

Looking back

Dal sports in the 1920's

by Lisa Timpf

Intercollegiate sport at Dalhousie continued to expand in the 1920s, involving an increasing number of activities.

Prior to this time, Dalhousie had been fielding representative teams in men's basketball, rugby, and ice hockey. Intercollegiate women's teams in the sports of field hockey and basketball, as discussed in previous editions of *Looking Back*, also evolved during the 1920s.

The year 1922 saw the first mention in the Gazette of a Dalhousie swim team, which was to hold practises at the YMCA pool. The Gazette noted:

"Don McInnes was elected manager of the new Swimming Team, and reported bright prospects of getting together a strong aggregation of swimmers to compete with other Maritime clubs, such as Acadia or the local YMCA." (October 18, 1922)

An attempt was also made to form a girls' ice hockey team, in hopes of competing against other universities or city teams: *"Miss Gertrude Mills was appointed manager at the last meeting of the DGAC in the spring, and an attempt will be made to arrange for the rink."* (December 5, 1923)

Dalhousie also took part in the Inter-University Rifle Competition which was "open to all Universities of the Dominion of Canada", with the prize "a Silver Trophy, known as the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association Trophy" (November 25, 1927). Competing along with the male members of the Dalhousie team in 1928 was a Miss M. Langstroth (November 11, 1928).

Wrestling also began at Dalhousie in the 1920s. The Gazette notes:

"During the coming winter it is planned to hold meets with the mat artists from Acadia and other universities. The sport is a big competition among many American universities and promises to go over big in Maritime intercollegiate circles." (November 16, 1928)

In 1929, the idea of intercollegiate boxing competitions began to take root. The Gazette observes:

"According to local daily papers the Nova Scotia Technical College have twenty well trained boxers who will take part in a tournament in the near future. At Dal we also have a number of husky 'mitt artists' and it is hoped that an intercollegiate tournament will be arranged sometime soon." (March 1, 1929)

A shield, emblematic of the intercollegiate boxing championship, was donated by Phinney Music Company in 1929 (February 8, 1933), and Dalhousie emerged the winners in the first year of competition.

St. Francis Xavier, Dal, King's College, and the Nova Scotia Technical College were among the teams competing for the boxing championship early in its history.

The growing importance of intercollegiate sport throughout the country is indicated by the fact that the meeting of the Second Annual Conference of the National Federation of Canadian University Students, held at Queen's University in 1928, discussed the "effort to bring about an All-Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union." (January 11, 1929) Existing bodies for the governance of inter-collegiate athletics included the Western Canada Inter-collegiate Athletic Union, the Maritime Inter-Collegiate Athletic Union, and the Canadian Inter-collegiate Athletic Union. The latter was not, as the name suggests, truly a "national" body, but rather a Central Canadian organization comprising schools from Ontario and Quebec.

The students proposed that intercollegiate competition should take place "on a National rather than a sectional basis, as at present." The students perceived the following potential benefits from the formation of a truly national body for inter-collegiate sport:

1. Promote closer contact between different sections of Canada;
- 2) Render feasible the determination of true Canadian Intercollegiate Champions and Championships;
- 3) Promote a uniformity of eligibility rules and in general put Canadian Intercollegiate Athletics on a common basis." (January 11, 1929)

Although the formation of the CIAU as we know it today did not come about until much later, the student interest in the formation of such a body, and the increase in the number of inter-collegiate teams, suggest that intercollegiate sport was being perceived in an increasingly prominent role in the 1920s.

UNB drops Tigers

by Lisa Timpf

Any hope that the Dal women's basketball Tigers may have had of inching closer to first place in the AUAA were temporarily put aside last Friday night as the University of New Brunswick dropped the Tigers 69-48.

The win left UNB 8-0 on the season, in sole possession of first place. The Tigers' record went to 7 wins, 3 losses after the game.


The game was by no means a runaway. Despite trailing 33-22 at the half, Dal rallied in the second frame, and for a short space of time it appeared that they might be able to make a comeback.

However, the UNB squad proved to be a little too powerful, and outmuscled Dal decisively on the boards. The visitors' height advantage stood them in good stead in this department.

Dalhousie was unable to work the ball inside effectively, and didn't exploit a "help defence", leaving UNB shooters wide open on occasion.

The Tigers will take to the road for their next AUAA games, visiting St. Francis Xavier February 7, UPEI February 10 and St. Mary's University February 14.

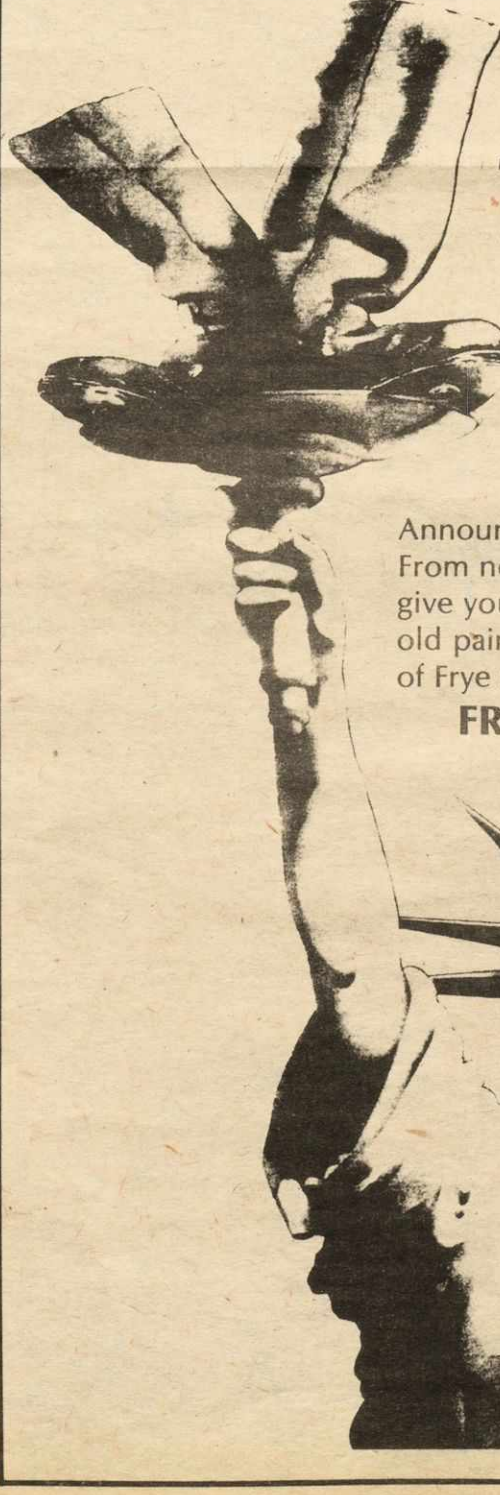
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