

Volleyball's Wolfenden shines in rookie year

BY CARMEN TAM

"My parents were really supportive and gave me a lot of freedom in what I did, no matter what it was."

That translated into a variety of sports for Chris Wolfenden, a rookie of the Dalhousie men's volleyball team. Always an avid athlete, Wolfenden was involved in hockey, basketball, golf, skiing and tennis before he discovered volleyball in tenth grade. Influenced by his older brother's involvement, Wolfenden found instant success with volleyball.

His natural instinct for the game led to a spot on the junior Ontario provincial team the following summer. The squad went to a training camp in Cuba where they defeated the Cuban junior national team at every outing before returning to Canada to win the national banner. Three weeks later, they went to Puerto Rico to represent Canada at the Norseca Tournament where the team placed fifth out of nine competitors from around the world. The international experience exposed the Peterborough native to the top-calibre athletes from Mexico and the host country. Wolfenden notes these trips were a "growing experience".

In his second year, Wolfenden co-captained the provincial team with Rob Jansen (now with the Manitoba Bisons) and went to train in Cuba again before coming back to Canada where his leadership guided the team to another title. Ontario did it in style by not dropping a single set on their way to a national crown.

Ryan Andrews was Wolfenden's teammate that year, and is also with Dal now.

"Wolf is a great player — he is much better and far above his age group," Andrews said. "He is a great passer, smart hitter and a huge blocker — he has it all."

"And when he gets older, he'll

After working for a year after graduating, Wolfenden was more than ready to return to classes. He had a number of universities to consider, including Western, Waterloo, Toronto, Dalhousie, and was offered a partial scholarship to IPFW College off the campus of Indiana State and Purdue University.

Impressed by head coach Al Scott's successful program at Dalhousie, the talented 20-year-old chose Dal after seeing top athletes produced from the program, such as national team member Terry Martin. "Chris came to us as a very accomplished freshman," said Scott, who has coached the Tigers for 19 years. "It is not usual for a freshman to move into a starting position...Chris has done that. He is a steady serve receiver and has strength in all aspects of the game. I am very pleased with his progress."

"He is a durable player — only two players have played

every match and every set [and] that is Chris and Jason [Trepanier]."

Wolfenden is currently studying economics and is aiming to eventually complete an MBA. So far he has managed to successfully balance his classes, practice and travel.

Wolfenden, who had never been to Nova Scotia before coming to Dal, notes of his new home: "Halifax is a nice city — it's very student-oriented which is good."

His exceptional passing abilities and offensive power have made him stand out in the

be even better."

Wolfenden immersed himself in every level of volleyball, playing on high school, club and provincial teams. Playing club in grade 13, Wolfenden discovered more success with the sport, this time at the beach. In a span of only a few months with partner Andy Holland, the duo won the Ontario Junior Beach Volleyball Championships in 1996. The pair reached the quarter finals at Nationals in Toronto.

"When I play a sport, I want to be completely involved," Wolfenden said. "Volleyball allows that."

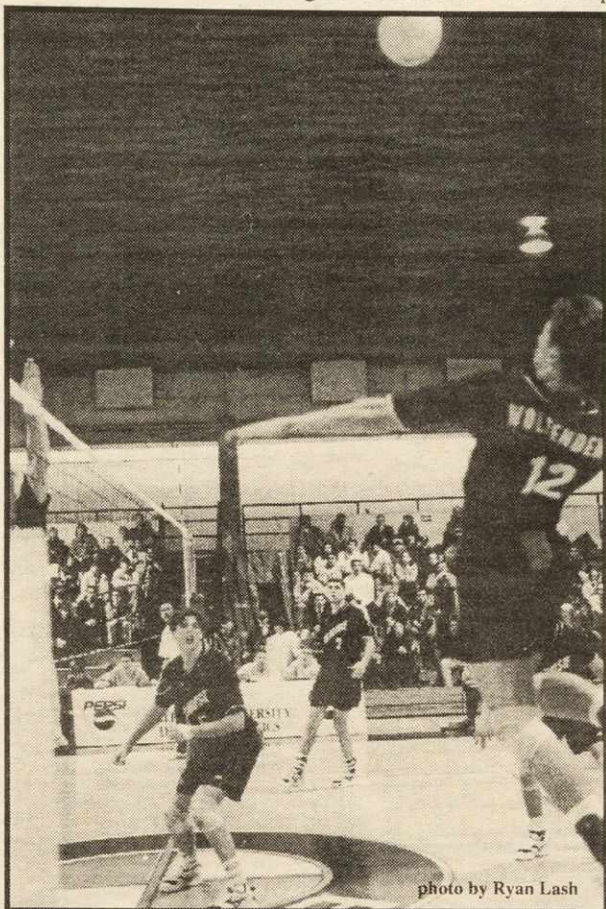


photo by Ryan Lash

conference. He has found the adjustment to the AUAA level a "natural progression" and discovered a challenge in competing against top-ranked teams such as Sherbrooke.

Wolfenden has certainly made an impression on the Dal team this season. Playing like a veteran, the rookie has started every match for the Tigers and was named Player of the Match in his second outing against Memorial University in October, as well as earning a spot on the All-Star team at the Sherbrooke Vert Et Or Omnium in November where Dal captured gold. He is one of the top all-round players in the conference, currently third in kills and fifth in blocks. This year he has asserted himself as a top rookie in the league and a contender for some national recognition at the end of the season.

"As a first-year player, he is a most skilled athlete," said Dal captain John Hobin. "He has a lot of technical abilities right which

is important, and this is reflected by him starting all our matches. This is unusual for a first-year player."

Wolfenden's future goals include earning an invitation to try out for the National B team before taking his game to another level. He gathers inspiration to improve from a collective of coaches, players and others but cites personal goals as his main motivation.

"Volleyball will always be part of my life," says Wolfenden.

Dal will be hosting the AUAA League Tournament this weekend at Dalplex. The result of the tourney will determine who will host the AUAA Championships the following week. Dal and UNB are tied at 6-2 in conference standings while Memorial is at 0-8. The nationally sixth-ranked Tigers will face UNB at 8pm on Friday, February 13 and Memorial University at noon on Sunday, February 15. Admission is free for all Dal students with valid ID.

ATTENTION ALL PART-TIME FACULTY OF DALHOUSIE/ DAL-TECH, TEACHING ASSISTANTS AT DALHOUSIE/ DAL-TECH AND PART-TIME FACULTY OF SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY AND MOUNT SAINT VINCENT UNIVERSITY

Friday, the 13th of February is "OUR-LUCK-WILL-CHANGE"

RALLY DAY

JOIN US AT OUR MASS RALLY OF MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS!!!

Time and Place:

11:00 AM - Members will gather at the Dal-Tech Quad to gather posters and march to Dalhousie

12:00 Noon - Supporters and Members to assemble in front of the Killam Library at Dalhousie to hear speakers and live music

Your union, CUPE 3912, is in a legal strike position at all of the above universities currently. As our wages are far below what our counterparts earn nationally and regionally, we may have to go on strike in the coming weeks to demand our first collective agreement which would give us fair working conditions and fair wages. We are still trying to get the universities to negotiate a fair settlement but with little luck. We must continue our meetings this year and are working hard on committees to organize our job action. To those of you who may still need more information or who want to be a part of organizing our job action, please contact the executive officers listed. CUPE 3912, will be holding a strike vote at all three universities on **February 18th and 19th**. An affirmative strike vote would send a clear message to the three university administrations to come back to the table for a fair settlement. **Red circle your calendar** for the following strike vote dates and locations:

At Dalhousie: **Feb. 18 and 19 - SUB Lobby - 8:30am - 7:30pm**

At MSVU: **Feb. 18 and 19 - Room 106 Rosaria - 8:30am - 7:30pm**

At SMU: **Feb. 18 - Auditorium Foyer, McNally Main - 8:30am - 6:30pm**
Feb. 19 - Auditorium Foyer, McNally Main - 8:30am - 7:00pm

Contact Officials:
Barbara Moore, Pres. CUPE 3912,
Tel & Fax: 542-7981 (h);
Email: barbm@auracom.com
Mike Earle, Sec-Treas. CUPE 3912,
Tel & Fax: 425- 6356 (h);
Email: michael.earle@msvu.ca
Union e-mail: cupe3912@is.dal.ca



**SUPPORT YOUR UNION LOCAL!
STAND IN SOLIDARITY FOR FAIRNESS!!!**

For the stats junkies...

AUAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

[UP TO AND INCLUDING FEBRUARY 8]

	W	L	FOR	AG.	PTS.
MUN	12	2	941	780	24
PEI	12	3	1125	901	24
SMU	11	3	985	893	22
Dal	6	7	796	786	12
UNB	6	8	951	910	12
St.FX	5	8	810	871	10
UCCB	2	12	685	947	4
Acadia 1	12	655	860	2	

SCORERS FOR DALHOUSIE HOCKEY

[up to and including January 31, UPEI@Dal]

Ted Naylor	7-16-23
Martin LaPointe	6-17-23
Chris Pittman	11-9-20
Derrick Pyke	9-11-20
Chad Kalmakoff	9-10-19
Jan Melichercik	8-11-19
Tim Hill	8-8-16
Dave Haynes	7-5-12
Craig Whynot	3-9-12
Jody Shelley	4-7-11
Trevor Doyle	1-8-9
Marc Warner	5-2-7
Mark Alexander	4-2-6
Dallas Gray	3-2-5
Luke Naylor	2-3-5
Richard Ujvary	0-5-5
Dave Bourque	1-3-4
Pat Russell	0-4-4
Shane Gibbs	0-3-3
Jamie Henderson	1-1-2
Jason Pellerin	1-1-2
Jason Wolfe	1-1-2
Stephen Donaher	0-1-1

AUAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

[UP TO AND INCLUDING FEBRUARY 8]

	W	L	FOR	AG.	PTS.
Acadia 9	3	971	802	18	
SMU	9	4	1055	1028	18
UCCB	8	6	1110	1098	16
St.FX	7	5	985	922	14
MUN	6	8	1189	1218	12
UNB	6	8	1088	1115	12
Dal	5	7	918	955	10
UPEI	3	12	1093	1271	6