SPORTS

Women's soccer want threepeat Men look to improve under interim coach

BY TERRY HAWES

To say that there is parity in AUAA soccer at the moment would be the understatement of the year.

No fewer than six teams on the men's side have a legitimate shot at the conference championship while the women's side feature five schools capable of lifting the trophy on November 7.

The Dalhousie women are looking for their sixth AUAA championship in seven years and second threepeat in the same span, however, last year's run was done the hard way. Dara Moore's squad finished third in the East Division, then had to get past UPEI, St. FX

and MUN to win the title leading to the Tigers' bronze CIAU finish last year.

Dal lost AUAA playoff
MVP Malin Wester, Mary Beth
Bowie, Amy Harding and Kristy
O'Connell, but has managed to
hold on to the core of the team
with ex-Tigers Stephanie Finateri
and Julie Pigozzo back after a
year of absence. The Tigerettes
appear to be the early favorites,
but the task will not be easy.

The St. FX X-Women (9-2-2) look to be the Tigers' nearest competitor with key returners Beth McCharles and all-star defender Maureen McSween.

St. Mary's were the surprise team of the regular season with most of their players either in their

COVER CHARGES

THURS>S2 FRI>S4 SAT>S5

1741 GRAFTON STREET. HALIFAX. (902)4230909



Kicking as a habit: soccer action at Dal last spring.

first or second years, and one more year of experience may prove to have been valuable to the young team. Other contenders include Mount Allison and MUN's Sea-Hawks.

The Dalhousie Men's Soccer team will have interim coach Pat Nearing on the sidelines in 1999 due to a back injury to long time skipper Ian Kent, forcing him to miss the year.

Nearing will have his hands full with a team that failed to live up to expectations last season — the Tigers were fourth in the East Division and eventually lost to the UPEI Panthers in AUAA semifinals.

The team will see the return of many players, including scoring threats Nador Awanen and Jeff Hibberts, goaltenders Grant Spence and Andrew Sears and defenders Ilir Koliqi and ex Dal player Steve Cormier. Still, Nearing has stressed that he is going to bring some control in the way the team plays.

Among the other contenders will be UPEI, the 1998 AUAA champs, St. Mary's, who have a wealth of experience behind them. Acadia, St. FX, UNB and MUN all have strong teams, however, so the season is still wide open.

The team that finishes first in the East Division will host the AUAA's from November 5-7.

Women's soccer (Sept. 12) St. Mary's 1 Dalhousie 0

The ladies season opened on a sour note as they went down to a single goal defeat to cross town rivals St. Mary's.

Husky Dianne Hatcher, who scored in the Huskies 2-2 draw with Acadia on Friday, tapped in a goal in the 22nd minute of the match, leaving Dal keeper Roxanne Murphy helpless.

"It was disapointing to get a

loss in our first game." says Dal coach Dar i Moore. "We are not physically fit right now and we didn't come to play."

Dal heads to Newfoundland this weekend for a pair of games against the Sea-Hawks.

Men's soccer (Sept. 12) Dalhousie 1 St. Mary's 1

The Tigers started off the season on a good note as Dal's Chris Delvin hammered in the equalizer with a mere two minutes left in the game.

Nador Awanen opened the scoring for SMU with a shot from just outside the box that hit the post before crossing the line.

SM¹J, considered the favorite for the East Division championship, stumbled to an opening day defeat at Acadia and looked far from convincing on this day as well before Delvin saved the day with his late goal.



