

# Volleyball conference coming to Dalhousie

by Brian Lennox

One of the highlights of the fall sports schedule is the Dalhousie Volleyball Challenge. Sponsored by Canadian Airlines, this annual challenge pits the Dalhousie men's volleyball team against some of the best teams in the country. On October 30, the

Dalhousie Tigers host the Université de Sherbrooke Vert et Or in one of three scheduled matches at the Dalplex.

Both teams are coming off successful seasons in 1988-89. Dalhousie finished fifth at the CIAU championships, while Sherbrooke finished sixth. The Vert et Or lineup boasts some excellent

talent with all-Canadian Christian Larivière Carbonneau. Sherbrooke also have fifth-year veteran Louis Lemay and national team player Richard Basque. Sherbrooke will once again be ranked in the top ten in Canada.

The Tigers have lost a number of players from last year's team.

Gone are Brian Rourke and Brian Johnstone, both former all-Canadians. Jody Holden, a former national team member, is also gone from the Tiger lineup, and this year will serve as assist-

team are Scott Bagnell, Judson Deuling, Steve Boyd and Alex Lai. Bagnell will be the team captain as coach Scott counts on Bagnell's leadership on and off the court. Deuling, who participated in the Canada Winter Games on 1987 for the Yukon, will be counted on to return to his all-star form of last year. Boyd is also a returning starter who is a potential AUAA all-star. Coach Scott is very impressed with the improvement of defensive specialist Alex Lai.

## Sports Opinion...

# Dubin talks drugs

by Brian Lennox

Recently the Dubin Inquiry ended with little fanfare. The much-anticipated inquiry into steroid abuse by Canadian athletes created world-wide interest. Some startling testimony was given by the likes of Charlie Francis, Angela Issajenko and Ben Johnson. Whether this inquiry will benefit amateur sport remains to be seen. There are, however, a number of facts from this inquiry that I find disturbing.

Last year I wrote a column on Ben Johnson and his disqualification at Seoul. At that time I wondered whether Canadians realize the pressure we put on athletes, saying society's view of sport in general has become distorted. Today, I am still questioning whether we fully realize what the Canadian public has gained from this inquiry.

Just last month, the International Amateur Athletic Federation voted to remove Ben

Johnson's world record run in Rome in 1987 from the record books. This action seems to be a failure on the part of the IAAF to realize the problems with amateur athletics. Surely Johnson is not the only record-holder to use steroids. Yes, he did admit to using them a long period of time, but there are numerous international athletes who have used steroids to win. The testimony of witnesses at the Dubin Inquiry demonstrated that Johnson was one of the few who got caught. By using Johnson as an example, the IAAF has failed to grasp the larger picture of amateur athletics rife with drug abuse.

The Dubin Inquiry has also discussed the attitudes of people in sport and those who watch it. Canadian high jumper Milt Ottey gave us some insight with his testimony. In 1986, at the Commonwealth Games, Ottey set a commonwealth record by jumping 2.33 metres. He won the gold medal and was understanda-

bly excited. Ottey vividly remembered how youngsters were clamouring for his autograph when a sportswriter noted that he hadn't come particularly close to the world record. Not every athletic achievement can be a world record, but unfortunately society has been geared to watching the best, expecting to see world record performances all the time.

Ottey also testified that as a result of the world record syndrome, fewer athletes are making money. In the early 1980s all top ten and, in some sports, top twenty athletes made good money. Now only the top five make a lot of money. Athletes who see this scenario feel pressure to use drugs, specifically steroids, to improve performance. Consider that Canada's top international athletes receive \$7800 per year maximum. We can maybe understand why athletes may use banned substances to ensure that they make money.

Some other athletes who testified at the inquiry were not on a national team. A high school football player testified to using a variety of substances in order to get bigger. He once spent \$700 on injectable steroids. This football player later committed assault and was convicted at the age of 17. The judge ruled that the player was not to use steroids during his parole. A scare like this might frighten people into not using steroids — or would it? Near the end of his testimony, the athlete answered a question on whether he would use steroids again by saying, "I don't know."

On the Dubin Inquiry's last day, there were only a few reporters and very little interest, not just in Canada but around the world. Do we really care what came out of the Dubin Inquiry? I hope we do, but to really gasp the subject we should be asking about ethics and morals in sport. In the end, steroid use is another form of cheating and should be addressed as an ethical issue. Failure to do so will only mean a lost opportunity to deal with a troubling aspect of sport.



Scott Bagnell



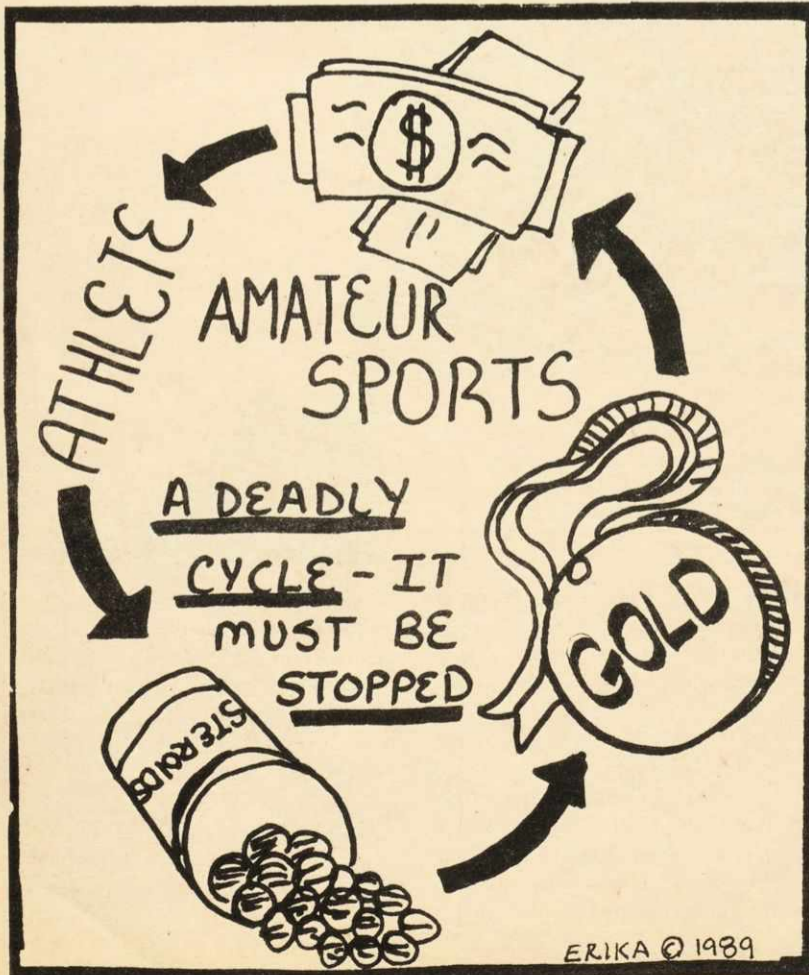
Judson Deuling

ant coach. Many observers would say the Tigers are in a rebuilding stage. However, it seems head coach Al Scott never has to rebuild; he just reloads.

This was possibly Al Scott's finest recruiting year. Scott, the CIAU's coach of the year in 1989, recruited to the Tigers squad seven new players who played in the Canada Games for four different provincial teams. There are also two transfers who are eligible to play this year.

Returning from last year's

Monday's match promises to be the most exciting one volleyball fans will see until January and the Dalhousie Classic. Both teams will probably be ranked in the top ten during the season.



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