

CIAU Final 8 set to rock Halifax

Festivities planned for championship weekends

BY PATRICK BLACKIE

For the 16th consecutive year, the CIAU Final 8 national championship basketball tournament will be held here in Halifax, despite stiff competition from places like Hamilton, Ontario.

The announcement, made earlier this year, is not a huge surprise. Halifax has successfully made the event more than a tournament in past years. A festival of events has been planned for the week falling between the AUAA's (Mar. 12-14) and the CIAUs (Mar. 19-21), and the Final 8 is looking at hauling in roughly 25,000 crazed basketball fans to the Halifax Area, as well as hundreds of athletes, coaches and volunteers.

In all, the Halifax Final 8



Advisory Council optimistically estimates that the week will bring \$3-million in revenue to the local business community.

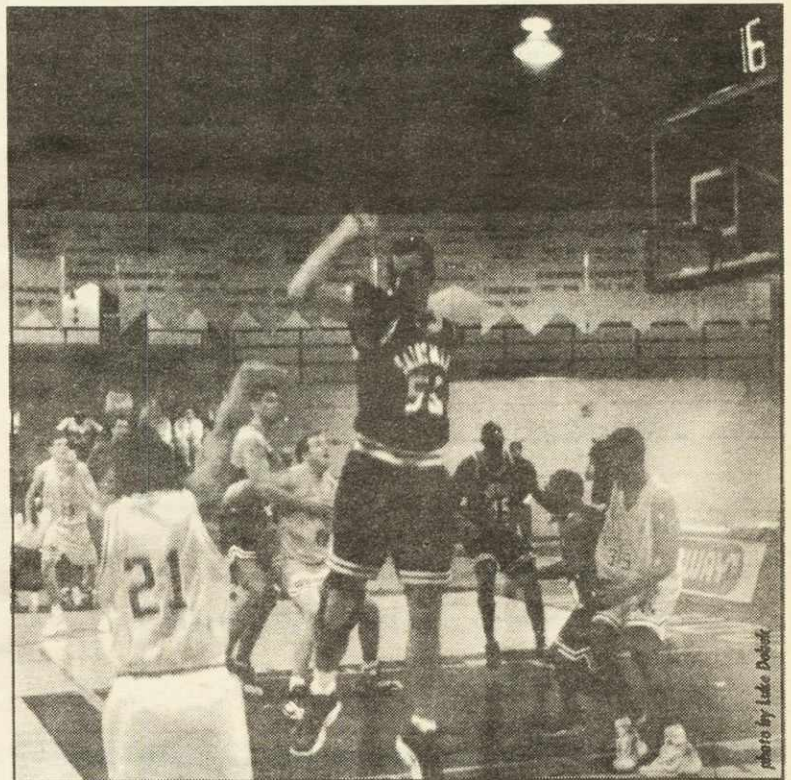
Featuring eight nights of free concerts in the Grand Parade, downtown Halifax will come alive throughout the 10-day stretch.

During the AUAA and CIAU

Final 8 Championship weekends, Argyle Street will be closed off from Duke to George Street to make room for the festival.

And the Final 8 continues to grow. At the tip-off of the November NCAA game held at the Metro Centre, a banner was unveiled celebrating the announcement that Halifax will not only be holding the Final 8 in 1999, but will be holding the tournament for two more years after that.

"We're focused on getting student athletes, universities and basketball fans across the country excited about the tournament," says Peter Halpin, chair of the Halifax Final 8 Advisory Council. "This will undoubtedly be a celebration to remember."



Several gentlemen engaged in the popular pastime known as "basketball."

Dal loses pair in AUAA Hockey

BY TERRY HAWES

Talk to any member of the Dalhousie Tigers hockey team and they'll tell you that everything is progressing smoothly — despite a current rough patch that has now seen the club go winless in four games.

The Tigers dropped a 6-0 decision to the Acadia Axemen on Jan. 19, and followed that effort with a heartbreaking 4-3 loss to cross-town rivals Saint Mary's on Sunday.

Acadia 6 Dal 0 — Josh St. Louis starred for the Axemen with two goals and two assists as Acadia recorded a comfortable victory over the Tigers.

Although the recent injury problems of the Tigers could be used as an excuse, it would be hard to convince the estimated 900 fans that a fully-healthy Dalhousie team could have coped with the tight checking of the Axemen.

Acadia's other goals came from Mike Sim, Eric Hunter, former Halifax Moosehead Chris Peyton and Russell Hogue. Goaltender

Donovan Nutweiler turned in a workman-like performance, stopping 23 shots for his first shutout of the season.

Saint Mary's 4 Dal 3 — In a match hardly considered a classic, SMU forward Jim Midgeley scored with 9:40 left in the game to give the Huskies the victory before 500 fans at Memorial Arena.

Dalhousie started off remarkably similar to last Saturday's match against St. Thomas by coming out of the gate slowly. As a result they found themselves behind 1-0 at the end of the first period.

SMU doubled their lead on a shorthanded goal by Marty LeBlanc at 5:39. However, Nicholas Maheux's goal at 10:54 gave Dal cause for optimism. A late goal from SMU made it 3-1 after two periods, but the game seemed to shift in the Tigers' favour and the opening stages of the third period proved just that.

David Haynes scored just 25 seconds into the third period to bring Dal back to within a goal. And just as the crowd finished reacting

to that goal, Chad Kalmakoff brought another eruption from the terraces with a marker 35 seconds later to tie it 3-3.

By then the game developed into a cat-and-mouse battle until Midgeley's goal gave the Huskies the two points.

Dal head coach Shane Easter was conciliatory in defeat.

"Anytime you lose it is disappointing, but as a coach you try and look at the positives," Easter said. "I thought we showed a lot of character by answering the bell for the third period and very well could have come away with a win."

Despite the loss, Easter is confident the Tigers can learn from their slow starts as the team heads into the playoffs.

"I think down the road [in the playoffs] it will pay off because we know that our team can't take a night off and expect to earn victories."

Dal takes an 8-9-2 record, good for third place in the Kelly division, into action on Friday when they host St. FX at Dal. The team travels to Wolfville to face the Axemen on Sunday afternoon.



DAGS Super Bowl Party!

DAGS, the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students will be hosting a Super Bowl party, on January 31st at the grad house, starting at 6:00 with the game starting at 7:00. Snacks will be provided. All are welcome. Best of all, you don't have to clean up afterwards!

Visit us on the web at:
<http://is2.dal.ca/~dags/>

Dalhousie Athletics Upcoming Events

Men's Hockey

Friday, Jan. 29 — Dal vs St. FX 7pm@Memorial Arena
Saturday, Feb. 6 — Dal vs UNB 7pm@Memorial Arena

Swimming

Saturday, Jan. 30 — Dual Meet 5:30pm@Dalplex

Women's Basketball

Sunday, Jan. 31 — Dal vs St. FX 1pm@Dalplex
Friday, Feb. 5 — Dal vs Acadia 6pm@Dalplex

Men's Basketball

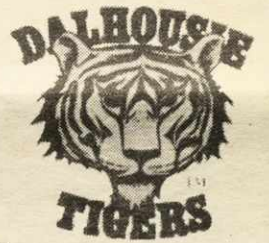
Sunday, Jan. 31 — Dal vs St. FX 3pm@Dalplex
Friday, Feb. 5 — Dal vs Acadia 8pm@Dalplex

Women's Volleyball

Wednesday, Feb. 3 — Dal vs Acadia 7pm@Dalplex

Men's Volleyball

Thursday, Feb. 4 — Dal vs UNB 7pm@Dalplex



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INFORMATION SESSIONS

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY
Loyola Building Rm. 176
January 29, 1999, 10 am - 12 pm

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
Student Union Building, Rm. 319
January 29, 1999, 12 pm - 2 pm

The Chair and Faculty from the Education Department will be available to answer your questions.

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