

# sports

## A valiant try but no March madness

by Toby Jones

The Dalhousie Tigers Men's basketball team had two important games this past week. The Tigers had to win one, however came up short on both efforts. On Wednesday March 3, before a sold-out crowd, the Tigers were defeated by cross-town rivals St. Mary's 75-71. The

crowd was very vocal at the Dalplex, throughout the game.

All-Canadian Dean Thibodeau was unstoppable with 29 points and 10 boards. The other big man, rookie Shawn Plancke had 10 points and 14 rebounds. Chris Cain led the guard core with 15 points and a strong performance on defense.

The Tigers started the game strong

and went into half-time with a 33-31 lead. The Huskies went on a 7-0 run, when the Tigers went on a dry spell from three-point land. The Huskies never looked back, and nailed a key three-pointer in the dying minutes.

The second disappointment came on Saturday evening at the Halifax Metro Centre. The Tigers were fac-

ing the X-men for the final playoff spot. In front of 3800 fans the Tigers fell short losing to the X-men 71-67. Rookie sensation Shawn Plancke was on fire with 18 points, including two thunderous dunks, and 11 rebounds. Plancke was also the subject of two extremely questionable goaltending calls, one offensive, and one defensive. Thibodeau and Mantley both added 15 points. The game was very close, and the officiating late in the game was questionable. The refs seemed committed in not giving Bella his fifth foul.

### YEAR IN REVIEW

This year's fifth place finish seems a little more disappointing than others, as the Tigers did win enough games to enter the playoff party. Of course I'm referring to that nasty little incident down in Wolfville. It's not so bad, that the Tigers were victim to the worst officiating recorded in recent history. The real loss was the 4 points lost in the eventual appealed victory by the UCCB Capers. Hopefully these incidents will change the procedures of suspensions, and will revoke the power of totalitarian officials.

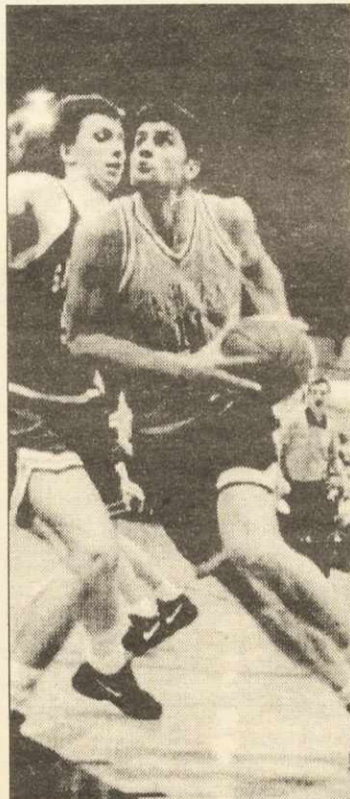
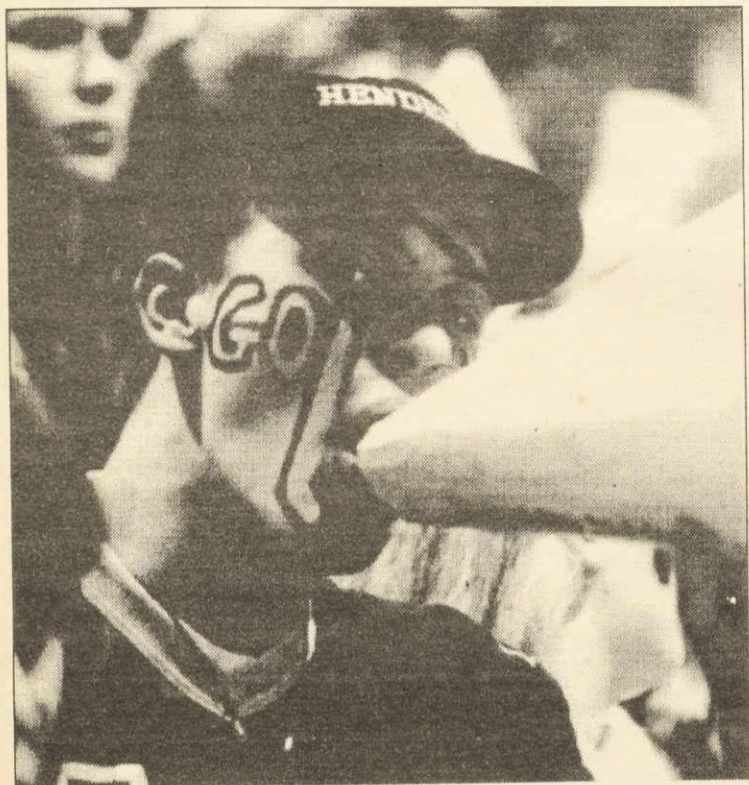
Amidst these shortcomings the Tigers had many highlights through-

out the season. Dean Thibodeau ended his career with a great season. Excluding the early season games, where Thibodeau had back problems, and very little playing time, his stats would be the best in the country. Thibodeau is arguably the best big man in the nation, and should receive first team All-Canadian honours. Congratulations to Dean Thibodeau, Don Chisholm, and Dave Chaisson on their fine careers at Dalhousie.

More highlights included the development of rookie sensation Shawn Plancke. Plancke will be a serious force to reckon with in years to come. Coach Greenlaw states that, "Anyone with a vote who's seen him play will have to choose Plancke as national rookie of the year." I would have to agree.

Coach Greenlaw has had a big hand in the development of this fine young team. When asked about his chances next year, Greenlaw pointed out that of the 8 players who saw action on Saturday, 5 were freshman and 1 was a sophomore.

Coach Greenlaw, his staff, and players would like to thank all their fans and boosters, for all their support and encouragement throughout the season.



DAL PHOTO: MIKE DAVENPORT

## 7th in Canada

by Graham F. Shaw

The Dalhousie Tigers took only 74 minutes to defeat the Mount Allison Mounties in the AUAU women's volleyball final last week at Dalplex. The Tigers earned their third straight title with a 15-9, 15-10, 15-13 victory over the Mounties.

The key to the Tigers' victory was found at the net with the women hammering down an amazing 51 kills out of an even more staggering 111 attempts. The Tigers played equally well on the other side of the net allowing only 32 kills from Mount Allison. Throughout the match Dal shut down the powerful Mt. A attack, forcing them to change their game plan.

Kim Hilchey came through for the Tigers in the big game with 18 kills, while Tara MacIntyre and Christine Frail had 14 and 10 kills respectively.

Leslie Irie, Dalhousie's coach, won her second straight coach of the year award and said that the players deserve so much of the credit for what they have given to the program through hard work.

Christine Frail was named playoff MVP, while Tara MacIntyre was awarded the league's MVP and Frail and April Delorme were named AUAU all-stars.

The Tigers completed AUAU play remaining undefeated, and re-

markably losing only 2 games in the process.

Upon capturing the AUAU championship the Tigers left for Quebec city, home of Laval University. After losing their opener to a tough Manitoba squad, and dropping a close one to York it would have been easy for the women to give up in their final match of the season but they showed guts and dedication to the game by defeating the Laval Rouge et Or 10-15, 16-14, 15-3, 12-15, 15-10 to capture 7th place in the national tournament.

Coach Irie was proud of the women.

"The girls showed a lot of character against Manitoba, it would have been easy for them to throw in the towel after a loss to a tough team but they didn't. They fought back and finished on a positive note, they should be proud."

After the tournament, Irie told her girls simply "that it was a classy way to finish for a classy group of people."

Tara MacIntyre lead the Tigers with 23 kills and 9 stuff blocks in the hard fought victory, while Christine Frail had 18 kills and 9 stuff blocks, and Kim Hilchey had 11 kills and 14 digs. All-star setter April Delorme had 58 assists and 16 digs to help guide Dalhousie to the win.

Winnipeg won the CIAU championships in three straight over the University of Alberta.

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