

Dalhousie Varsity roundup

by Rob Corkum

As the new year begins, it's time for Dal's varsity teams to look back and assess the past year's performances and to look forward to the coming year.

The fall term was a successful one for Tiger teams, and hopefully the coming term will be even better. The swim team was impressive first term, and has something to

look forward to in the next few months.

Dal is hosting the CIAU swimming championships March 1-3. The hockey team also had an impressive start, which left them with a record of 9-2-2 and first place overall in the AUAA. At the break, the women's basketball team had a record of 3 and 1, good for second place behind Memorial. The men's team, although their record of 1 and 3 does not indicate it, showed

promise, knocking off the number one ranked St. Francis Xavier X-Men and losing a couple of close ones.

The women's volleyball team finished the term in third place overall, and recently won the last tournament before the new year in PEI. The men's team maintained a perfect record of 3 and 0. Both teams anticipate a strong performance in next weekend's Dal-

housie Volleyball Classic.

The next big sports event here at Dal is Varsity week, which begins this Saturday and wraps up the following weekend with the Volleyball Classic.

For each event during the week, all spectators will receive one ballot. At the end of the week, one ballot will be drawn for airfare for two to Quebec City compliments of Air Atlantic. The more events attended, the better the chance of winning.

The week starts on Saturday with Men's Volleyball versus Memorial at the Dalplex. Also on Saturday evening, the hockey team takes on UPEI at the Dal arena.

During the game, two special promotions will take place. "Bucks for Pucks", in which people chosen from the stands will pick up as many pucks as possible for money

and other prizes, and "Guess the Number of Spuds", where the person who guesses the actual number of potatoes in a bin wins a prize.

Sunday at 2 PM, the hockey team will take on Mount A.

Tuesday evening, the basketball Tigers take on Acadia, with the women's team taking to the hardwood at 6 PM, while the men swing into action at 8 PM. After the game, there is a varsity mixer in the Grawood, with free snacks and special promotions. Wednesday, the hockey Tigers hit the ice against their cross-town rivals, the SMU Huskies.

The week wraps up next weekend with the Dal Volleyball Classic. This is one of the top tournaments in the country, attracting 16 of the CIAU's strongest men's and women's teams.

Steroid suspension

by Michael Booth

VANCOUVER (CUP)—Stanozolol, the anabolic steroid that brought about the downfall of Canadian track star Ben Johnson, has reportedly been detected in the urine sample of a University of British Columbia football player.

The UBC coaching staff was informed Nov. 8 that Andy Sidhu, a starting left tackle in his first full season with the team, had allegedly failed a random drug test administered by the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union.

Sidhu was immediately suspended and did not travel with the team to Saskatoon for the Canada West title game on Nov. 10.

He is now awaiting the results of tests on a second urine sample. If that test turns up positive, Sidhu faces a one-year ban from playing on any CIAU team.

"I had no idea, obviously," said UBC head coach Frank Smith. "If you ask the guy and he says no, what can we do then? We tell people on the team that if they use that stuff they are not welcome in our program."

Smith says the pressure on athletes to use banned substances comes not at the collegiate level, but from the professional ranks.

"There is no great reward playing for a Canadian college team; the reward comes with playing in the CFL," Smith said. "As long as the pro leagues don't impose tough penalties, the attraction is always going to be there. It makes a kid think: this will make me look better to the pros and so I'll try them steroids."

"We've done everything we possibly could. The obvious solution now would be to test everybody at training camp."

However, Joanne Jones, UBC director of varsity athletics, said that would be too expensive. Each test costs as much as \$400 and, if performed on all 60 players at training camp, would eat up a large portion of the team's budget for the year.

Jones said the CIAU's drug testing policy is still relatively new and that at this point, football are still the only players being tested.

"They [the CIAU] have only done announced drug testing since last year," she said. "They do

sporadic testing during the season as well as over the summer months.

"When an athlete signs a doping control agreement — the football players all signed in August — they can be called at any time during the next 18 months for testing. All CIAU athletes have to sign it and attend the seminar, but at this point only football is tested."

UBC's director of athletics and sport services, Bob Hindmarch, said drugs have no place in the university's athletic programs.

"Obviously we are not trying to hide anything," Hindmarch said. "Our policy is that we do not tolerate any use of banned substances by our players. I am convinced that we have done everything possible to keep banned substances out of our programs."

"What really bothers me is that in situations like this, one individual gives a black eye to 600 fine young people [on UBC varsity teams]."

Lynda Filsinger, executive director of the sport medicine council

of BC, said Stanozolol is a synthetic derivative of a male growth hormone.

"People take it for a variety of reasons," Filsinger said, "most notably for the development of muscle mass."

Filsinger said the drug can stay in a person's system and show up in tests months later.

One factor affecting this is an individual's metabolism.

"A person may have taken one steroid cycle several months ago and, depending on the individual's metabolism, it may still show up in tests," she said.

Prolonged use can also affect test results. If a person has taken steroids over a long period, they may still test positive for the drugs months after they stop using them. The most famous example of this is Ben Johnson at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

"In the Ben Johnson scenario, the tests were able to show he had been taking it over a long period of time," Filsinger said.



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