

Hoop squads playoff-ready

MEN / Double overtime victory provides first-ever AUAA title

BY ANDREW COOK

The Dalhousie Tigers passed their latest test this past weekend by winning the school's first-ever AUUC men's basketball title.

Having achieved a passing grade during the regular season and in the AUAA play-offs, the focus now becomes the final exam, this weekend's CIAU tournament. The invitation to the national championships has Dalhousie participating in it for the first time.

In what will be remembered as a true classic, the Tigers beat the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) Panthers in double overtime by a score of 98-95 at the Metro Centre on Sunday afternoon. UPEI gave a gutsy performance, but the leadership and heart of Dalhousie seniors Jeff Mayo and Reggie Oblitey pulled the Tigers through in this thriller.

Playing their third game in as many days, the Panthers came out strong, running their offence through AUAA MVP Curtis Robinson. Robinson spent much of the half creating plays for his teammates and shooting free throws as the Islanders took a 44-42 lead into halftime.

Dalhousie put together their patented run midway through the second half as Oblitey took over the game for a five minute stretch. The Panthers didn't give in and held a three point lead with 20 seconds remaining in the game. It was then that Dal captain Jeff Mayo found himself open beyond the arc and drilled a three-pointer to send the game into overtime.

The first overtime began with UPEI's Robinson fouling out of the game and everyone in the building expecting Dalhousie to cruise to victory. However, the extra period ended with Panthers' point guard Jason MacDonald shocking everyone by taking the ball coast to coast and scoring a lay-up with two seconds left. This tied the game at 89, forcing a second overtime.

The next five minutes saw the Tigers raise their game to yet another level as Brian Parker shrugged off a poor shooting weekend and nailed a pull-up jumper to finally give Dalhousie the lead for good.

The game sadly had to end, coming to a close when UPEI's Shane Walsh's trey attempt at the buzzer rimmed out.

Statistically, point guard Parker put together his best overall game of the season. He scored 22 points, hauled down nine rebounds, dished out 15 assists, and had four steals.

Reggie Oblitey, the player of the game, marked a team-high 28 points to go with his eight rebounds.

The Tigers reached Sunday's final by way of an uninspiring 73-64 victory over the X-Men of St. Francis Xavier. While this victory gave Dal six wins against the X-Men this season, it took an entire half for the Tigers to really start playing.

Down 29-24 at the half, the Tigers revived their offence and overcame poor perimeter shooting to pull away in the end.

Despite a poor evening from the field, Parker led the way for

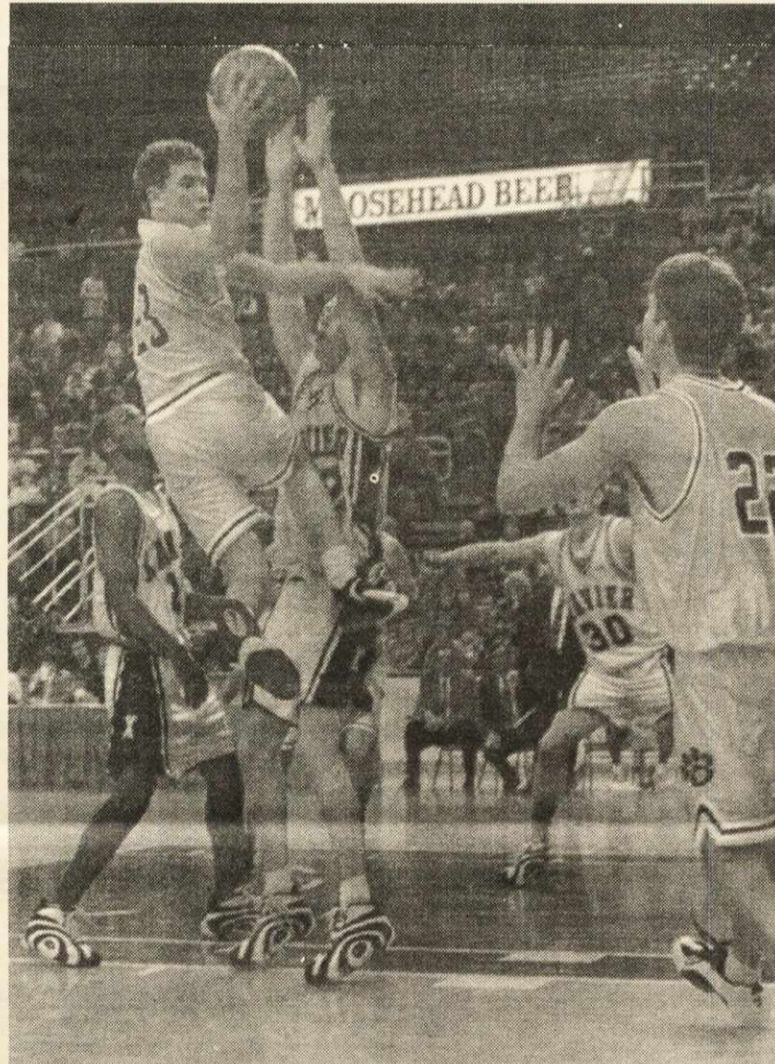
Dalhousie with 18 points. Player of the game, Dallas Shannon, put in one of his best performances as a Tiger scoring 12, grabbing eight rebounds, and swatting seven shots.

Michael Clarke played a strong game in leading St. FX with 23 points and 11 rebounds.

With the AUAA banner in hand — their only one since this play-off format was introduced in 1958-59 — Dalhousie enters this

weekend's national tournament as one of the favourites. Dalhousie was given the third seed and will play the University of Toronto on Friday night at 7:00 pm. Fellow AUAA member Acadia was given the wild card and will play Friday night at 9 p.m. against Brandon.

There will be a pre-game party taking place on Friday evening from 4:00-6:00 pm at Jerry's Pub. Come out and get your Tiger tattoos and your face painted.



Tigers capture consolation at nationals

BY CARMEN TAM

After winning their tenth straight AUAA title, Dalhousie continued to roll with an impressive showing at the 1996 CIAU Men's Volleyball Championships in Calgary.

The young Tigers won the consolation final over the University of Western Ontario Mustangs with game scores of 10-15, 15-10, 15-8, and 15-9.

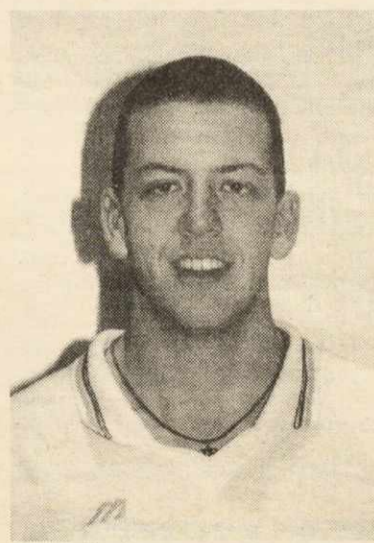
Dal setter and AUAA all-star Scott Brake was named player of the match as he contributed eight kills and five stuff blocks.

"Western was a surprise winner in a dominating fashion over the host Calgary Dinosaurs, who were ranked sixth in the CIAU," said Tigers' head coach Al Scott. "We probably played our best match of the season in terms of coherence to the tactical plan [in the victory over Western]."

In the consolation semi-finals against the University of Toronto, the eighth-seeded Tigers swept the Blues 3-0 with game scores of 15-10, 15-12, and 15-10.

"Our service reception had stabilized and Terry Martin had one of his best matches of the year," said Scott.

Martin, named player of the game, had 24 kills and three blocks, followed by rookie Matt



Scott Brake

Hartlin with 20 kills.

Dalhousie entered the tournament facing the powerful University of Alberta, who they defeated last season for bronze. The Golden Bears showed why they were ranked number one in the nation with a 3-0 sweep over the Tigers. Game scores were 6-15, 9-15, and 1-15.

Greg Procter, the Bear's veteran, had 14 kills. AUAA all-star Jason Trepanier led the Tigers with 13 kills and three service aces, while teammate Martin had 11 kills.

"Alberta played a great match."

**AUAA all-star setter
Scott Brake was
named player of
the match**

said Scott. "[They're] a very veteran team that fully deserved their number one ranking going into the tournament."

Alberta was eventually stopped by another prairie province as the Manitoba Bisons won their second consecutive national title 3-1 in the gold medal match.

"I am very proud of the guys and the way we came together at CI's," said captain Jamie Mallon, who may not return next season as he is graduating. "I think we surprised some people by doing as well as we did."

One person not surprised by their performance was Dan Ota, the Tigers' assistant coach for the past three years. Ota will be returning to his home town of Calgary after this season to finish a Masters degree in kinesiology.

"I'm very happy with the way the team finished and potentially, we may not lose any players next season to graduation," said Ota. "The [Tigers' performance at the] nationals was a good step and good year for the team."

Scott agreed.

13 rebounds. Flieger added 16 while Kathie Sanderson had 11 points and seven rebounds.

The win earned Dalhousie a trip to the consolation finals where the beleaguered Tigers ran into a pumped-up Vikings team from Victoria. The Vikes were simply too much for the Tigers as they won easily, 77-51.

Wares had another strong performance while Danielle Moe scored 10 in her final varsity game.

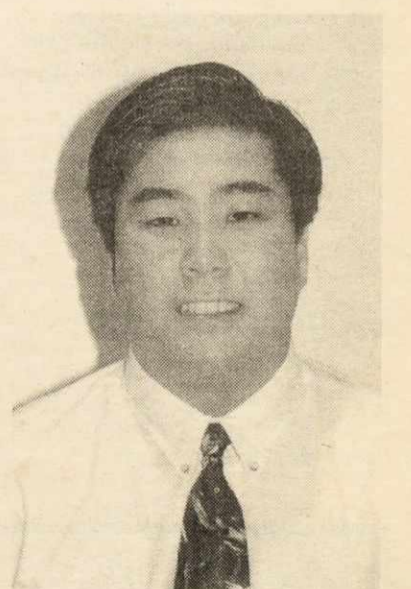
Coming back with a victory in hand and a near win over the eventual national champions (Manitoba), the Tigers are not about to hang their heads.

"We are certainly not going to be disappointed with our season just because we didn't win the national championship," said coach Carolyn Wares.

The women accomplished a lot this season that will not soon be forgotten, possibly more than any other women's basketball team in the school's history.

The Tigers won the league's regular season and play-off titles. Wares was named an AUAA first-team all star and to the national tournament's first team. Jody Euloth was named the conference's rookie of the year.

A quick look ahead to next season shows the possibility of all but one Tiger returning and the likely position of conference favourites. Also, the Tigers, with their strong showing in Laval, figure to be in the pre-season top ten and possibly top five.



Assistant Coach Dan Ota

"For the team to finish four spots higher than seeded is to me as great an achievement as winning a medal," he said. "Overall, I'm delighted with the exceptional progress of this young team."

An average team at the beginning of the year, the Tigers improved significantly with more experience and more playing time for Hartlin, Martin, and Mallon. With a strong season behind them, the Tigers have a strong foundation for next year and the excellence of the volleyball program should continue.