

"Anything can happen at a championship race. People just do things they've never done before and you can bet UNB has been focusing for the last month on beating us," said Yarr.

Men run down to seven

BY JESSICA FRASER

"Team selection is by far the hardest thing a coach must do," says Al Yarr, coach of Dal's cross-country team.

In September, over 30 men showed up to practices. At St. FX, Thanksgiving weekend, 14 men raced. At AUAAs on Saturday, only 7 men will be given the honour of wearing Tiger singlets. The significance of October 12th's race at St. FX was clear.

Dan Hennigar, 1996 CIAU 1500m champion, had already earned his position on the team before the Antigonish race.

Starting at the back of the pack, he worked his way into the lead. Along the way, Hennigar encountered teammates Will Smith, a member of Canada's national orienteering team; Tim Ellis, a former member of Canada's junior national track team; Andrew Earnst, a member of Nova Scotia's Team Timex; Oliver Janson; Trevor Boudreau; Tim Lindsay; Ian Blenkhorn; Pat McGrath; Jamie Blanchard; Chris Evers; and Richard Menzies. The team was rich in talent, but flooded with depth.

By the end of the second of three loops, Hennigar had made his way to the front of the pack

and was keeping company with teammate Brian Yorke, a 1996 national steeplechase finalist. With a kilometre to go, Hennigar made a solo sprint to the finish, his first apparent effort in the race. The men finished in first and second place.

The next morning, a decision was reached. Hennigar, Yorke, Blanchard, Ellis, McGrath, Evers, and Neil Manson (pre-selected) were to be the Tiger seven. Coach Yarr's most difficult challenge of the season was over. The destiny of the team now lies with those seven runners who are competing at the AUAAs this Saturday.

announcements

Innertube water polo, volleyball and basketball leagues are starting up during the week of October 27th. Interested players can call Dial-a-Rec (494-2588) for game times.