

SPORTS

Exciting Basketball Weekend at Dalplex

by Ken Fogarty

Possibly some of the best basketball action of the year took place over the weekend and on Tuesday evening here at Dalplex. The women Tigers assured themselves of first place in the AUAA regular season standings and the right to hold the championships at Dalplex. The men added their second victory to this year's record and took both UNB and St. Mary's to the final buzzer before losing by 2 and 4 points respectively.

On Friday evening, the University of New Brunswick came to Dal for two games, and should have left without a victory by either the men or the women. The Dal women handed UNB a loss in the first game of the evening's double-header. Carol Rosenthal led the Tigers to the 79-66 victory with 25 points, and Anna Pendergast added 22. That win assured the Tigers of first place in the AUAA, and, starting February 27, they will host the AUAA championships at Dalplex. The second game saw the men Tigers lose a game that was one of the closest match-ups in recent history at Dal. UNB took advantage of Dal's problem of late, which is their top scorers getting into early foul trouble. Tim Crowell had to leave the game early for Dal because of his quick three fouls. At the end of the first half the Red Raiders led the Tigers 55-46. However, with Crowell's return in the second half, the Tigers offense began to improve and at the end of forty minutes of regulation time the

score was even at 94-94. The game went into a five minute overtime period. With just 36 seconds remaining and Dal trailing by two points, 105-103, Allistair MacDonald sank the tying basket and it looked like double-overtime. However, UNB was able to break Dal's defense just once more during regulation time, for the winning basket 107-105. Lambert led the offense for Dal with 32, and Aucoin led for UNB with 34.

Saturday night the men Tigers were finally rewarded with a win in another close game against the UPEI Panthers. According to Coach 'Doc' Ryan, the reason for Dal's close games that just won't end on a positive note for the Tigers is because of the early foul trouble and the missed free-throws. "I think if you look at the stats for the close games, you'll find that we're missing a lot of our foul-shots". Well, those problems were minimal on Saturday night for the Tigers defeated the Panthers 83-80. Again, the Tigers fell behind early and left the court at half-time trailing 43-36. Dal came back, however, as soon as they started the second half to tie the game at 47-47. With a two-handed dunk by Tim Crowell, the Tigers took a 51-49 lead, and that's when the real edge-of-your-seat action started. From that time until the final buzzer, the lead changed hands six times; but it finished in the right hands. Tim Crowell led the Tigers scoring with 28, and Steve Lambert followed with 21.

Tuesday night was probably the most satisfying for the Tigers, yet heart-breaking as well. St. Mary's came to Dalplex looking for another easy victory like the one they had over Dal on their home court the last time these two teams met. A victory is what they got, but easy, not quite. The game was either team's ball game throughout the entire forty minutes, quite a change from the white washing Dal took from SMU just a week ago. "Our full-court press gave them trouble", said Coach Ryan when asked what changes there were in strategy from last week. But still he blamed the poor foul shooting and Crowell's early foul trouble for the loss. "It was a game we should have won". The final score was SMU 92-Dal 88. Leading scorers for the Tigers included Tim Crowell with 32 points and Steve Lambert with 18. Mike Roberson led the Huskies with 22, followed by Ron Blommers with 20.

The women Tigers faced the St. Mary's Belles earlier that evening and won, what turned out to be, one of the closest contests Dal has had in quite a while. St. Mary's took Dal right to the wire but couldn't quite beat the Tigers. The final score: Dal 60-SMU 57. Rookie Sandy Pothier led Dal with 20 points and Jill Tasker and Anna Pendergast both added 11. Sharon Simpson led SMU's scoring with 19. Once again, the women's AUAA championships will take place here at Dalplex, starting Friday, February 27, at 6:15 p.m.



DAVAL/DAL PHOTO

Some nifty behind-the-back dribbling was typical of the outstanding play 1st-year player Sandy Pothier turned in against the St. Mary's Belles Tuesday night at Dalplex. Pothier was the top Tigers scorer with 20 points in their 60-57 win.

Water Polo

McMaster masters competition at Dal Invitational

by Andrew Sinclair

On paper it appeared that Carleton might have a bit of an edge, but when the teams entered the water Sunday afternoon at Dalplex it was McMaster that swam away with an easy 11-6 victory to take top honours in the sixth annual Dalhousie Invitational Water Polo Tournament. The Dalhousie Tigers, able to win only one of four matches in round robin play, placed fourth in the five team tournament.

Carleton finished the preliminary round in first place with three wins and one tie, with defending tournament champions McMaster close behind with three wins and a loss, that coming at the hands of Carleton Sunday morning. Moreover, the Ottawa university boasted a healthy plus 20 goal differential rating as opposed to McMaster's plus 8. When the whistle announcing the start of the final

game had finished echoing, however, McMaster had won the opening swim-off, and from that point on they never looked back. Controlling the ball on offense, and ruthlessly dominating the Carleton centre on defense, the Hamilton squad jumped to a 6-1 lead before the second quarter was over. A Carleton goaltending change at the start of the fourth period prevented a total rout, but, unable to capitalize on numerous man-advantage situations, Carleton was never really in the game. The team was afforded

a moment of triumph after the match, however, when Tom Cassandra, their captain and the tournament's top scorer with 12 goals, was named tournament MVP.

McMaster coach Robert Thompson attributed his team's success the second time round to the fact that the second game was the one that counted. "The first time we played Carleton we were already in the final," he said, "so I gave my second stringers some more action than usual. In the final we wanted to win." Dalhousie looked strong in

every game they played, but were unable to keep up the pressure in the final minutes. Against the Halifax Water Polo Club, for instance, the Tigers led almost all the way before losing by one goal in the fourth quarter, 8-7, and in their match with Carleton Dal went into the final frame tied at 6 only to lose 10-7. Coach Steve Cann also noted his team's inability to score when they had the extra man: "We were in every game, pretty well, until the final quarter. We made a few key mistakes, and we had trouble scoring

when we had the man advantage; we probably had more kickouts than anyone else in the tournament, but I'm sure we scored the fewest points." Despite his team's record, however, Cann found much to be pleased with. "Colin Bryson (Dal goaltender) had a super tournament and kept us in a couple of games, and some of the young guys like Dave Simpson and Bob Abraham played really well. The offense as a whole played very well, they drove well and controlled the ball for most of the game."

Dalhousie Science Society

Nominations now open for
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Nomination forms may be picked up at Rm 222 SUB