

Loss of graduates to affect Dalhousie soccer squads

BY DAVID FINLAYSON

The 1996 season will see the loss of some key veterans for both the men's and women's soccer teams. After a year that was capped off with CIAU gold and silver medals, respectively, Dalhousie will feel the loss of some quality players.

The women's team will lose perennial all-star Kate Gillespie to graduation. This aggressive striker was a central figure in the recent successes of the team. Over the years, Kate has been AUA Rookie of the Year, a first and second team AUA all-star, and a first and second team CIAU all-star.

"I was pretty happy with myself, personally, and the goals that I accomplished," said Gillespie. "However, I feel that earlier in my career, we could have done better as a team. I was happy that I played every game this year with no injuries. Over the next couple of years, I would like to carry on my coaching career."

Gillespie did not rule out Dalhousie as a possible venue to continue her coaching if an opportunity should arise.

Amy Joseph will also be leaving the Tigers. She was a part of the CIAU gold medal winning team, and a great contributor

both on the field and in the locker room. Joseph feels that she leaves with her goals accomplished.

"Last year was such a great year, and this year I got to play a lot more and learn about the game," she said. "It was fun."

The men's team will lose all-star keeper Trevor Chisholm, as well as Chad Thorpe. Chisholm was a mainstay in nets for the Tigers over the past four years and his agility and skill will be missed. He made the AUA all-star team two years in a row. Chisholm feels he has accomplished everything that he wanted to.

"Winning CI's is the most important goal of any university athlete," he said. "All I ever wanted was to win the national championship, and now that we have done that, I feel that there is not much left to accomplish at the university level."

Thorpe echoed Chisholm's thoughts.

"The ultimate goal was to achieve the pinnacle of success that we reached this year, and that the girls reached last year," he said.

These players will be sorely missed, not only by the Tigers, but by the entire league. However, the addition of several new players should strengthen the teams next year.

Seniors leave legacy of success

BY ANDREW COOK

When talking to Jeff Mayo about his four years of basketball at Dalhousie, he won't speak of his personal accomplishments. Nor will you hear him speak of the disappointment of leaving without a national championship.

What he will tell you is the pride he feels in just being part of the revival of a once dormant basketball program.

Four years ago, Dalhousie basketball was recovering from another year in a succession of playoff absences. It didn't surprise anyone, and frankly, very few people even cared. Then came a hardnosed, gutsy guard from West Northfield, Nova Scotia, a small town just outside of Bridgewater.

At that time, Jeff Mayo was a winner, having just led his Parkview Panthers team to the NSSAF provincial AAA basketball title.

Mayo's competitive drive wouldn't let him stand for a simple continuance of the way things were. He was here to change things. To change attitudes and bring results.

At the university level, winning takes talent and that was what Dalhousie lacked, even with the addition of the hungry guard.

The Tigers soon added a 6'7 forward, by the name of Plancke, to the mix. A 6'8 centre followed the next year and all of a sudden things were looking up.

As it turned out, this group was a start, but not yet ready for prime time.

Enter transfers Reggie Oblitey and Clive Henry. The two Torontonians, tired of Dave Nutbrown's incessant yelling, made a decision. They could take the Tigers to the next level, and maybe enjoy their days of AUA basketball. So the decision was simple, and the pair made Halifax their new home.

With his own style, Oblitey stepped onto the Dal campus and was immediately accepted. Reggie — lumbering around campus, keeping friends and teammates loose — was exactly what



Clive Henry bids Dal basketball adieu.

the doctor ordered.

With a calm, but loose demeanour off the court, Clive was a perfect complement.

With the Mayo, Oblitey, and Henry trio in place, the Tigers haven't looked back. With back-to-back regular season titles in hand, Dalhousie captured the respect of Halifax fans with a thrilling double overtime victory in the finals of the 1996 AUA tourney. One week later, the Tigers were the centre of attention at the CIAU's Final Eight championships.

While the dream season ended with a pinch, you won't find the Tigers' seniors hanging their heads in shame. All they have to do is take a look at where they were, and where Dalhousie basketball was four short years ago. Seeing that, a feeling of success, accomplishment, and most of all, pride is what they can take with them.

Jeff Mayo, Reggie Oblitey, and Clive Henry have represented their school in a way in which all Dalhousie students can be proud. These three are prime examples of what varsity athletes should be. Each one will be sorely missed and not soon forgotten.

Most people wouldn't give it a second glance.

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