

SPORTS

High expectations for men's soccer

BY KATHLEEN MATTHEWS

Expectations are already high for men's soccer this year even though the team has not yet been picked. The 1996 squad finished regular season action with a 10-1-2 record, 37 goals for and 3 against, only to lose a 5-4 heartbreaker to Acadia in penalty kicks at home in the AUSA championship.

There will be noticeable changes to this year's line-up as many players have moved on to other opportunities. Assistant coach Jamie Sawler departs after three years of service to the team. The goalkeeping talents of '94 and '95 AUSA All-Star Trevor Chisholm will be

missed after five years with the team. A significant loss to Dal's offensive talent will be the departure of '96 AUSA All-Star and second top goal scorer, forward Mark Ellis. Other players leaving include defenders Steve Cormier and Matthew Serieys, forwards Mike Kwak and Geraint Morris, and goalkeeper Sean Pedersen.

Though many key players are expected to return this year there will be stiff competition to make the team. Included among the contenders are several players from the Nova Scotia first division.

"There are about thirty-

eight guys trying for the team this year [and] former players are not guaranteed a spot," says head coach Ian Kent. "Attitude is very important."

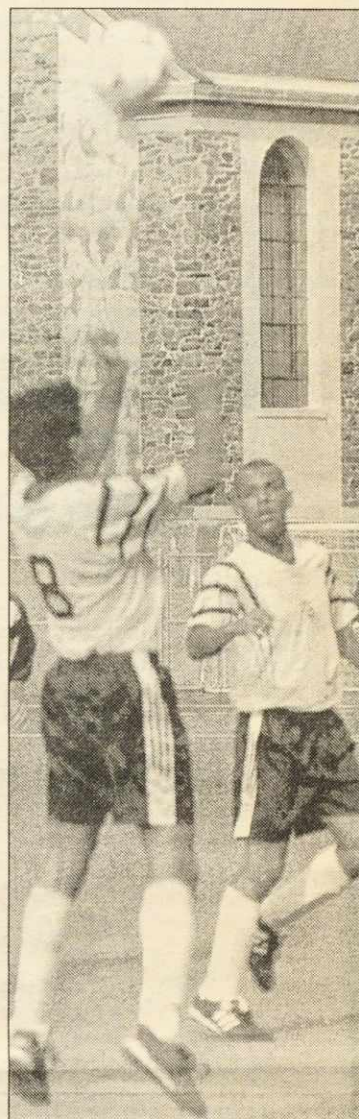
"It is good to have players on the top teams during the summer," he adds. "Playing at a high level of soccer in first division is crucial if a player wants to make the team."

There is great anticipation from fans and players alike for the '97 CIAUs which will be held at Dalhousie November 6-9. Memories of winning CIAU gold in 1995 will continue to be a motivating factor with the expected return of several players who were members

of that team.

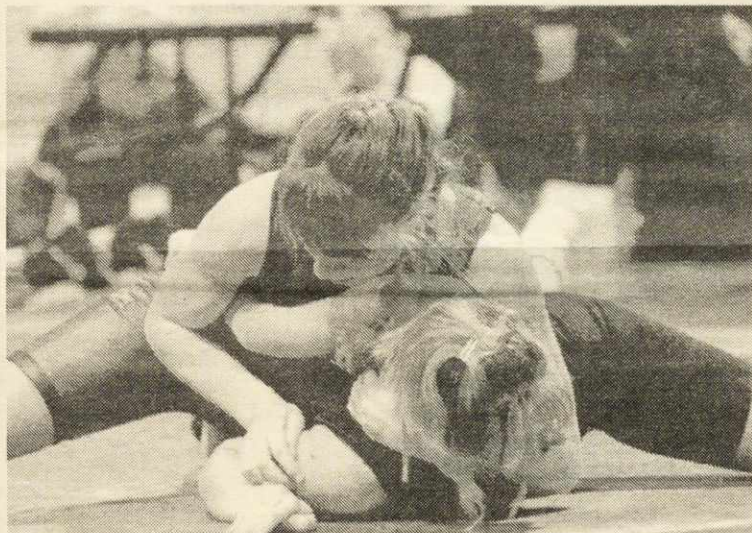
"Last year, one year after winning the CIAU gold, the hunger wanes," says Kent. "This year, with the CIAUs at home, you will see a team that is hungry."

From such a strong field of players fans can expect that, regardless of who makes the final cut, the 1997 squad will be poised to challenge for the AUAs and the CIAUs at home. *The men's team opens regular season action in Newfoundland against Memorial on Sept 13. The home opener is on Saturday September 20 at 3pm at Wickwire field against St. FX. Admission is free with a valid Dal ID. Be there!*



products of this program — strong players and strong people, capable of adjusting to change. Add to this some new faces — including several more Canada Games players and a couple of carded athletes — and Moore has every expectation that this team will pick-up where they left off, keep up the tradition of the past and remain successful.

As for coaching against Acadia, one of Dal's biggest rivals on the soccer pitch, Moore acknowledges that they have a strong program, but also points out that she knows coach Saunders and her coaching style and looks forward to challenging her friend in competition. Here's hoping she'll take a Tiger-sized bite out of the Axettes! *For a preview of what's to come from the women's soccer Tigers you can catch them in pre-season exhibition games this weekend. The Tigers host the Valley Oldtimers Team on Friday (kick-off at 6:30) and Forest Hills on Sunday (kick-off at noon). Admission is free with a valid Dal ID.*



Get ready to rumble

BY GAZETTE STAFF

The Dalhousie Wrestling Club (DWC) is running in its third season and this year should prove to be the most successful so far. All members of the AUSA squad will be returning except one, however this loss will be more than compensated for by the influx of new recruits.

Two rookies to watch out for this season will be Mike Leblanc at 90kg and John Allen at 82kg. Leblanc, from Auburn Drive High School in Cole Harbour, was the Nova Scotia Games champion and went to the '97 Canada Games in Brandon, Man.. Allen, who hails from Park Street High in Bridgewater, is a Nova Scotia High School champion and was an alternate on the NS Games team. These two promising rookies

added to the existing core team of three-time AUSA champion and head coach Scott Aldridge, CIAU seventh-place finisher Logan Ward, JC Rioux, Gavin Tweedie, Paul Lewandowski and Paul Bitsack should prove to be Dal's most promising team since the club started in 1995.

"I'm tremendously excited at this year's team. It takes time to build a successful program and this year's team is the start of a real wrestling dynasty at Dal," enthused coach Aldridge. "I honestly believe we have a great shot at the AUSA team title with this group of guys!"

Wrestling is enjoying a resurgence in the Maritimes with Dal, UNB, MUN and potentially SMU and UPEI competing at this year's AUSA championships at UNB.

Women's soccer: Moore to replace Turnbull

BY RACHEL JONES

Dara Moore is a former Acadia Female Athlete of the Year, but don't hold that against her — she's leading the good guys now, and says she looks forward to upholding the winning tradition here at Dalhousie.

Moore replaces Neil Turnbull as head coach of the women's soccer team, and is the team's first female head coach. No stranger to Dal, Moore was assistant coach under Turnbull during the 1993-'95 seasons. She was drawn back to Nova Scotia after completing her Level 4 certification ('B' Licence) at the National Coaching Institute in Victoria, specifically for the opportunity to work with Turnbull again. When Turnbull left for a position at Portland State earlier last month, Moore was given the opportunity to lead the Tigers herself.

In addition to being a highly regarded athlete, Moore is one of only eleven coaches in the Maritimes to have attained the national level 'B' license in soccer coaching, of which only two are female. At 28 years old, Moore admits that she is a

young coach, yet with her strong playing and coaching background, and having had strong [coaching] role models in both Laura Saunders at Acadia and Turnbull at Dalhousie, she feels confident and ready to take on and continue the program that she credits Turnbull with developing.

"Neil emphasized developing more than the athlete, in striking a balance between academics and athletics as well as the social experience of playing," said Moore. "He established a winning tradition at Dalhousie that speaks for itself."

Turnbull is Canada's national women's team coach and brought tremendous knowledge and experience to the Dalhousie program. Under his guidance, the Tigers won two CIAU silver medals and one gold. Losing a coach of this calibre is certainly a large disappointment, both for Dalhousie and the team.

The 1997 team has not yet been selected, and training camp is taking place from September 1-5. Moore believes that many of the returning players are