

# Tiger tales and boxing whales

Here's a glance at the sports scene at Dalhousie, in Halifax, and in the world beyond.

## Looking Back

...Cheers to the women's soccer team for bringing home the BIG prize. CIAU champions are a rare breed at Dalhousie — they're the first team to win it all since the 1982 women's volleyball team. Congratulations and walk tall.

...Once again, men's soccer came oh-so-close to advancing to the CIAUs. Instead, it's back to the drawing board and hoping that next season it will finally all come together.

...Cross-country came to a decidedly successful end. Both the men's and women's teams took home AUAA championships. Rorri Currie led the men's side to a seventh-place finish in the CIAUs by coming in second in the 10 k championship race in London, Ontario. By all accounts, he ran a stunning race, only falling off a bit at the end due to the torrid pace he set for the first eight or nine kilometres. The women's team fared even better by placing fifth. Rayleen Hill was the top Dalhousie runner with an eleventh-place finish and she was honored for her successful year by being named a second-team All-Canadian.

... How about those Blue Jays? Still the undisputed champions of the baseball world. And how about the baseball world? I don't know about you, but I'm getting a little bit tired of everyone arguing about who's getting richer faster. Finally, my Expos were really going to make some noise and then this happens. At least when they screwed it up before, they could blame Rick Monday. Maybe the U.S. saw how great they were and couldn't stand the thought of the World Series trophy (or whatever it's called) spending another winter in the Great White North, so they concocted this strike thing, knowing that the Expos were going to lose all of their stallions to free agency. Yeah, that's it, an American conspiracy...

...Which brings us to the hockey lockout. The owners dug themselves into a hole by paying the players more than they could afford. Now,

the players are understandably hostile to taking a pay-cut or accepting a salary cap. I say to hell with the strike/lockout disputes. Whatever happens, it boils down to the same thing for the fans — we're still going to be footing the bill. So take a stand, go check out the local sports events and don't worry about the major league run-around. There's lots out there in the way of sporting entertainment — university-level athletes are worth your attention, as are the junior and senior hockey leagues around metro.

...We won the Grey Cup! We won the Grey Cup! Once again, it was the most underrated sporting event in North America.

...George Foreman is the "new" heavyweight champion of the world. Hey, he's very charismatic and he's like a big teddy bear and everything, but it takes away even more credibility from the boxing world (if that's possible) when he's the reigning champion. When a loud-mouthed clown like Don King rules the roost, you know your sport is in dire straits.

## Looking ahead

...If you're hockey-starved, look no further than your own Dalhousie Tigers. This may be the best team that Dal has iced in ten years. There's a lot of new faces, so team chemistry is crucial. I like the team and I like their chances. They head into their last game before Christmas (at home against Acadia) with a 10-1-1 record and ranked number one in the country.

...The men's and women's basketball teams have burst out of the gates. Both squads are 3-0 and nationally ranked, the men's side is #10 while the women are #8. The men have a good mix of shooting guards and big men, not to mention a proven winner in head coach Tim McGarrigle. The women Tigers are led by last year's CIAU rookie-of-the-year Carolyn Wares and veterans Jennifer Clark and Jennifer Offman. Both teams have the highest CIAU ranking of any AUAA team — so if you prefer the hardwood over hockey, the Dalplex is just a jump shot away.

...On to volleyball. The men won

CIAU bronze last year and show no signs of letting up. This past weekend, they played in an international tournament (consisting of American and Canadian university squads) and placed third, the best showing among Canadian schools. They're currently ranked seventh in Canada and again are a lock to dominate the AUAA conference. The women's side started out on a hot streak before sputtering and dropping three matches. Their 3-3 record places them in the middle of the pack in their nine-team division. Volleyball has been one of the best-kept secrets at Dalhousie for too long. This weekend is a good time to jog down to the Dalplex and take in a couple of high-energy matches. The women host the University of New Brunswick while the men are off to Fredericton. The action continues next term.

...If you're truly daring and want to try something a little different, a little wacky, maybe what you need to see is a swim meet. Don't knock it 'til you've tried it, they might surprise you.

...The track team has two meets coming up — the AUAA's in Moncton and the CIAUs in Manitoba. Chances are, they're not going to have a big fan following. So, when you're at the pool taking in a meet, sneak upstairs every once in awhile and cheer madly for the people running around the track. Some of them will almost certainly be track team members and even if they think you're a little weird, at least you'll know you did your part.

...If university athletics take a night off and you're roaming around Halifax looking for your sporting fix, drop by the Metro Centre for a Mooseheads game. The newest addition to the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League has been very competitive, beating some of the best junior teams in the country. As a bonus, you get to check out future NHLers, which is sort of cool. Besides, there's fighting.

That about wraps up my random sports banter. We've got one CIAU championship under our belt and a couple more are not out of the question.

There's a lot going on next term and the teams really appreciate a rip-roaring crowd, so get out to the games as much as you can. Grab a couple pops, paint yourself up and run around the rink/gym/pool naked a couple times. Not only does it pump the team up, it's fun for the whole family.

Besides, the alumni really go for that sort of fan support, and if we get them excited enough, maybe they'll kick in a few bucks for a football team.

Just a thought.  
Season's greetings; take it easy on the eggnog.

Sam McCaig

## Looking back at men's soccer

by David Finlayson



"We are so disappointed."

This was the phrase used by David MacFarlane on arriving back from the AUAA finals a couple of weeks ago. This year had the potential to be a great year for the Dalhousie men's soccer team. After finishing second in the AUAA championships last year, hopes for a trip to UBC for this year's CIAU finals were high. With returning players like Tony Pignatiello, Rob Sawler, Chris Devlin and Trevor Chisolm leading the way and new recruits like Marc Rainford, Mike Hudson, Steve Cormier, Mark Mout and Chad Denny playing prominent roles, it promised to be a great season.

However, things happen fast at the AUAA's. First, captain Keith Souchereau was lost to a leg injury. Key players missed games due to disciplinary problems (with the referees, not the coaches), and key points were lost throughout the season. The early season 3-2 loss to St. Mary's left coach Ian Kent shaking his head and demanding more effort from his players in future games. However, this game marked a turnaround in the Dal season and apart from lost points on the rock and a last game 1-0 loss to UNB, the Tigers showed a lot more heart and effort. That loss to UNB could have been much worse if not for three breathtaking saves by keeper Mike Hudson, our English import. Still, we were assured third place and ST. FX had gained homefield advantage yet again.

The AUAA final was to be Rob Sawler's and Tony Pignatiello's sending-off party. After defeating SMU in penalties, the Tigers moved on to a return match of last year's final against X. Unfortunately for Dalhousie, the result was the same — an overtime loss to the X-men. Despite outstanding games by Chris Devlin, Dave MacFarlane and a couple of big saves by Trevor Chisolm in goal, the CIAU's were not in the cards for this year.

"The entire team played well and we really dominated for most of the game. Trevor had no chance on the goal and we didn't finish on our chances," said MacFarlane.

Defender Matt Series added, "We have some good players up front, but we have not had a bona fide goalscorer for a couple of years."

Next year, Dal loses only two players. Although these players are team leaders, Dal will still have a very solid core of veterans. Look for MacFarlane and Devlin to step up their games another notch in the midfield. Include, in my humble opinion, the best 1-2 goaltending duo in the conference (if not the country), a rock-solid defence, a talented bunch of second-year players, and we should be in for a treat next year. Kudos to Trevor Chisolm and Tony Pignatiello for their outstanding work this season and their CIAU and AUAA all-star team selections.

Hopefully, this year of experience will make a difference come playoff time next year. Thanks for the great season guys!

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