

Volleyball repels Red menace

BY AARON BLEASDALE

The UNB Varsity Reds came to town last weekend for a pair of games against the women's volleyball team. Even though Dal boasted a marginally better record — 10-2 versus UNB's 9-5 — the Reds weren't to be taken lightly.

UNB's roster boasts several Canada Games players — a slip in intensity could easily have seen the Reds walk away with both games. Dal head coach Leslie Irie wanted to make sure that didn't happen.

"I don't pay much attention to records," said Irie.

On Saturday, the Reds wasted no time in letting the Tigers know they were in for a struggle. They won the marathon, 35-minute first set by a score of 17-15, and pushed Dal to the limit in the second. The Tigers were on the verge of losing the second set, and control of the game, but they battled

back and triumphed 17-16 in play punctuated by some exciting rallies. The remaining two sets were just as tough, but Dal pulled them out, 15-12 and 15-13.

During the game, Dal had to play some solid defense to overcome the powerful hitting of UNB's Chantal Martin. In her fifth year, Martin is a one-woman team. Every time the Reds' setter sent the ball her way, the crowd held its collective breath.

"Her shots are hard, harder, and hardest," said Irie.

It was a treat to watch Martin and Dal's unflappable Jenn Parkes — two of the AUAAs' best power middle players — face each other on the same court.

The game also saw the resurgence of Tiger team captain Cara MacKenzie. She had been in a little bit of a slump, but was dominant on Saturday, racking up 27 kills and winning Player of the Game honours. For the weekend



Dal volleyballer digs a UNB attack. The Tigers swept the weekend series, 3-1, 3-1.

Men move to 8-0

BY CARMEN TAM

The Dalhousie Tigers, fresh from winning a silver medal at the Dal Classic, continued their winning course with a pair of victories over the University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds last weekend at Dalplex.

Captain Eric Villeneuve led the way with 15 kills for the Tigers in their 15-4, 15-1 and 15-4 devastation of the Reds on Sunday. The undefeated Tigers only needed 55 minutes for the 3-0 sweep. They stand alone at 8-0 in the conference standings, while UNB dropped to 4-4.

Other top performers for Dal were Terry Martin and Jamie Mallon who both had 11 kills. Setter Peter Exall was named Player of the Game as well as Dalhousie's Athlete of the Week for his solid performance. Jason Stewart had 6 kills and 2 service aces in the Reds' losing effort.

The next day, Dalhousie only needed a little more than an hour to defeat the Reds. UNB had managed to put up more of a fight but the effort was wasted as Dal triumphed 15-6, 15-5, and 15-8. Villeneuve continued to impress with 15 kills and 2 blocks, while teammates Jason Trepanier and Martin added 13 kills and 12 kills respectively. Player of the Game honours went to fourth year veteran John Hobin who had 5 kills and 3 blocks in the Tigers' victory. Dennis King responded with 10 kills for the Reds.

With the victories last weekend, Dalhousie retained their 4th place national ranking. They'll be looking for a chance to solidify this ranking when the Varsity Reds host an AUAAs tournament from Feb. 21-23.

Memorial will also be competing in this year's last league action.

The Tigers last home game will be played on Feb. 28 and 29

MacKenzie had 45 kills and only 9 errors, and pounded out a formidable 48% attack efficiency

(30% is considered good).

"She's realized she's gotta take things into her own hands...she did that," commented Irie.

UNB came out hard again on Sunday, anxious to avenge the previous day's loss. The first set was a 15-13 Dal win, but the Reds came back to win the second 15-11. The third saw Dal take control of the game with a 15-11 win. The Reds looked out of steam and got run over 15-3 in the

fourth. It was the only set in the two game series to be decided by more than three points.

UNB was some tough competition over the weekend, and despite two four-set victories, Dal had to dig deep and pull out some key points. Coach Irie isn't concerned, however.

"We're finding ways to win," Irie said. "It might not be the prettiest, but this time of year, that's what you want to see."



against the Reds for the Atlantic Championships and the right to represent the AUAAs at the National Championships in Calgary in early March.

Axemen fell men's basketball

BY ANDREW COOK

The Acadia Axemen snapped a seven game AUAAs losing streak against Dalhousie on Tuesday night, stealing an 81-78 decision at the Dalplex.

The Axemen, mired in last place for much of the season, received an inspired second half performance from their low post combo of Derek Cotton and Jan Trojanowski in capturing the win. The two 6'8" forwards combined to score 20 of Acadia's 40 second half points, including two critical Trojanowski lay ups in the final two minutes.

Key for the Axemen was a subtle lineup change which saw sophomore forward Colin Popone inserted into the starting five in favour of Victor Herbert. Herbert, a freshman point guard, had been clearly overmatched against All-Canadian Brian Parker in the

teams' two previous meetings and while Popone didn't fill up the stat sheets he added stability that Acadia previously lacked.

Also significant was the unusually strong play from the Acadia bench. Forwards Adam Gladwin and Jim O'Grady carried Acadia through the first half with a combined 14 points and 7 rebounds. Dalhousie's bench, aside from Stan Mitchell, could only manage 3 points and 4 rebounds in the entire contest.

Not to be forgotten was the Axemen's excellent performance from the free throw line. Acadia was 20 for 23, including Mark Headley's two free throws with 14 seconds remaining to seal the victory.

There was, however, marked improvement in Dal's shot selection. Guards Tremayne Howe and Mitchell, both of whom have struggled through hard times of

late, returned to their form of old. Mitchell led the way with 16 points off the bench, while Howe added a career high 7 rebounds to his 15 points. Parker shared a game high 16 with Mitchell, with Ray Fountain and Darryl Baptiste rounding out the Tiger double figure scorers. One name conspicuously absent from that list was Shawn Plancke who was never able to get into a rhythm offensively.

The loss came on the heels of the Tigers' 70-69 overtime win in Fredericton on Saturday night against the UNB Varsity Reds. In a game in which Dalhousie held double digit leads in the second half, the Reds fought back only to lose out in the end. The Tigers battled through foul trouble to bring home the crucial 4-point out-of-province win and remain in second position in the league.

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this week's games:

Friday, February 14

Swimming AUAAs @ Dalplex pool (Until Sunday)

Saturday, February 15

Volleyball(w) @ UCCB, 7 p.m.
Hockey vs. UPEI, 7 p.m. @ Memorial Arena

Sunday, February 16

Volleyball(w) @ UCCB, 1 p.m.
Basketball(w) vs. UCCB, 1 p.m. @ Dalplex
Basketball(m) vs. UCCB, 3 p.m. @ Dalplex

Tuesday, February 18

Basketball(w) @ UNB, 6:30 p.m.
Basketball(m) @ UNB, 8:30 p.m.

If you have an event that needs posting, call the Gazette at 494-2507 and ask for Aaron, Sports Editor and all-round nice guy. Really.