

## Back seat coaches A dreaded bunch



Overtime  
MARK ALBERSTAT

I HAVE ONE VERY SIMPLE question to ask you: Why do some people afflict the rest of us with back seat coaching? We have all heard of, if not experienced, back seat driving, but to me a far worse danger to our race is back seat coaching.

The danger in it, you see, that that these people (if you can call them that) really and truly bother me, and one never knows what I might do if I get mad. You have all now been warned.

I'm sure you're well aware of these strange people, everyone it seems knows at least one. They're kind of like the little old lady down the street, they just keep living on and on and on to everyone's amazement and disbelief.

Last week the Blue Jays lost the American League championship series in seven games. In the final game Bobby Cox, the Blue Jays ex-manager, decided not to take out starting pitcher Dave Steib when Jim Sundberg came to bat for the Kansas City Royals. Sundberg subsequently hit a three-run double off Stieb which for all intents and purposes closed the game and the season on the Jays.

Cox is a professional. He's very good at what he does, and he has pitching coaches to tell him exactly how his pitchers are doing. He put all of this knowledge together and made the decision.

The next day several people came up to me and said, "They should have pulled Stieb, I would have." These remarks are prime examples of back seat coaching. For the most part these people do not always know a lot about the sport, most of them just follow it at playoff time, and can't tell the difference between sinker and a

curve, and can't really talk intelligently about the sport, but oh yes they can second guess a coach or manager, after the fact.

It should be pointed out that these strange beasts do not confine themselves to the baseball diamond. They can be found in large hordes in football, basketball, soccer, and almost any sport you want to name.

The next time one of these Monday morning quarterbacks or next day coaches tells me that they would have passed to so and so on third and 12 or would have walked Bret here or pitched around Winfield there, I have a feeling I may just snap back saying the only reason they can say these things is because they know so little about the sport that they can not analyze it like an intelligent member of our species, so why not accept that the manager had his reasons for doing so and so, and talk about next week's action instead of second-guessing yesterday's.

Being member of the media I often come across former coaches or athletes who are now members of our esteemed group. These men and women have to be the worst in the bunch of back seat coaching.

You will often find these people saying "I remember back in '72 (they never say which century, and you often wonder), when I was in this position, I did so and so and that's what they should have done." This may seem all well and good but times have changed, players have changed and you, sir or madame, are not down there on the field, so why don't you do us all a favour — sit back and watch the game, take some notes if you want, and if you absolutely have to back seat coach do it to an old punching bag. It won't hurt you like I might.



Dal forward Sue Jollimore (plaid skirt) prepares to tackle a University of New Brunswick opponent in AUSA women's field hockey action Saturday at Studley Field. The Tigers lost the match 2-0, but still finished atop the Eastern Division, and will host the AUSA playoffs this weekend at the St. Mary's Astroturf. Photo: Sean Forbes, Dal Photo.

## Field Hockey team in playoffs

By MARK ALBERSTAT

DALHOUSIE'S WOMEN'S field hockey team sailed into an AUSA playoff berth this season with the best record in the Eastern Division, with nine wins, two losses, and one tie.

The Tigers finished the regular season on a losing note, dropping their last two games, one on the road and one at home.

One Wednesday, Oct. 16 the Tigers undefeated streak ended on the Astroturf at Saint Mary's as the team lost to the Belles by a 2-1 score. Over the weekend the Tigers hosted the UNB Red Sticks and were shut out 2-0.

Through most of the first half on Saturday it looked like the coaches would be lecturing their players on the importance of scoring the first marker in the second half.

However, UNB's Michelle Ives

scored from directly in front of the net at the 34:18 mark to send her team into half-time with slimmest of leads.

Through that half the territorial advantage was all UNB as the Tigers barely saw any action at the opposition's end of the field.

Through the second half the play was a little more equal with both ends of Studley Field getting a workout. Through the half the Tigers had four consecutive penalty corner attempts and failed to capitalize on any of them.

As in the first half, UNB scored with almost all of the regulation time gone. Kathryn MacDougall found the net for the Red Sticks at 69:14. After the game, Dal coach Darlene Stoyka was not disappointed with her team's performance.

"I'm really pleased about this game. We tried a different system

and a few different things because we knew we didn't have to win to be in it next weekend."

"I'm of course not happy with the loss but I am happy with the new system, and how they were applying it, and I'm quite confident that we'll be ready for the AUSA's next week."

Although the Tigers lost the game with this new system of play Stoyka has enough confidence in her players that she will be using it at the AUSA championships over the weekend at Saint Mary's.

At the AUSA playoffs the Tigers face Universite de Moncton. Stoyka claims her team will be more than ready.

Dalhousie will play Moncton at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, while UNB will battle St. Francis Xavier X-Ettes at 7:30 p.m. The championship game is slated for 1 p.m. Sunday.

## Tiger sports this week

Date	Sport	Against	Place	Time
Oct. 25	Swimming	UNB/MUN	Dalplex	7 p.m.
Oct. 26	Cross Country	AUSA Champ.	UNB	
Oct. 26	Hockey	Mt. A.	Mt. A.	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 27	Hockey	U de M	UDM	2 p.m.

## Athletes of the Week

Second year soccer player Sean Sweeney and Fourth year Physical Education student Mary Mowbray have been named Dalhousie's Athletes of the Week for the period of Oct. 14-20.

Sweeney, an Arts student who hails from Vancouver, scored three goals in two games last

week and the Tigers finished the season with victories over Acadia and St. F.X. The 23 year old Sweeney scored twice in Dalhousie's 5-0 victory over Acadia on Saturday and then added a single in the Tigers' 2-1 upset over the Eastern Division leading X-Men.

Mowbray, a 21 year old co-captain on the women's swim team, was a member of four winning relay teams at the first AUSA relay meet of the season held at Mount Allison on Saturday. Mowbray's performance helped lead the Tigers to a narrow 54-53 win over Mount Allison.