

Basketball

Things back to normal

by Ken Fogarty

Things are back to normal with basketball at Dalhousie. For a time the tables had turned and the games in both the men's and women's leagues were resulting in close finishes and exciting action, but no longer. The women are back to doubling the score of their opponents, and the men are back to losing by at least twenty.

The women began the action, which took place at Dalplex on Tuesday evening, by trouncing the St. FX X-ettes, so badly that the X-ettes coach was playing armchair referee to try to lessen the embarrassment and point out something wrong with Dal's game; but her attempts were of no use, Dal's game was infallible.

"It's games like these that show our weak points," coach Carolyn Savoy said of Dal's close call against SMU last week. Well, she certainly strengthened those weak spots over the past week, for the Dal defense was impenetrable, and their offence was better than twice that of their opponents, as the score shows: Dal-72 St. F.X. X-ettes 31.

Dalplex was the stage for the talents of, what I feel is, Canada's best women's collegiate basketball team, Dalhousie. Veterans Carol Rosenthal, Jill Tasker, and Anna Pendergast are the team leaders with plenty of experience, including the handling of pressure that goes along with trip to last year's national final, and the drive to win that a championship team must have. These three women usually lead the team in scoring, as was the case Tuesday night, with Rosenthal and Tasker getting ten points apiece, and Pendergast pacing the Tiger's offence with eighteen. Impressive rookies, like Savannah Metcalf, who hooped twelve points for the Tigers Tuesday night, make up the remainder of the Dal squad, and that promises a bright future for women's basketball at Dal.

The men's game was quite the opposite; the X-Men's game was as polished as the Dal women's and beat the Tigers but not without a fight, 109-83.

The score doesn't really tell the true story behind the game. The Tigers held their own throughout the whole game, and held close enough to St. F.X. to keep them on their toes. It wasn't until the final minutes in the game that

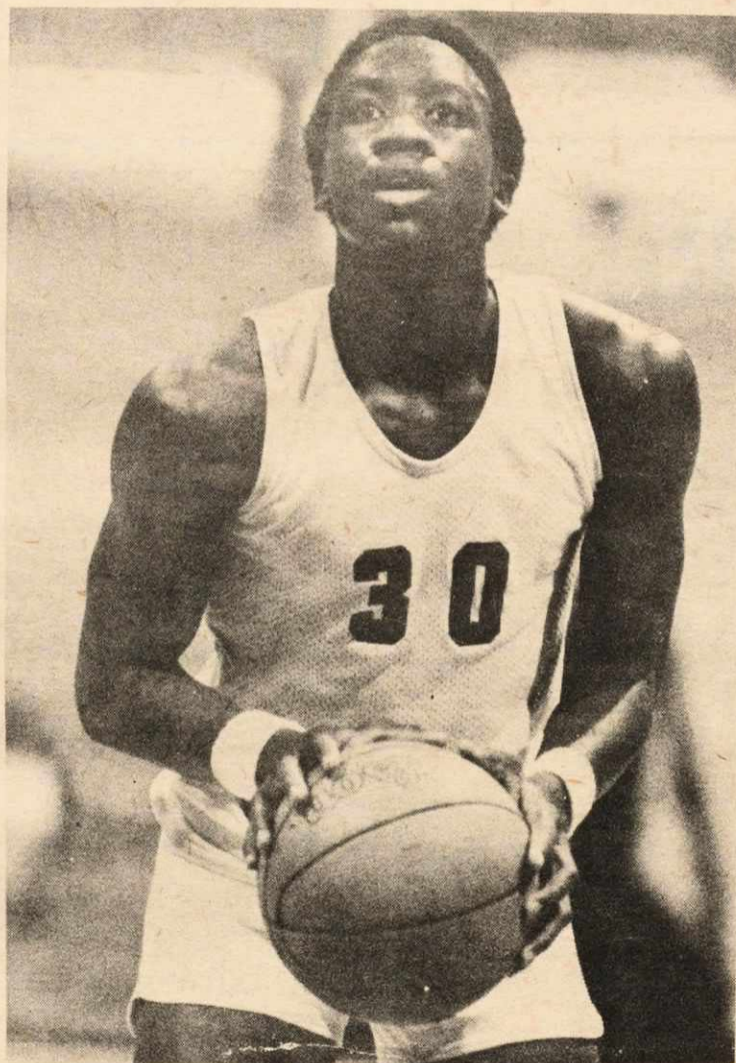
St. F.X. broke away and led Dal by as much as 28.

Dal got on the scoreboard first by winning the opening tip-off and Pat Slawter took it in to the St. F.X. basket for two points. The X-Men, stunned by the Tigers early game hustle, coughed up the ball just seconds later when throwing it into bounds after Dal's first basket and Alastair MacDonald was there for Dal to capitalize on the X-Men's mistake. The crown was on their feet with applause and Dal was leading 4-0 with less than ten seconds gone in the game. However, it didn't take the X-Men long to settle their game down and take a 6-4 lead and they never again gave up that lead during the game.

The St. F.X. offence is one that is almost indefensible. With outside shooters like

veteran Varouj Gurunlian, who picked up 30 points on Tuesday night, Geoff McIver, Shawn Parker, and under-the-boards men like Mark Brodie, who led St. F.X.'s offence with 33 points and Tom Sullivan, that type of team is bound to score a lot of points, and the only way to beat them is to score a lot as well, you can't try to defend against them because they can score from the third row of the bleachers.

One can't say that Dal played poorly, for they scored 83 points against one of the top five teams in the nation. Promising stars of the future shone brightly Tuesday night at the plex, like sophomore Pat Slawter who led Dal with 25 points, and freshman guard Greg MacDonald. Players like these, who are just getting use to college play, are going to be the experienced players of the future at Dal, so ahead can only be rainbows.



HIGGINS/DAL PHOTO

Dal's Pat Slawter at the free throw line in Tuesday's 109-83 loss to the Saint F X X-men. Slawter was outstanding as Dal's 'big man' for much of the first half after Tim Crowell and Chuck Judson ran in to foul trouble. Slawter had a Tiger high twenty-three points on the night.

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