

First Wrestling Invitational a success

BY GAZETTE STAFF

The Dalhousie Wrestling Club hosted the first annual Dalhousie Wrestling Invitational last Saturday. It could prove to be Nova Scotia's largest wrestling tournament.

The tournament boasted approximately 150 wrestlers from twelve different clubs. The UNB Blackbears brought a busload of 26, while Bathurst, New Brunswick brought a team of ten. Every Nova Scotian wrestling club was there in full force; from Spring Hill to Annapolis Royal, and from Sheet Harbour to Dalhousie (of course).

"This is going to be an annual event," exclaimed Dal Wrestling Club coach Scott Aldridge. "We should realistically get teams from Concordia, Memorial and even New England in the years to come."

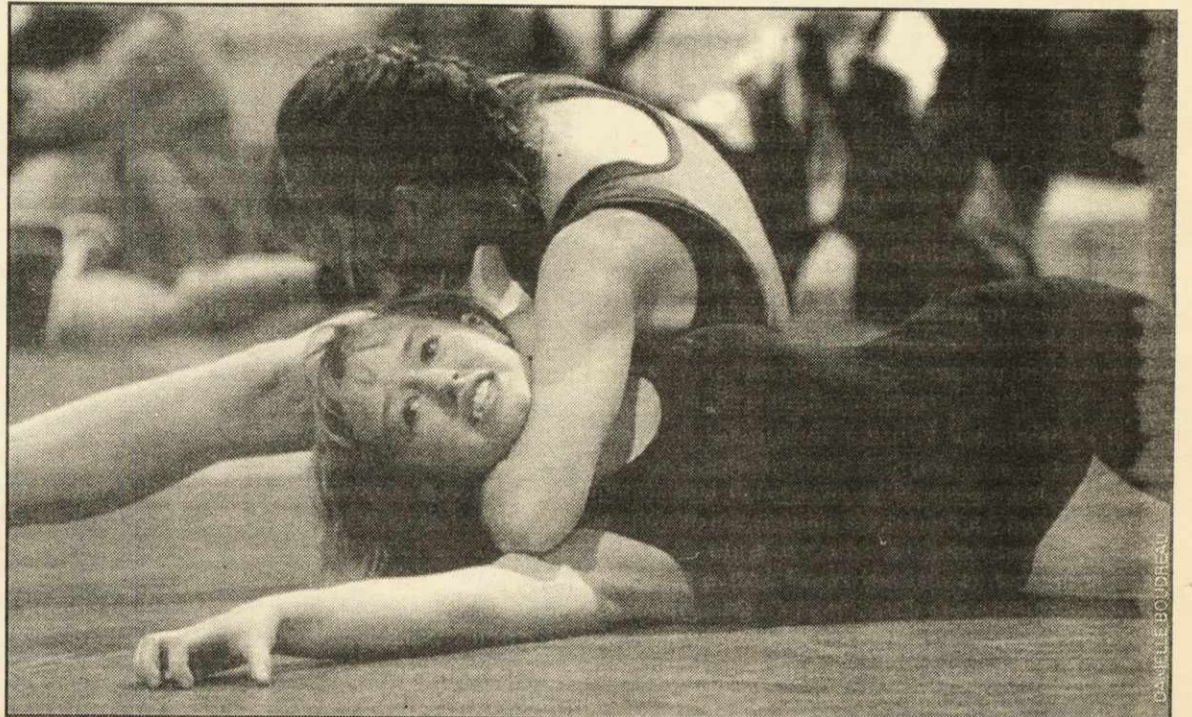
In the men's senior division, Dal finished second to UNB. Individual results were excellent. Freshmen Paul Lewandowski (57 kg) and Logan Ward (61 kg), both freshmen sensations hailing from Ottawa, earned silver medals. Bridgewater's J.C. Rioux earned yet another silver at

65 kg and has shown consistent improvement, despite being in his first year of a tough Dal Law programme. Gavin "the Newf" Tweedie earned a fourth place finish in a very tough 72 kg class, while Camil Nishijima, a seasoned wrestler from Montreal, earned a bronze at 76 kg. At 82 kg and 90 kg, Dal's AUAAs hopefuls Sean Locke and Bret Leblanc placed fourth and fifth respectively. At HWT, Aldridge earned a gold.

"I really think that we will be the dark horse at this year's AUAAs," said Aldridge. "This term we have five events in a row leading up to the AUAAs, so the boys should be peaking and ready to rumble!"

There are over thirty junior high or high schools currently offering wrestling in their school curriculum and Aldridge sees this as a vast untapped market. Dalhousie is currently the only Nova Scotia university to offer wrestling.

"Unfortunately," he says, "we do not have full fledged varsity status yet but I'm not going to sit on my butt and wait for things to happen. I'm carrying this baby on my back and it is going to grow



The wrestling was fast and furious at the Dal Wrestling Invitational

into something huge!"

The DWC is currently practising Monday to Thursday from 9 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. in the Dalplex, in racquetball court seven. Anyone, regardless of wrestling experience, is welcome to come out and roll around.

Men's hoops' winning continues

TRACEY MAJOR

The Dalhousie men's basketball team, fresh from their great showing at the Shoveller tournament, rolled over Saint Mary's last Friday in their first home game of the semester. The Tigers beat the Huskies 103-86 in front of a crowd over fifteen hundred strong.

The Tigers seemed hyped from the beginning and led SMU in field goal and three point percentages. However, their weak defence only allowed them a 6-point lead at the half.

In the second half the Tigers came back and put on a show. Derek Hurtle came through with

a few "dunks" for the Huskies, but Darryl Baptiste's sweet shooting, Stanleigh Mitchell's awesome steals, and Ray Fountain and Shawn Plancke's many rebounds gave Dal the seventeen-point victory.

The men's play seems to have improved since Christmas break. "They are playing better so far this semester," agrees Coach McGarrigle, "but that usually happens with the team."

Two players that have been showing this improvement are Dwayne Hopkinson and Baptiste. Hopkinson scored a career high during the Shoveller tournament, and Baptiste scored 26 points in

23 minutes against SMU — earning the player of the game award for the first time this year.

Mitchell attributes the team's success to its defense. "Our defense makes us a better team," he says. "However, there are still teams that we haven't played and we have to keep up our defense in order to remain successful."

Dal will have to do without Mike Sabol and Dennie Oliver in upcoming games. Sabol sustained a knee injury in the Shoveller tournament that could keep him out for the rest of the season, and Oliver has left the Tigers to play for the Brandon Bobcats (the team that beat Dal in the Shoveller final).

The Dalhousie men are now number two in the Maritimes and number six in the country, and they've set their sights high.

"Our goal is to finish 19-1 and set a new AUAAs record for wins," explains third year guard Kannin Osei-Tutu.

In order to reach this goal the Tigers will need fan support. There was an excellent turnout for Saint Mary's, let's show that support again on the 28th of January when the Tigers play St. FX at the Dalplex.

Hockey rolls over weekend

BY GREG WHITE AND EUGENIA BAYADA

The Tigers are continuing their strong play in the New Year. This weekend they followed up their recent triumph over Acadia by steamrolling the Saint Thomas Tommies and Moncton Blue Eagles, both by scores of 6-2.

"We won two important games," commented centre Jan Melicherik. "Many players are sick or injured but we played as a team and that's what counts. We worked hard, we did what we're supposed to do...and we won."

Both forward Jason Pellerin and blue-liner Rick Findlay agree that it was not an easy four points.

"It was more like four points well earned," noted Pellerin.

Last Saturday night, the Tigers were riding a wave of enthusiasm from the Acadia win as they faced off against the Tommies at Memorial Arena. The home team jumped to an early 3-0 lead in the first period, with the scoring including short-handed goals from Luke

Naylor and Dave Carson.

Saint Thomas narrowed the difference to 4-2, but goals from Dal's Gord Dickie and Martin LaPointe put the game out of reach.

"I thought we played well," said Carson after the game. "Our penalty killing teams did well. We've got to work with our specialty teams to win games."

The momentum carried over into Sunday's match-up against the Blue Eagles. The Dal offence was in high gear despite the absences of key players.

The Tigers peppered the shell-shocked Moncton keepers with forty-five shots. Only the acrobatic goaltending of Pascal Vincent kept the game close.

"We were really concentrating on defense for most of the game, trying not to make unnecessary mistakes," said Findlay.

Most enjoyable to watch this past weekend was the spirited play of grinding rookie Dallas Gray, hard-hitting forward Dickie and blue-liner Shane Gibbs. For the first time in years, the Tigers are not backing down from anyone.

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