

Hockey: New look tigers ready to go

BY GREG WHITE

With Thanksgiving fast approaching, the AUSA hockey season is about to begin. This year's Dal Tigers are small but quick, and play with great intensity. There is a new assistant coach, a wealth of new talent, and a sense that this may be the year for the hockey Tigers.

Dalhousie will ice a very different looking team this year having lost the services of several of last year's players. Goaltender Steve Pottie, blue-liners Joe Pineau and James Bugden, high scoring Corey MacIntyre, and Stephen Maltby are no longer playing for the Tigers.

There are several new players to watch. Luke and Ted Naylor are small, but quick and exciting forwards, and will likely be centred by Chad Kalmakoff from the Saskatchewan Junior League. UCCB transfers Tommy Hunter and Craig Brocklehurst are also expected to take up some of the scoring slack. Hunter brings speed and Brocklehurst was the Maritime Junior scoring leader two years ago.

Other new Tigers to watch are: Jake Grimes, a former American League player; Trevor Doyle, a hard-nosed, up and down winger; Jan Melicherick, a big, two-way player from the Mooseheads; Craig Whynot, a former player with the OHL's Ottawa 67s; and Scott Gallant, who played with Acadia when they won their first National Championship in 1993.

Returning players expected to step up this year are defencemen and assistant captains, Martin Lapointe and Jeff Letourneau. David Haynes is the captain of this year's squad, but is out with a shoulder injury. Marc Warner, Mark Alexander and Jason Pellerin are all improving and their hard-nosed, gritty performances will have a big impact on the team.

Greg Dreveny is returning in goal and will play at least 75 percent of the games this season.

Fred Corkum, Domo Kovacevic and Dan Stewart are competing for the two backup goalie positions.

Dalhousie has a tough schedule through the first half of the season. Most of their games are away from home against the most competitive conference in the country.

Head Coach Darrell Young expects Acadia will be the team to beat this year, having lost only 2 players from last year's National Championship team. He feels, though, that Dal really shook a monkey off its back last spring, winning two of their last three games in Wolfville. He hopes that this optimism will transfer over to this season. While Young says, "It is tougher to win this division than it is to win a National Championship," fans of Dal hockey can expect exciting hockey.

"While they lack size," says Young, "they show lots of depth...speed and skill will keep them competitive in their quest for the Kelly Division Title."

The first test for the Dalhousie Hockey Team was a tough one as they met the defending National

Champion Acadia Axemen on Tuesday night at Dal for their first exhibition game of the pre-season. The speedy and pesky Tigers refused to back down from a strong, physical Acadia side, outshooting them despite missing some key players.

Dal was able to move the puck well and cut-off the rink with its speed but Acadia netminders Trevor Amundrund and George Dourain were brilliant. Craig Whynot finally scored for the black and gold, but the end result was a 6-1 Acadia victory. The game was much closer than the score indicates.

Dalhousie will continue its exhibition schedule this weekend on the road as the team prepares for the upcoming season. Their first regular season game will be at Dalhousie Memorial Arena at 7 p.m. against Acadia as part of the Homecoming Weekend at Dal on October 19. Make sure you come out and watch some of the best hockey in the area and be witness to the most heated rivalry in AUSA sports as Dalhousie takes on the Axemen in their home opener.

Field hockey takes a crack at varsity

BY AARON BLEASDALE

After a ten year absence, Dal's field hockey club is fighting to regain varsity status.

The sport has a great tradition at Dalhousie, but in the mid-eighties it fell under the budget-cut axe. After winning the national title in 1972, and capturing innumerable AUSA championships, the team was gone.

Last year, though, the field hockey team was resurrected. Coach Lori-Lynn Andrews helped gather players through posters and word of mouth. This year the squad is twenty-four players strong, many of whom are returning from last year.

The new turf was a big factor in the team's revival. Wear on the field isn't as much of an issue as it was on the old Wickwire "mud-slick", and the smoother surface is perfect for the smaller field hockey ball.

The side plays ten 90-minute games a year, but it has no league to call home. The contests it participates in are all exhibition and mostly against SMU. There are three teams in the AUSA's field hockey league: SMU, UPEI, and UNB.

A few weekends ago, the team made its first road trip. Seventeen athletes crammed into two vans and headed to UPEI, intending to show the seriousness of their commitment to joining the league.

The other clubs have been supportive of Dal's effort. They've written letters in support of the proposed four team league, believing it would function better than the existing three team format.

The prime obstacle is money.

Karen Moore, director of university athletics, wants to provide as many opportunities for student participation as possible, but the Univer-

sity's primary concern is "maintaining the [varsity] sports currently funded." A worthwhile goal since last year Dal's varsity squads won AUSA championships in 11 out of the 13 sports they participated in.

A varsity field hockey team would cost between six and eight thousand dollars per year plus the salary of the coach who would have to be full-time staff of the university.

It doesn't sound like much money when compared to the one million dollars needed over five years to start up the proposed football team. Ironically, the fate of field hockey's bid may rely on the success of the football team. If football makes it in, Dalhousie would be pressured to even out the male to female club ratio by adding another women's sport.

Andrews is hopeful that next season will see the return of one of Dal's oldest varsity sports. Instead of just ending the exhibition schedule, the players could look forward to playoffs. "It would be nice to have something to aim for."

The team's next game is an exhibition on Homecoming weekend. They'll play a local senior club team October 19th at 5 p.m. on Wickwire field.

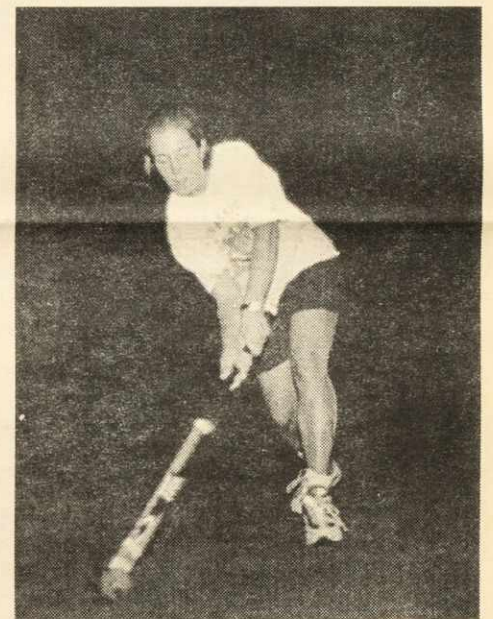
athlete of the week


Danny Burns, Men's Soccer



Danny is a fourth year athlete at Dalhousie, having transferred from Acadia this season. He scored one goal against St. FX on Saturday in Dalhousie's 2-0 victory. Danny was also instrumental as a defender against Memorial, where the Tigers were victorious again, 1-0. From Dartmouth, NS, he is 6'0", 22 years of age, and studies mathematics.

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