

Mary-Beth Bowie — AUSC Rookie of the Year

BY RACHEL JONES

Mary-Beth Bowie is the Atlantic University Soccer Conference's leading scorer, responsible for 1/3 of Dalhousie's 30 regular season goals. This past weekend she was voted Rookie of the Year for the Atlantic Conference.

"She's come into the program and had a huge impact for a first year player," says coach Dara Moore of this young 19-year-old Health Education student. "Not enough can be said — to come into the league and be the leading scorer on the team as well as in the AUSA."

Amy Harding, a third-year player with the Tigers, also recognizes how Bowie's presence on the squad has changed the team.

"Mary-Beth has brought a lot of hard work to the team and she pushes a lot of players around her," says Harding. "I know players her age and older look up to her and the ability she carries."

"There's a change in the attitude of the team from last year and I think she helps contribute to that. She helps us to think more positively and to attack more, because she's such an attacking player."

It is this Dartmouth native and product of the Canada Games program's skill at dribbling and her ability to turn a defender inside out, in combination with her courage to try new moves, and take on every challenge in her path that make her an unstoppable asset to the Tigers' line-up.

"She's one of those players that's going to shake things up for a team," concurs Tiger teammate, as well as fellow Canada Games teammate, Amy Dunphy. "There's not very many people that like to go one on one and are good at it and she is good at it, so she's a person that's going to create a lot of havoc in the attacking third of the field."

"One on one, she's very strong," says coach Moore, hard-pressed to pick out one outstanding characteristic of such a well-rounded player and person.

"She doesn't need much space to turn," adds Moore, "and if she turns and she has a little bit of space to go at a player, she's almost — not always, but almost always — going to get the ball into the space behind her. She's extremely composed in scoring opportunities."

"Give her an inch and she'll take a mile," laughs Harding, who had to face Bowie's dribbling skills while playing as a defender for Forest Hills this past summer. "She's someone who's going to make you work one hundred per cent of the time and you always have to be right on her."

Teammate Dunphy has also had the dubious pleasure of confronting Bowie on the field.

"She loves to dribble and defenders hate having people go one on one with them, so, yeah, I hated it!" exclaims Dunphy. "She just loves to go at you all the time and it's bad because she loves to beat you one on one and she'll do it!"

Hardly a one-dimensional player, Bowie is also a big asset to the midfield line when she drops back into the central position.

"She sees things that maybe other people don't see just from playing striker. She knows where the holes open up on the defence," says Dunphy. "She reads the game pretty well and makes some really beautiful, penetrating passes."

Undoubtedly an extremely talented player, Bowie, a member of the provincial team every year since she was thirteen, still modestly credits Moore with allowing her the freedom to be creative on the field.

"Dara allows me to be very creative," says Bowie. "She tells me what she wants, but she lets me work with that. She doesn't tell me exactly what to do and she encourages trying new things. She talks to the players, so we always understand what she wants and can usually let her know how we feel about things, so there's good two-way communication."

Communication and a close bond that Bowie feels is integral to having a female coach.

"I've never worked with a female coach — not at this level anyway — and it's nice because she's been through what I hope to go through.

She's done the CIAU championship experience, which is something that is a definite goal of mine. She understands the training and she can relate to girls better. Male coaches often find it difficult to get the most out of female athletes, so she definitely has that advantage over a male coach," says Bowie.

She was initially a little disappointed to hear of the departure of last year's head coach Neil Turnbull, but says, "I couldn't help but look at the soccer program itself, because it's been very successful over the last few years. There are great facilities at Dal and I'm familiar with a lot of the players, so I was comfortable coming here."

"What I try to do is not be afraid to try new things," says Bowie of her contribution to the Tigers. "If I see other players try something new, something creative then if it doesn't work out, rather than criticize it, I look at it as a positive step because eventually it'll come."

"She would never say anything negative about anyone," says

teammate Julie Pigozzo. "She's a really good person. She's very, very positive and you can tell even off the field that her main goal is to play soccer to the best of her ability. She's great. She's just like she is on the field."

It's unanimous. Not only does Bowie contribute to the team through her talent and hard work, she also brings a generous and positive attitude.

"She has a fabulous attitude," praises Moore. "She's extremely hard-working and she has an ability to really bring her teammates up around her."

"She's really into the game, she really cares about the game and she brings that with her wherever she goes," comments Harding.

"I don't think I've ever seen her without a smile on her face in my life!" says Dunphy.

"Her attitude makes her the most amazing person I have ever known," insists Pigozzo. "She's always complimenting other players. If a

goal goes in the net from her she always recognizes who it came from and that it's a team play, and I think that's one of the greatest things about her."

"I'm really happy with our team," concludes Bowie. "It seems like we are getting better and better every game. Every other year I've been on teams where we win some, we lose some and the play has been really up and down, whereas this team seems to be going in an up direction, which is really nice, and there's a bit of consistency there. We have a very talented team, a very strong team and we know how to win."

One can only conclude, after such glowing testimony from coach and teammates alike that Moore is right when she predicts "[Bowie is] one of those people that whatever she wants to do in life, she'll succeed because she's willing to do what it takes".

Dalhousie has only good things to look forward to from the exceptional and promising young athlete.

Rookie sets the standard

BY KATHLEEN MATTHEWS

Among the many new faces in this year's Tiger line-up, one composed nineteen-year-old from Victoria, B.C. stands out. Tomas Ernst, a multi-talented athlete, has brought great skill to the Tiger midfield this year.

Ernst has played organized soccer since he was six. He has participated in many sports including basketball and golf, as well as playing in various soccer A-league and select teams in his native BC. He has stayed with soccer because it requires more than just athleticism.

"This game is the fastest," says Ernst, "it requires lots of quick thinking. You have to be athletic and intelligent at the same time in order to play the game well."

Ernst came to Dal on the advice of a coach, former Tiger and women's assistant coach, Neil Sedgwick.

"[Sedgwick] said it was a great university," he says. "Also, my friend [Tiger sophomore] Sam Ramsden was

already here. He said the same, so I decided to give it a try."

Ernst had some worthwhile preparation for the current season, playing with the Mooseheads this past summer.

"Playing with people like Dave McFarlane is an advantage," says Ernst, "especially since I am playing next to him at Dal."

Ernst appreciates all that the Dal soccer program has to offer.

"There is a high level of skill here, I enjoy it," he says. "I like all of the coaching staff [and] team unity is stressed."

Playing at Dal has already been beneficial to Ernst's game.

"Coach Kent has brought discipline to my game and a sense of wanting to keep on playing — it does me a lot of good. All the coaching staff are great, Darrell [Cormier], Garnett [Cross], and the guys behind the scenes like Paul Moore [stats] and Lachlan Gillis [manager]."

"Tomas is a very young player but all-around he was the best player we had on the pitch," says Kent. "He brings great utility — I have played him in five different positions [and] he has the skills to play all of them. He is a real fighter with refined skills, he is definitely someone to watch in the future."

Overall, Ernst is positive about the team's performance this season. Like most of his teammates, he is looking forward to the upcoming CIAUs.

"I have really enjoyed it so far, this is a step up from men's [first division] soccer," says Ernst. "My biggest problem has been keeping disciplined, and trying not to get carded."

"If we play as a team, and everyone is positive we will have a great game — we have a great shot at CIAUs."

Any success Dal achieves at Nationals will be due in part to Ernst, who was awarded AUSA men's soccer Rookie of the Year this past weekend.

Athletes of the Week



MARY-BETH BOWIE
SOCCER

Mary-Beth, the top goal scorer in the AUSA during the regular season, scored once and set-up many others as the Tigers captured the AUSA women's soccer championship on the weekend. Mary-Beth received extra attention from both Acadia and Memorial, but was able to free her teammates and lead the Tigers to 3-0 and 4-1 wins, respectively. Mary-Beth was also named AUSA Rookie of the Year and a First Team All-Star. Mary-Beth is a first-year Health Education student from Dartmouth.



TOMAS ERNST
SOCCER

Tomas led the Tigers to three consecutive wins and to the AUSA Championship in Antigonish on the weekend. Tomas controlled the middle of the field, helping out on numerous attacks and battling relentlessly in the muddy conditions on defence. Tomas tallied one goal in the semi-final victory against UPEI and was a crucial component in the Tigers' run to the title. Tomas was also chosen as the AUSA Rookie of the Year. Tomas is a first-year Commerce student from Victoria, BC.

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