

Dal team competes during holiday

by Greg Dennis

While many of us were enjoying a period of rest and relaxation during the Christmas holidays, several of Dalhousie's varsity squads partook in exhibitions, honing their game for the second half of the Atlantic University Athletic Association schedule. Varying degrees of success met the teams from hockey, men's volleyball, men's basketball and women's basketball but all gained valuable experience from the top-notch competitions.

HOCKEY: Pierre Page's varsity Tigers took advantage of the holiday to travel to Alberta for a pair of exhibition games against University of Calgary and another two with defending CIAU champ University of Alberta. The Tigers split with both of their western opponents, losing 4-2 before winning 3-2 over Alberta then followed a 7-1 loss to Calgary with a 4-3 victory. Goaltender Ken Bickerton, superb in the Alberta games, continued to supply evidence that he is one of the best netminders in college hockey. Brian Guazzini's second goal of the game lifted Dal to their narrow win over Alberta while Edmonton native Kevin Zimmel notched the winner against Calgary. Coach Page was glad his team got some action against competition from another conference, giving the newer players a peek at what to expect should they be in the CIAU playoffs this spring.

The Tigers will get another taste of national competition this weekend when they travel to Montreal to compete in host Concordia University's Micron Invitational Tournament. Also competing will be University of Toronto and Plattsburg State.

The Tigers, ranked second in the country behind U. of A., have added two new players to their line-up. Left-winger Barkley Haddad from Cape Breton and center Paul Jeffrey, formerly with the Winsor Spitfires of the OHA, accompanied the team out west and saw their first AUSA action last night against the St. Mary's Huskies (score in next week). Good things are expected from both skaters.

MENS VOLLEYBALL: The Al Scott coached volleyball team travelled to York University to compete in the York Excaliber Classic. The Tournament featured some of Canada's top volleyball teams as well as 4th ranked American Penn State (who eventually captured first place at the tournament). The Tigers finished fifth of eight teams, disappointing since they were eliminated from the upper tier playoffs by a "not-so-strong" Western University 15-13, 16-14.

In an exciting consolation final against Waterloo, the Tigers prevailed 15-11, 15-6, 12-15, 14-16 and 15-8 to take the top spot amongst the lower four teams. Jan Prsala Jr., was outstanding for Dalhousie in the final contributing an amazing 48 kills and five blocking points. Equally superb was Phil Perrin, 46 kills and 12 blocking points, and Andy Stuart, 37 kills and 11 saves. Bernie Derible

played his finest match of the year adding 27 kills while John Gray, making a successful transition from the basketball court scored 17 kills and five blocks. The sixth member of the starting squad, Ken Boutlier did an excellent job of setting and showed fine generalship on the court.

Scott, who has lamented the lack of solid AUSA competition this year, was pleased his team had the opportunity to compete in a tough tourney. The Tigers, 10th ranked nationally, are looking forward to the Canadian finals this spring. More immediately though, has Dal in Fredericton for a weekend tournament then travelling to St. Francis Xavier for a Wednesday match against the X-Men.

WOMENS BASKETBALL: The women's basketball team, coached by Carolyn Savoy, took their act to the Prairies

and returned home with first place honors from the University of Saskatchewan Tournament and a second place finish in the University of Regina Queen City Classic. Dalhousie, ranked third in the nation, received fine performances from all members but especially from center Jill Tasker. Tasker netted 91 points in the six tourney games, earning her honors as Dal's female athlete of the week (Jan Prsala took the men's honors). Patti Langille was named to the all-star team after the Regina tourney while Carol Rosenthal captured similar honors in Saskatoon.

The women put their 4-0 AUSA record on the line tonight against Acadia, then tangle with arch-rival University of New Brunswick on Saturday afternoon. Game times at the DALPLEX are 6:30 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.

respectively.

MENS BASKETBALL: The basketball Tigers are in trouble. After winning their first two games of the season in exhibition over Ottawa, the men have dropped twelve games straight. The three latest came last week in Wolfville at the Stu Aberdeen Memorial Tournament. The one bright light for Dal was the play of newcomer Steve Lambert, a 5'10" guard from Springfield, Mass. Lambert, who hooped 35 points in Dal's final loss, will add some much needed scoring punch to the Tiger lineup. Paired with Alistar MacDonald, they give Dalhousie a formidable set of back-courtiers. They, and their forwards, have to be tough this week as the Tigers host Acadia on Thursday (8:00 p.m.), U.N.B. on Saturday (3 p.m.) and Prince Edward Island on Sunday (2 p.m.). In

order to maintain any hope of making the playoffs, Dal must defeat both opponents this weekend.

In other varsity action slated for this weekend, Dal's **Swim Team** is back in the pool for a one o'clock meet against Acadia on Saturday. The rivalry between these two teams has grown quite intense, especially after the Wolfville women were beaten for the first time in ten years by Dal in November. Dal swimmers just returned from an eight day training camp/vacation in Barbados.

Meanwhile, the **Women's Volleyball** team is on the road this weekend, competing in the Waterloo Invitational. An excellent opportunity for hard competition, coach Lois MacGregor feels the tourney will keep her team for the stretch drive in the AUSA.

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