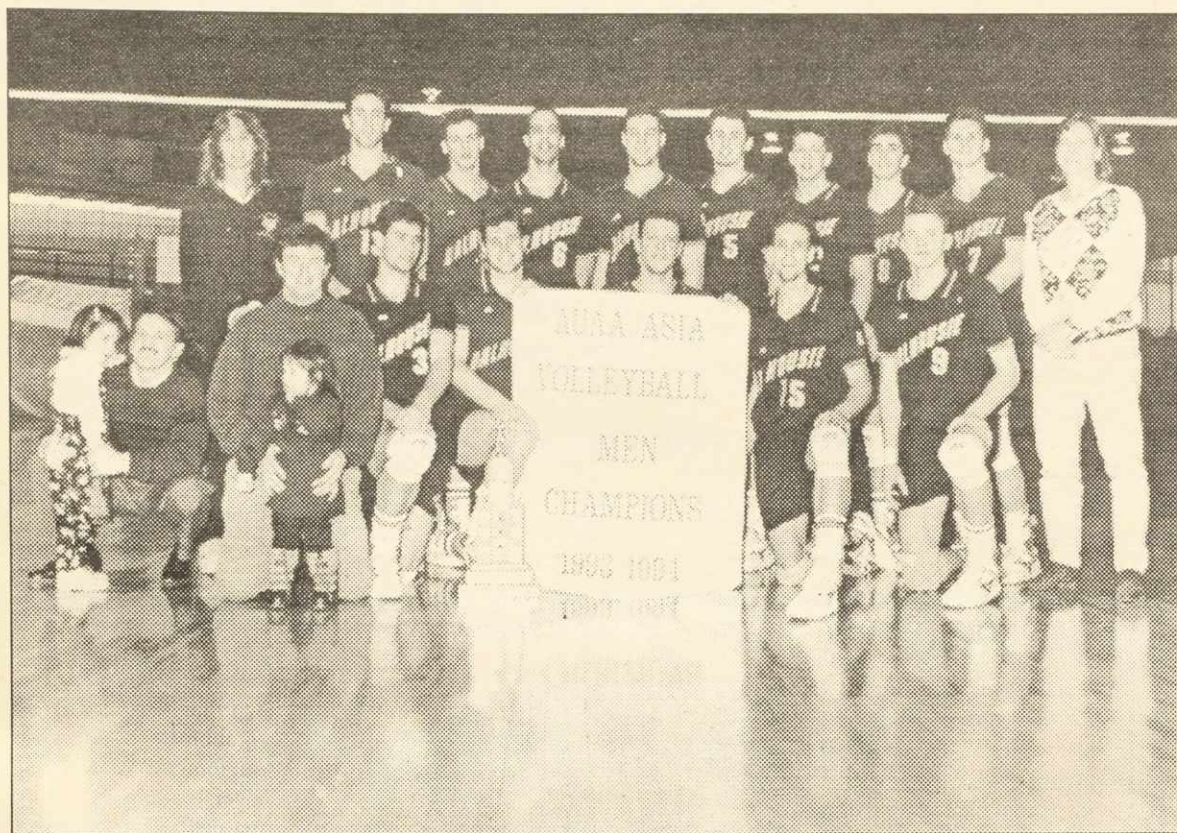


sports

Men hope to win national title at home



The Dalhousie Tigers won the AUSA volleyball title last weekend. This weekend they host the CIAU national championships. PHOTO: BILL JENSEN

by Carmen Tam

The Tigers are counting on home-court advantage to help them win their first-ever national men's volleyball championship this weekend.

Having the CIAU national championship at Dalhousie has generated a lot of excitement and has lured two veterans back for the second half of the season. With the likes of former national team member Jody Holden and two-time All-Canadian Paul Villeneuve back, Dal has a

strong team of experienced players and talented rookies.

This is the first time the nationals has been held by Dalhousie since 1981-82 when the women won the gold and the men taking a bronze.

Incidentally Dalhousie was not expected to be hosting this year. According to university varsity athletic coordinator Karen Moore, Dal placed a bid three years ago but saw it go to McMaster. But another chance came when McMaster University backed out last fall due to

scheduling conflicts. It was officially granted to Dalhousie in early September. Even though it caused a bit of administrative problems she feels Dal is ready.

The Tiger squad has an outstanding group of new players on campus with three members playing for their respective provinces on the 1993 Canada games in Kamloops, B.C. They are John Hobin and Brad Williams, who played for Nova Scotia and Dal's lone P.E.I. representative, Thane MacKay. Chris Schwarz, a

Women take swimming title

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the Dal men matched UNB's score, point for point, making Day Two an important day.

On the women's side, Sarah Woodworth captured the 100m fly with teammate Megan Hannam placing fifth. Woodworth also finished second in the 200m IM with Jessica Fraser and Alex Howard finishing close behind. Katherine Dunn earned a bronze in the 400m free and a silver in the 50m back. Kristen Matthews, Alex Howard and Margaret Banbury were all finalists in the 50m back. The backstroking quartet gave Dal the edge over the competition. Captain Carla MacDougall and Maureen Strapps were finalists in the 200m breaststroke while Donna Phelan and Cheryl Woodman finished one and two in the 50m free. At the end of the evening, the women had a comfortable lead over UNB.

Day Two:

After an exciting night of racing, the Tigers had to grit their teeth and remain focussed on this crucial day. Woodman set the pace with a win in the 200m free. Carla MacDougall followed with a gold in the 100m breaststroke with Strapps finishing second; just above the CIAU standard. The same backstroking quartet from the 50m back came through again in the 100m back, dominating the event again. Sarah Woodworth and Jessica Fraser took silver and bronze respectively in the 400 IM. Phelan, Hannam and Alex Howard

flew through the 50m fly. The 4x200m free relay team came up short to UNB but the total points scored after Day Two showed who was on top. With one day remaining, victory for the women was in sight.

Day Two for the men proved to be challenging. Anctil and Jardine were finalists in the 200m free as were PJ Cowan and Matt Fraser in the 400 IM. Ritcey and Jackson were silver and bronze medalists respectively in the 100m breaststroke while Wilbur MacLeod stroked his way to a season's best.

Shannon finished second in the 100m back with Sean Andrews and Ed Stewart close behind. Andrews also captured a second place finish in the 50m fly while the 4x200m free relay also finished second behind UNB. After two days of competition, the Dal Tigers trailed UNB by 30 points. A strong comeback on Day Three was needed to take the AUSA title home.

Day Three:

With a comfortable lead, the Dal women still needed to perform in the pool to maintain their lead. Carla MacDougall, Bridget Byrne and Hannam started things off well in the 200m fly while sprinters Phelan, Rebekah Lawson and Woodman warmed the waters in the 100m free. The 800m free saw rookie Betty Hawary shave 300 seconds off her best time. Sarah Woodworth captured the silver in the event. The 50m breaststroke saw MacDougall, Woodman and Strapps take control

of the pool while the 4x100m free relay finished second.

A combined effort from all the Dal women enabled them to capture their eleventh title in 14 years. A culmination of six months of hard work and fast swimming paid off as the Tigers scored 189 points to UNB's 150.

Four women will be travelling to Victoria for the CIAU championships: Sarah Woodworth, Carla MacDougall, Katherine Dunn and Donna Phelan.

For the men, their work was cut out for them. Brent Purdy stroked his way to a silver medal in the 200m fly. Purdy also managed to go under the CIAU standard by 2/100ths of a second, the same margin he missed in the 100m fly. In the 1,500m free, first-year MBA student Greg Rasmussen outpaced his opponents to take the mile in 16:59. Anctil missed the bronze by four-tenths of a second to finish fourth in the 1,500m free. Seb Stachowiak, paced by Matt Fraser rounded up the 1,500m finalists. Andrew Kirby, Ian MacDougall, Jason Jardine and John Yip sprinted their way through the 100m free. The 200m back saw Shannon take his fourth consecutive AUSA title. Caper Ed Stewart finished fifth with a lifetime best time of 2:13.69. Mike Ritcey continued his winning ways by taking the 50m breaststroke title. Ian Jackson and Curt Punched were also finalists in the 50m breast. The 4x100m free saw Ian MacDougall finish off his swimming career with a gutsy anchor swim.

1993 AUSA All-Star, is a strong force on the right side position while the left side will be manned by Ontario natives' Rob Ager, David St. Helene and Eric Villeneuve.

Adding to the depth to the team are second year hitter, Jamie Mallon, and Scott Brake. Taking care of the middle position are Anton Potvin and 1993 AUSA All-Star Kirk Yanofsky.

The Tigers are a solid team overflowing with talent and close friendship. Not only are most of the team members roommates but most are old friends from their hometowns with two thirds of the team being Ontario natives. Paul Villeneuve and St. Helene were high school mates in Gloucester while brother Eric, Mallon and Schwarz played on the same regional team.

In addition, the team has a new assistant coach this year from Calgary, Dan Ota. Ota, a provincial high school coach, has joined 1989 CIAU Coach of the Year Al Scott who is in his fifteenth year at the helm.

Last year's rookie of the year, Jamie Mallon, says Ota is an asset to the team.

"He is a student of the game and really does his homework. He's a player's coach."

Scott comes in for praise from Eric Villeneuve who says he's the best technical coach in the country.

The top seven teams in the country came down last night (Wednesday). They are number one ranked Laval, Manitoba, Alberta, Calgary, York, Winnipeg and McMaster University. Dalhousie is ranked fifth. The team will practice this morning and will be attending a banquet tonight at the Prince George Hotel where the CIAU awards will be handed out.

Dalhousie has competed well against the teams earlier in the season but ran into some trouble with top ranked Laval and Manitoba at last month's Laval tournament. However, if the team is ready to face them again if the occasion arises. Holden points out that the team is injury-free which should be a key for this

weekend.

After reviewing tapes Williams said they knew what had to be improved and have worked on their defence for CIAUs. They focussed on their blocking and it showed during their win against Memorial.

Dalhousie faces the number four ranked Winnipeg Wesmen in first round action Friday at 6 p.m. It will be a rematch of the bronze medal game at Laval where Dal defeated the pesky Wesmen who won the first set 16-17, before Dal fought back 15-6, 16-14 and 15-11.

A strong team at the start of the season, the Tigers have improved with the addition of Paul Villeneuve and Holden. Setter Thane MacKay says Holden adds an extra element to the team.

"Jody adds to the team's chemistry. Our missing ingredient was a top hitter and that was Jody."

Having the CIAUs here is the "greatest" for Hobin, a graduate of St. Pat's High in Halifax. But it's even more of a thrill for Yanofsky.

"It's like a story book ending," says Yanofsky, "and it is especially special since I'm from Halifax and to finish your career at your school... you can't ask for anything more than the opportunity to give it your best shot at the end, here at home."

So as the Tigers attend the awards banquet tonight seated among the best in the nation they will represent Dalhousie not only in a tradition of skill, competitiveness and class but a tradition of excellence as well. This will be their 15th consecutive appearance at the CIAUs. Dal placed 6th last year and was 8th the year before.

For fans it's a unique opportunity to see Canadian universities' best display of agility, coordination, endurance, grace and the power of volleyball.

With a strong season behind them Yanofsky says Dal earned the right to be in the nationals.

"It's nice to know that we are not in the CIs just because we are hosting but because we qualify and can be counted amongst these teams."

Hockey team loses

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only to repeatedly fall short against the same team... well, it's got to be pretty damn frustrating.

If I was a psych major, I could probably give you a little background as to how this situation has traumatized our team, but my interest in psychology waned after somebody explained the Oedipus complex to me.

According to this school of thought, we keep losing to Acadia because all the Tigers want to kill their fathers and sleep with their mothers.

I don't know, it sounds sort of far-fetched to me.

Anyway, back to reality.

Congratulations are due to the entire hockey team for all of its accomplishments this year. Their achievements thrust Dalhousie onto the national stage and they represented us with class. To those players moving out of the university fold, thanks for all of your hard work; for those sticking around to give it another shot: may next year be The Year for you guys.

Hold your heads high.

"Writing sports for the Gazette changed my life. It made me what I am today."

-anonymous celebrity endorsement