

# Overtime By JoAnn Sherwood

## Apples and oranges

The sporting world is not an easy place for anyone to live. person really has to persevere to make a name for themselves in the world of sports, whether it be professional or amateur. Times have been particularly tough for women who try to succeed in a sports field. They are faced with the added disadvantage of trying to break into a male-dominated world. (Don't worry, my grievances here are not those of a female sports editor. . .)

What bothers me are sports fans at any level of competition, who say that women's sports are boring. These individuals (not mentioning any names!) usually happen to be male. I'm going to explain to all of you ignorant people that women's sports are not dull. In fact, they are just as exciting as men's athletic competition.

Yes, I know that some of you out there are saying, "Hey, wait just a minute, male athletes are not the same as female athletes." I know that women cannot throw as hard or as far as a man and they are usually not as fast but that does not make them boring. Militant feminists might kill me for this but, men *are* endowed with greater physical capacities than most women. You may be thinking that argument's over but I'm not finished yet. . .

I'll use an example. What is volleyball? Roughly speaking, it's a group of people hitting a ball over a net. Women do this just as well as men do. "Doing just as well" means that a team is successful. It's a team's strategy that makes or breaks the way they play. These are a few of my volleyball observations. . . Men seem

opponents. They like to keep the rallies short and win the point on a blistering kill. The force of the kill may be exciting to you but I think that sometimes players get carried away. They seem to think that the only way they are going to win the rally is if they annihilate the ball. You can't call it a graceful sight.

In women's volleyball, on the other hand, rallies tend to be longer. I happen to like long rallies. You can see the strategy unfold before your eyes. You can anticipate what the player's next move will be. The spectator has the opportunity to think about what is going on rather than just being overwhelmed by the shot.

All this is to illustrate the point that men's and women's sports cannot be compared. If you're in a certain mood, you might like to see the volleyball getting smashed to pieces. In other instances, you might prefer the smoother sports games. You can't prepare basketball to baseball because the games are different. You can say that you like one more than the other because it appeals to your particular tastes. However, you really can't judge one to be superior to the other. So it is with men's and women's competitions. They are both trying to win but they go about it in different manners. Preferring men's sports over women's sports or women's sports over men's sports, is like comparing apples to oranges. It can't be done and it's useless to try.

The key to enjoying whatever type of athletic competition you may be watching is to enjoy the game for what it is and not for what is happening in another place or on another playing surface.

## Tigers at nationals

By JOANN SHERWOOD

Last weekend, the Dalhousie men's volleyball team travelled to Winnipeg to take part in the CIAU championships. The Tiger squad lost two matches to tough opponents to knock them out of medal contention.

In their first match, the Dalhousie team faced the number one ranked team in the country and the defending champions of the tournament, the University of Winnipeg Wesmen. The Wesmen showed why they have been the most consistent team in the sport, beating the Tigers by scores of 15-8, 15-4, 15-12.

In the second game, the Tigers played better and had more of an opportunity for taking control of the match. Their opponents were from Laval. The first game lasted about twenty minutes but the score would not indicate this. The score ended up being 15-2 in favour of Laval. The pace of the game was slowed down because of the number of side-outs that occurred. In the second game, the Tigers had the opportunity to shift the momentum in their favour but they lost the game 16-14. In the final game, Laval won the match by taking the Tigers by a score of 15-11.

Tigers coach Al Scott said that

his team was trying to implement a specific blocking strategy that did not begin to be really effective until half way through the second game. The purpose of this strategy was to give the Tigers better formation against the Laval hitters in the back court.

"The strategy seemed to be effective but we just weren't winning the points," said Scott.

In the gold medal match, Winnipeg squared off against Saskatchewan. The Wesmen took the match in three very close games to win the national title. In the bronze medal match, Manitoba faced the University of Calgary squad. Manitoba took that game to ensure that the top three rankings going into the tournament had been accurate.

Toronto, which was ranked seventh going into the event, beat Laval to cop fifth spot. UBC, who had been ranked sixth entering the tournament, failed to win a match.

Coach Scott emphasized the fact that the tournament was an exciting event where lots of top-calibre volleyball action was displayed. His goal for the future is to make the Dalhousie entry at the CIAUs one that is not just participating in order to gain experience, but in order to win.

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tion in any sports-related organization; the process is usually a long and often frustrating one as they work their way up through the system. Curren says this is not a problem that exists solely in Canadian sports. She has attended conferences in the United States (where she says the men outnumber the women about ten to one) and has heard the same problems and concerns voiced.

The situation can be particularly discouraging when a woman has to deal with men who do not recognize them as their equals. In the sports field, says Curren, a supreme effort is required on the part of the women to try to fit in and "be one of the boys".

Says Curren, "Men tend to be fraternal in this business because they have grown up talking with each other about sports and they are comfortable in that environment. They are decidedly uncomfortable talking with women about sports."

Pat Curren has known some career setbacks that she feels are at least partly attributable to that fact that she is a woman in a male-dominated field.

In one instance, a sports-related committee on which she served for two years did not ask her back for a third. One of the reasons given for her dismissal was her lack of respect for the chairman.

"I don't think I'm disrespectful but I do speak out. It's like that old saying we were told when we were kids: when a man speaks his mind, he's considered assertive, but when a woman does the same, she's a pain in the neck."

Curren felt she had made her mark, as well, as the person in charge of marketing, public relations, publicity and media relations for the CIAU Men's Basketball National Championships when Dalhousie hosted the event for the past three years. But when the responsibility of hosting the tournament moved to a community committee this year,

## I feel like a female Rodney Dangerfield

she was not asked to head up any of the committees. Nor was she even asked to serve on a committee until fairly far along in the planning stages.

"You begin to question your own competence when things like this happen, but I'm satisfied that I did a great job on the basketball for three years. As to why I wasn't asked to take part this year, I'm not sure there is one definitive answer but I do know that all of the chairmen were just that — chairMEN. I'm pretty sure that a man with my experience in promoting and advertising the tournament would have been on top of the selection committee's list," she says.

Discouraging? You bet, says Curren.

"I feel like a female Rodney Dangerfield. I don't get any respect."

There is an even darker issue that confronts many women in the sport administration field: that of verbal and sexual harassment. In a field where the men's network is strong, women are sometimes subjected to verbal attacks by men who are uncom-

fortable working with them.

Curren points out that the support a woman gets from her family and friends is very important. Understandably, a woman working in sports administration has to devote as much time as, if not

## Men tend to be fraternal

more than, a woman pursuing a career in another profession.

It can, says Curren, place a great strain on family and relationships. Perhaps as a consequence, she says she sees a great number of single women in the field.

Despite the obvious drawbacks, Pat Curren enjoys her work and appreciates her role at Dalhousie.

"There is no sexism here. I'm treated very much as an equal — and I'm definitely made to feel appreciated," says Curren.

Curren says she never really had to worry much about equal rights before she began working

in the sports field.

"Before I got into sports, I had only really encountered attitudes of blatant sexism once, and that was in Australia where, by their standards, Crocodile Dundee would be considered a raving feminist. I thought that once I got back to Canada, I'd never have to put up with that kind of attitude again. I guess I was wrong."

When asked about a solution to the problem of sexism in sports and the necessity of the quota system in order to integrate women into the system, Curren says there are no easy answers to the problem. A major disadvantage of the quota system is that not necessarily the best people will be selected because certain individuals have to be included. Curren calls quotas "a necessary evil at a bad time."

On the other side, "You still can't rely on people to make the right decisions without quotas," says Curren.

By trial and error, committees will have to learn that there is no reason why a woman should not be chosen for a certain position just because she is a man.

## Part II: All-Canadians

The AUAA season for the men's and women's volleyball and the basketball teams have come to an end and with the AUAA playoffs out of the way, league and playoff awards have been presented in these sports.

In women's basketball, Dalhousie's Lisa Briggs and Kathy MacCormack were selected to the first AUAA first all-star team while Trish MacCormack won a spot on the second team. Rookie sensation Mary K. Lyles of the Tigers was named rookie of the year and Tigers' Peggy Johnson and Lisa Briggs were selected to the tournament all-star team at the AUAA final at UPEI where the Tigers lost a close final contest to the host Panthers, 57-59.

In men's basketball, Acadia coach Dave Nutbrown was honoured as coach of the year. First team all-stars were: Mike Williams of St. Mary's Bob Aucoin of New Brunswick, Mike Morgan of UPEI, Peter Morris of Acadia, and Kyle Gayle of St. F.X. Dalhousie's Mike Gillett earned a spot on the second all-star squad. He was joined by UPEI's Peter

Gordon, Acadia's Kevin Veinot and Rodney Martin and Andy Ledoux of St. F.X., who was also chosen league MVP. Gordon was rookie of the year.

In women's volleyball, UNB's Helen Bridge was selected as tournament MVP. AUAA all-stars are: Dalhousie's Colleen Doyle, Moncton's France Lambert, Mount Allison's Michelle Mockler, Dalhousie's Sandra Rice, and Acadia's Krista Moore. League MVP was Julie Godin of Moncton. The Moncton coach, Daniel O'Carroll, was honoured as coach of the year.

The Tiger men's volleyball team, who captured the league title, dominated in the award category also. Brian Johnstone was tournament MVP. League all-stars are: UNB's Mark Bolden, UNB's Eric Renahshaw; Dalhousie's Jody Holden, and Dalhousie Andy Kohl. AUAA MVP was Dalhousie's Brian Rourke. Coach of the year is Tiger skipper Al Scott.

Rourke was also named second team All-Canadian for the second consecutive season. . .

## UBC cops title

By JOANN SHERWOOD

The 1986-87 CIAU men's basketball championship got under way at the Halifax Metro Centre last Thursday afternoon. The tournament participants were the six Canadian conference winners and two wildcard entries from Western Ontario and Winnipeg. This year marked the first time the event consisted of the final four instead of the final eight. However, there were still no surprises despite the fact that there were more teams competing. With the absence of the Victoria Vikings, who had won the national title the past seven years, the Brandon Bobcats were expected to clinch the title and that they did with a 74-66 victory over the number two ranked University of British Columbia in Saturday afternoon's final.

In quarterfinal action on Thursday, UBC defeated Western 93-76. Winnipeg handed a loss to the University of Toronto Varsity Blues, the Ontario East champions, by a score of 80-79. Brandon topped Concordia 87-70 and in the nightcap, the hometown favourite, St. Mary's Huskies, went down to defeat at the hands of McMaster, the Ontario West title holders, by a close score of 74-71.

In the contest between Brandon and Concordia, the Bobcats got out to an early 13-9 lead over their opponents from Concordia. The game turned out to be a close defensive contest and at the 8:30 mark of the first half, Brandon led 19-17. Brandon did pull away momentarily but the Stingrays were determined to keep the score close during the first half. Bran-

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