

Tiger track and field athletes medal at CIAUs

Dal roars to victory at AUAAs

BY SARAH GILES

While there were no golds for Dal's track team at the CIAUs in Montreal, the team had an excellent showing. And earlier, at the AUAAAs in Moncton, Dal dominated the field.

CIAUs (Mar. 12)

It is a good thing the CIAU track and field championships are contested over two days because day one was not a good one for the Tigers. In contrast, day two sparkled silver and bronze.

The Tigers' first day at McGill looked like it was starting well. In the men's 1000m Dan Hennigar took the lead and set the pace for the first 800m. In the final lap fatigue set in and Hennigar faded to seventh. Jamie Blanchard finished just behind him for eighth and Andrew Dunbrack placed tenth.

Later that evening the men were back on the track for the 4x800m. The relay consisted of Scott Simpson, Dunbrack, Hennigar and Blanchard. Dal had spent most of the year ranked first and big results were expected.

Unfortunately, after the tough runs in the 1000m earlier in the evening, the Tigers were not in top form and it wasn't to be — they finished 12th.

The women's 4x800m (Kelly Prendergast, Allison Beaton, Kelly McKean and Juliet Thornton) had a solid race to finish in 10th spot.

Dal's long jump king Peter Bienkowski overcame a lingering heel injury to finish 11th with a 6.71 meter leap.

The highlight of the day came with rookie Dan Boyce's high jump of 1.95m, which put him in 4th place.

Day two was Dal's day to shine.

In the women's high jump, rookie Sophie Cardinal placed an incredible third with a jump of 1.71m.

In the men's 1500m, Hennigar made a move with three laps to go and battled national team member Jeremy Deere of the University of Calgary to the finish. Hennigar's time of 3:52.40 earned him the silver medal. Blanchard placed 12th in the event.

Shot-putter Martin Curtis threw 13.60m to place ninth.

The men's 4x400m relay (David Thompson, Joel Dalrymple, Dunbrack and Blanchard) came tenth in a season best time of 3:26.16.

AUAAAs (Feb. 28)

Though at times the men's

track team led by a single point, in the end, both the men's and women's teams found themselves in possession of yet another set of AUAA banners in Moncton.

Several of the big awards went to Dal runners: middle Distance runner David Thompson and high-jumper Sophie Cardinal both picked up Rookie of the Year awards. Last summer's 800m Junior National Champion, Andrew Dunbrack, received the Male Athlete of the Year award, and long time coach, Al Yarr, was awarded women's Coach of the Year. Assistant Coaches Peter Lord (jumps and throws) and Steve LeBlanc (sprints) also contributed greatly to the team's success.

The Dal wins were especially impressive considering that the majority of the team was sick or injured. Despite lacking some key players, the Tigers won 4 out of 6 of the relays and many individual events.

Dunbrack and Blanchard pulled off big performances in several clutch situations. Moncton's tight corners ensured slow times on the track but shot-putter Martin Curtis smashed his own Dal record in the event by 39cm to win the conference title and qualify for the CIAU championships.

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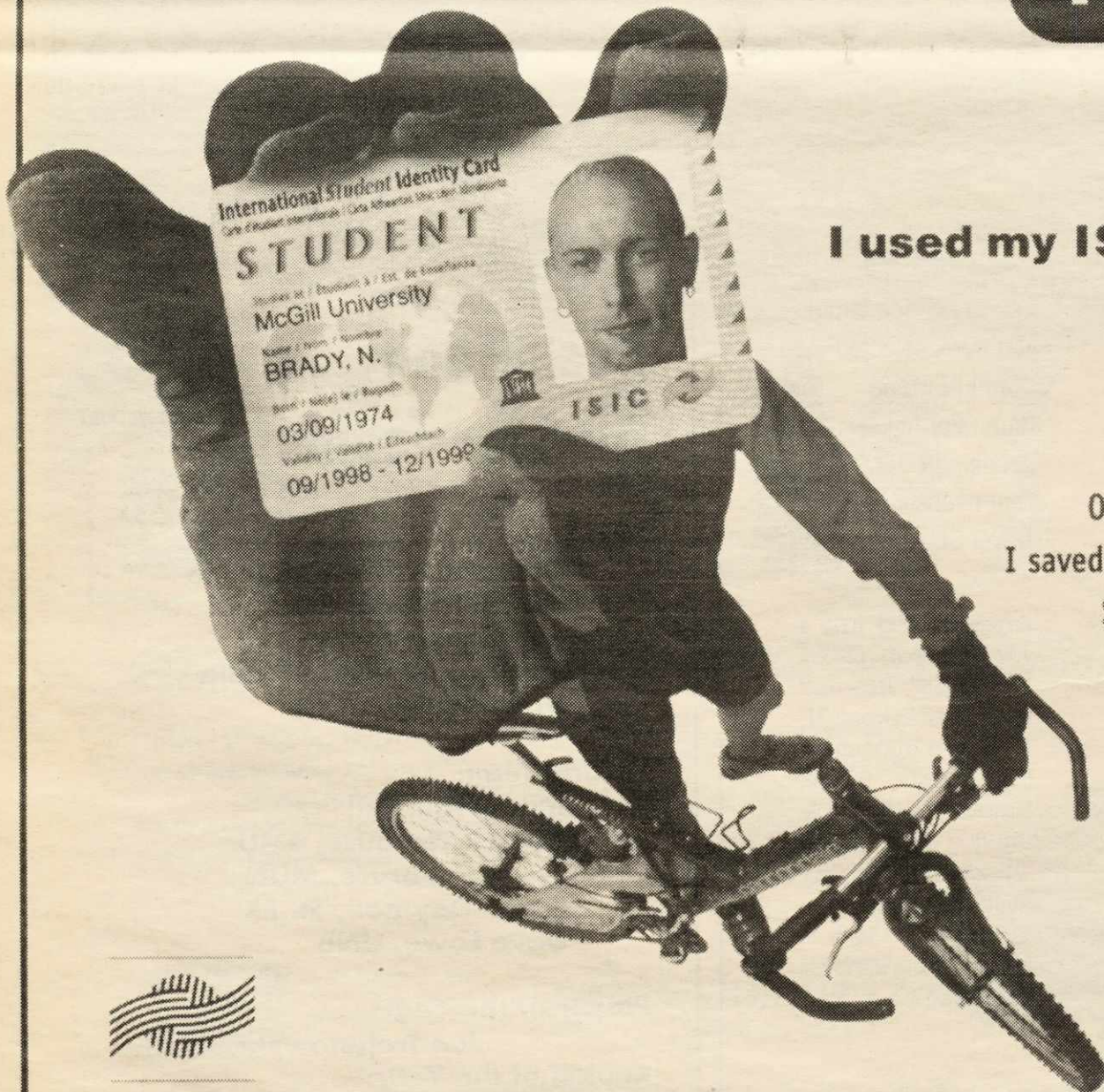
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