

Bobcats capture fourth CIAU title

BY ANDREW COOK

The Brandon University Bobcats brought back memories of old as they powered their way over the defending champions University of Alberta by a score of 79-72 to take their first national basketball championship of the 1990's.

Brandon, who put together a three-year championship run in the late 80's, have always had the reputation for having a team loaded with gifted athletes. This year's edition was no different as

they were simply too athletic and too powerful for a seasoned U of A squad.

The Alberta Golden Bears, winners of the past two CIAU titles, looked to be the team to beat going into Sunday's final. The Bears were coming off an impressive 84-67 win over the number one seeded UBC Thunderbirds and were shooting the ball at an exceptional 58% clip over their first two games. Despite being filled with veteran championship experience and having a great mascot (GUBA), the Bears couldn't overcome the physical differences. The team had to settle for the silver medal.

The championship game was clearly the most exciting of the weekend. It was filled with clutch outside shooting and mammoth blocks. The crowd was brought to its feet late in the second half when Brandon forward Demetrius Floyd slashed through the lane to follow up a teammate's miss with a thunderous dunk. The dunk typified the afternoon for Brandon and appeared to be the final blow for an Alberta team that had already lost most of its confidence.

After falling behind midway through the second half, the Golden Bears certainly were given every opportunity to gain control. With just over five minutes remaining in the contest, All-Canadian forward Keith Vassell was whistled for his fifth foul, on what was surely a phantom call. Brandon's other starting forward, Shawn Gray, quickly followed with his fifth and things looked grim for the GPAC champions.

With two-thirds of their starting front-court watching the final

minutes, it was oft-overlooked starting guard Jason Scott who delivered. He buried two clutch bombs from three-point range to finally sink Alberta.

Brandon's potent attack came in the form of balanced scoring on Sunday afternoon. Six players marked in double figures with Scott garnering a team-high 15 points.

Alberta sharpshooters Greg Sale and Greg Devries led the way for the Bears with 21 and 18, respectively.

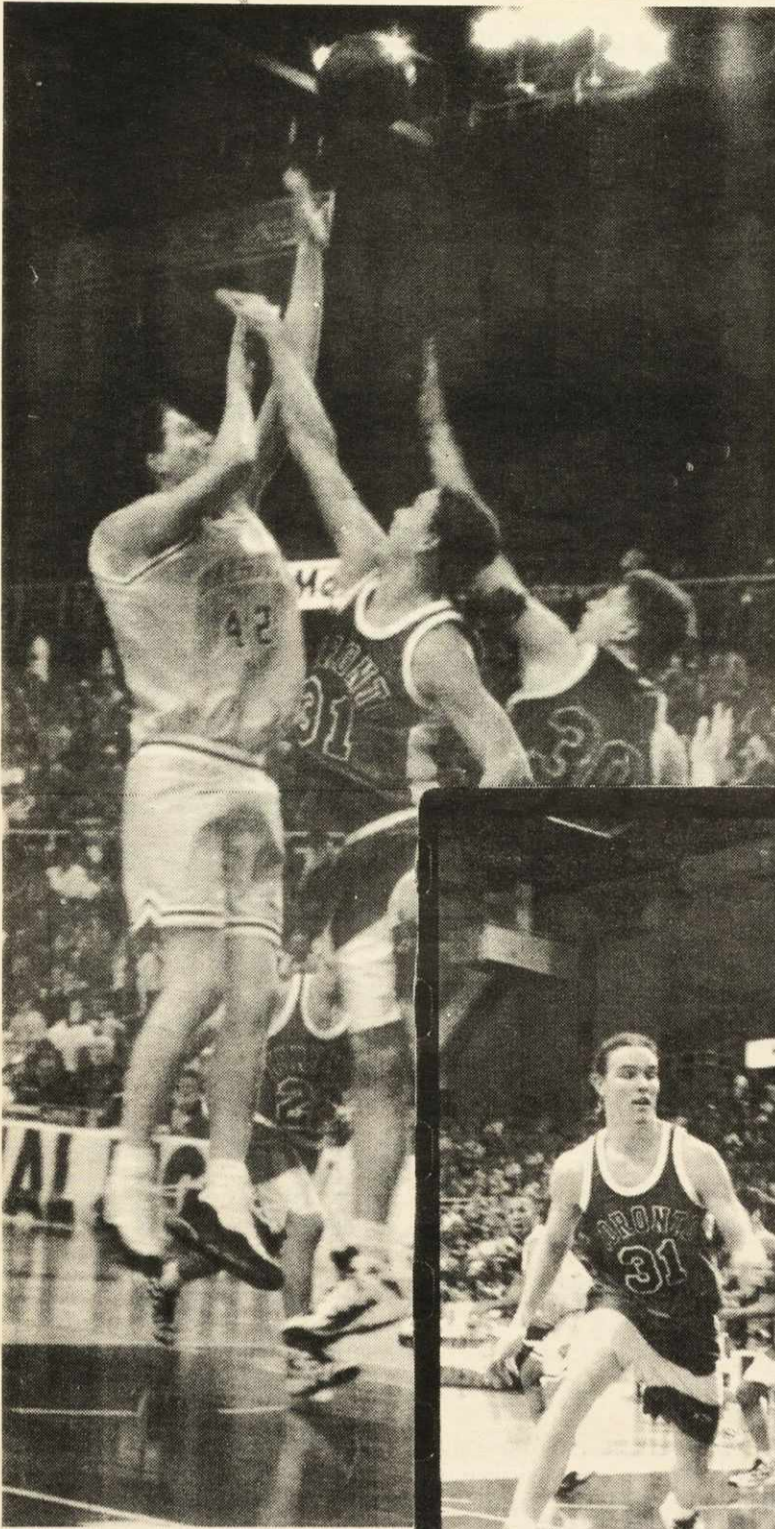
The Bobcats earned their first trip to the finals in seven years via a victory over the Varsity Blues of Toronto. Vassell came to the forefront in that game with 21 points and eight rebounds. Toronto, who put forth a solid effort, ran out of firepower down the stretch and couldn't find an answer for Vassell.

The Blues were led by guard Eddy Meguerian, who scored 15 points and grabbed 16 rebounds just one day after being hospitalized for facial injuries.

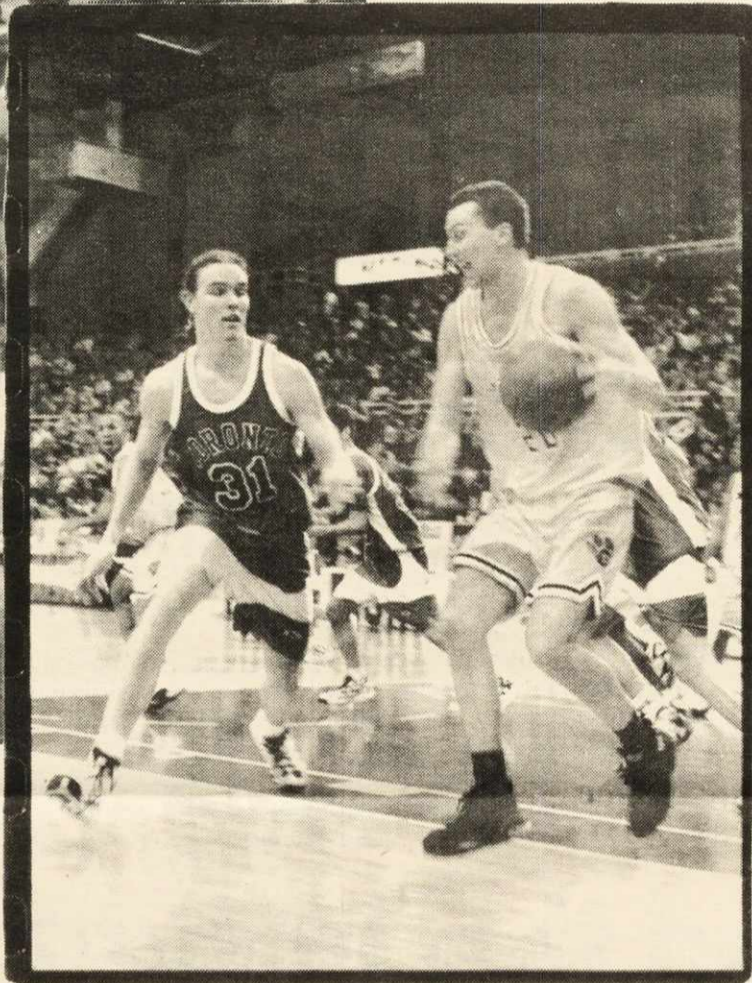
The AUSA was well represented in the consolation round as the Acadia Axeman cruised to a consolation final victory over the Concordia Stingers by a score of 84-75. Former Dalhousie guard Marcus Jamieson was given player of the game honours after a 21-point performance that included five three-pointers.

The tournament's all-star team was made up of players from four different schools: Shawn Gray (Brandon), Peter Knechtel (Alberta), Geoff Kott (Acadia), Jason Dressler (Toronto), and Greg Devries (Alberta).

Keith Vassell of Brandon was named the tournament's MVP.



GAZETTE PHOTOS BY SHANNON MORRISON



ABOVE: Dallas Shannon stops, pops ... drops.

RIGHT: Tim Elliott, right, fakes out some U of T hoopsters

Tigers lose focus — and championship dream

BY ANDREW COOK

The Dalhousie Tigers men's basketball team came out firing Friday night at the Metro Centre. With 7,800 screaming fans to get them going, the Tigers wasted no time in showing all of Canada just how good the AUSA champions really are.

Dalhousie hit on all cylinders over the first twenty minutes. Brian Parker was hitting his patented pull-up jumpers. Christian Currie was scoring on the low blocks, and Tim Maloney came off the bench with six big points, including four of four from the free throw line.

The Tigers shut down the vaunted Dressler twins and had firm control of the game's pace. Unfortunately, the game is played over forty minutes and only one team really came out of the locker room after half-time. In what seemed to be almost a repeat of the first half of the AUSA semifinal last Saturday, the Tigers appeared to be lost, lacking direction, strength, and stamina.

No longer were the lanes open for penetration, no longer were the outside shots falling, and all of a sudden there was only one team rebounding.

The Dressler twins simply took over. Their physical presence was too much for Dal forwards Currie and Dallas Shannon to handle.

Carl Swantee, Toronto's honourable mention All-Canadian, was magnificent down the stretch in making clutch outside shots when the need arose. Back-up point guard Jason Gopaul controlled tempo and made sure the Varsity Blues got a good shot out of the half court offence.

Ironically enough, it didn't really matter because Toronto basically rebounded their misses until they scored. It was that simple.

Not lost in defeat was the sad end of the career of senior Jeff Mayo, with few remaining healthy body parts. Mayo was not able to dress for Saturday's game versus Acadia. His leadership and toughness will be sorely missed.

Saturday's game versus Acadia, only played out of a need to sell tickets, lacked the emotion and the drive normally shown by these two AUSA rivals.

With both teams suffering from an emotional hangover, the quality of play was weak at best, and Acadia knocked Dalhousie out of the consolation round by a score of 77-71.

Jan Trojanowski led the

Axemen with 17 points while Parker was Dalhousie's high man, also with 17.

For Dalhousie, the loss Friday night signalled an abrupt end to what had been a great season. The Tigers, hounded all season long by the memories of past fail-

ures, accomplished their goals in winning both the AUSA regular and postseason titles. Despite crushed hopes of a national title, there is not one player who can be disappointed with his effort over the season.

The Tigers finished the season

27-7 overall, including three exhibition tournament titles. With a 17-3 conference record, the Tigers finished with 46 points and in first place. Dalhousie swept mainland Nova Scotia and won a thrilling AUSA tournament.

Two Dalhousie players, Parker and Reggie Oblitey, were named first team all-conference while Parker was named second team All-Canadian.

High hopes will again grace the campus of champions next fall as the Tigers figure to be pre-season top five in the national rankings. With Brandon, UBC, and Alberta all suffering very significant losses, a national title may be in the very near future.

Two women wrestlers off to BC

BY GAZETTE STAFF

The Dalhousie Tigers women's wrestling team travelled to the first-ever National Freestyle Women's Festival in Oshawa, Ontario this past weekend.

This tournament was open to women from ages 17-20 and this was the first time that any women from the Nova Scotia area attended such an event.

Kim Ferris' performance was the highlight for Dalhousie as she captured a well-deserved second place to bring home Dal's only medal. Ferris ended the tournament with a record of 1-1.

Sheila Phippen wrestled very well and placed fifth, eventually defeating an Ontario wrestler who had pinned her in the first round. Phippen finished at 2-2.

Terri Rose placed sixth in the largest weight class and wrestled very well against the strong competition, compiling a record of 1-3.

Both Rose and Ferris will be attending the Canadian Senior Championships in Burnaby, BC this May. They will be the first women from the Maritimes to compete at the championships. They are attempting to qualify for the women's national team, which will travel to the World Championships in Bulgaria this September.

Congratulations

to all Dalhousie varsity athletes who competed this year.

Special mention to the 11 (yes, 11) teams that won an AUSA championship.

Also, kudos to the men's soccer team and their CIAU gold...way to kick it!