

Overtime

On philosophy, athletic banquets and Dal Women's teams in '83-'84

by Lisa Timpf

An athletic banquet is a lull of temporary tranquility between the havoc of the season and the impending shadow of exams. It is, in part, a time of looking back, reflecting on the past season or seasons.

In terms of Dal teams' performances this year, the field hockey team has nothing to hang their heads about. Under the guidance of coach Nancy Tokaryk, this year's edition of the Tigers secured first place in their division. They lost to UNB in the AUAA's to finish second in the Maritimes, and gave a good account of themselves at the CIAU's.

Carolyn Savoy's Women's Basketball Tigers finished second in AUAA championship action. Nonetheless, from the outset of the season Savoy noted that this year's team was a young one and that the Tigers' potential might lie in the future, after one or two seasons of experience. Whether Savoy's words will prove prophetic will depend on how well the returning Tigers are able to capitalize on lessons learned this year in future seasons.

"Close only counts in horseshoes and hand grenades." That saying could just about sum it up for this year's volleyball squad, coached by Lois MacGregor. After defeating the Winnipeg Wesmen in the finals of the Dal Classic earlier this year, the Dal team came within a game of winning a second CIAU championship banner to adorn the Dalplex, but lost in the CIAU finals to the same Winnipeg team. National team members Karen Fraser and Karin Maessen, standouts for Dal over the past five years, will be missed next year, as they have used up their CIAU eligibility.

Nigel Kemp's women swimmers must have left some of the AUAA competition wondering whether they were facing humans or mermaids in the pool. The women capped off an undefeated season by taking the AUAA title, then proceeded to the nationals, where they placed fifth - the fifth time in five years they have finished in the top five. The Dal women also had nine swimmers recognized in the AUAA all-star swim selections.

An athletic banquet is not only a time to reflect on the season's accomplishments. It is also a time to think about the meaning of intercollegiate sport. Each individual enters the program with their own aspirations, motivations, and expectations. Hopefully, the intercollegiate program has provided its participants with more of the satisfaction of facing challenges than the frustration of failure.

In looking back on the season's experiences, the athletes (stealing a metaphor from a friend of mine) can determine for themselves whether their experiences have been "enriching", leading to personal growth, or merely "enlarging", leading to personal and institutional aggrandizement.

An athletic banquet is also a time to reflect on the nature of teams and personalities. Each year, there are stand-outs who will be missed through graduation, yet there is the knowledge that somewhere among the younger players is an aspirant who will, in future, perhaps to their own surprise, fill their place. The athletic program thus becomes a continuum, a community of individuals whose past experiences together bond them into a larger fabric of experience, which lives on past the time and place of the season.

It has been a pleasant experience to watch and report on the women's teams at Dalhousie -- even the occasional rainy-day field hockey game. (Never did make it down to the pool though.)

From the sports staff at the Gazette, here's a salute to this year's female varsity athletes, returning or retiring.

Give broomball a try - it could sweep you off your feet

by Lisa Timpf

Spectators, scarcely noticing the frigid atmosphere of the arena, sit with their attention riveted to the action, watching intently as six people pursue an orange ball out on the ice.

The game is broomball. The setting is overtime. Tension is almost palpable in the arena as the championship game, having ended in a tie, is decided in the traditional broomball overtime fashion -- three on three with no goalie.

To spectators more accustomed to associating arenas with ice hockey, a first striking impression of the game is its almost eerie silence. There is no rasp of skate blades; instead, the players pad along almost silently on rubber-soled sneakers which grip the ice.

But the excitement of the game is infectious. While distinctly its own sport, broomball retains elements of strategy and rules similar to other athletic activities, most notably hockey. The give and go, the body check, and the power play are concepts as familiar to the broomball player as the hockey athlete. Six players, including a goalie, take to the ice in broomball, with positions being the same as in ice hockey.

Broomball probably got its start in Quebec, where some of the best brand of the sport continues to be played, though athletes in all ten provinces participate in the game.

Broomball was introduced in Nova Scotia in 1963, when armed forces teams CFB Greenwood and CFB Shearwater started to play. It was not long in finding both male and female supporters throughout the province. The Nova Scotia provincial broomball association was formed in the mid-sixties, and the game took off from there.

While early equipment included cut-off corn brooms and soccer balls or volleyballs, the modern game sports a smaller ball, molded plastic broom heads, and a more exciting, wide-open brand of play.

The game is not terribly difficult for the uninitiated to learn. The equipment is cheaper to acquire than hockey equipment, with the minimum requirement consisting of a set of broomball shoes, a broom, and a helmet. Gloves, elbow pads, knee pads and shin guards are advisable additions but not absolutely essential.

The knack of running on the ice, with the aid of specially-made broomball shoes, is acquired after a few sessions. This makes broomball a good game for those who would like to play a winter arena sport but feel unable to play ice hockey or ringette because they failed to acquire the necessary skating skills as a youngster.

One feature of the sport is the frequent weekend tournaments, which can supplement league play for teams who want to get more action. Tournaments attract teams from all over the province,

or, as in the case of larger events like the Shearwater tournament, from throughout the Maritimes and even further afield.

The broomball tournament is a happening. Teams hustle on and off the ice at forty minute intervals. Games take place throughout the early morning hours (i.e. 2 a.m.) as well as at more rational times. The tournament provides a steady stream of action, unbroken by the intrusion of the Zamboni, as, unlike ice hockey, broomball does not demand frequent ice flooding.

Women as well as men play the game. In fact, Nova Scotia's best showing in national competition was put forth by the La Belle Bandits, a Dartmouth team coached by Archie MacGlashen, which won the first national championship held for women in 1978.

MacGlashen is a firm supporter of the sport. "The best thing about it is that it can be taken very seriously or played just for fun," he said. "This isn't necessarily true of all sports.

"For that reason, it's a good sport in terms of players being able to pick it up and enjoy it fairly quickly," he noted.

"A lot of girls who I have coached have been field hockey and track people," he added. "The game involves running and hand-eye coordination, and gives these athletes a good off-season competitive activity."

MacGlashen would like to see increased participation in the game in Nova Scotia, by women in particular. Anyone who would like more information about getting involved in the game can contact MacGlashen at 429-1375.





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Fencing Championships

RESULTS OF PROVINCIAL FENCING COMPETITION
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Epee	1) Michael Dawson 2) Roland Morrison 3) Florian Friedich	1) Barbara Coleman 2) Eleanor Reardon 3) Heather Fulton
Saber	1) Theodore Norvell 2) Roland Morrison 3) Florian Friedich	1) Heather Fulton 2) Ann Copeland 3) Barbara Coleman

Provincial Master of Arms: Roland Morrison