

Tigers turn back Titans

by Andrew Sinclair

A couple of veterans played their usual superb game, and a rookie turned in a whole weekend of steady play to lead the Dalhousie Tigers to the women's division championship in this past weekend's Dalhousie Volleyball Classic. Co-captains Karin Maessen and Karen Fraser were named tournament MVP and tournament all-star respectively, but it was first year player Brenda Turner that most impressed coach Lois MacGregor as her team swept through the tournament to the final where they defeated the Scarborough Titans 10-15, 15-12, 15-10, 15-11. "For a player with as little experience as she's had at this level to perform like she did is simply outstanding," MacGregor said of Turner.

The round robin confrontation between the Titans and the Tigers was the longest and perhaps the most exciting match of women's preliminary play, with Scarborough eventually winning in five games. The final proved to have all the spectacular digs, devastating kills, and tight rallies; only the outcome was different. The Tigers played as well as they had all weekend, but the junior team from Scarborough refused to give in, at one point rallying from a 14-1 deficit only to lose 15-12. MacGregor suggested several reasons for her team's success the second time round, the foremost being the Tiger's serve reception. "Our serve reception was much better today so we were able to run a quick middle attack. Also, the team stuck to the game plan better; they did as we said they should, and our serving game was

tough enough so that they couldn't run their quick middle." MacGregor also pointed to several psychological factors, among them being the presence during the final of a large and vociferous home town crowd and the boost received by the Tigers as a result of their three game thrashing of highly touted Memorial University in the semi-finals. Fraser thought that the victory over the Newfoundland squad might even have implications beyond the tournament, predicting that the Tigers "should win the AUAA's and go on to do well in the CIAU's, especially because of the psychological edge we have after beating Memorial in three games."

Scarborough coach Bill Seto, whose team took third place at last year's Classic, was very impressed by the calibre of the competition at this year's tournament, but said he had still entertained hopes of winning the gold. "We thought we had enough to win the whole thing", he said, but pointed out that, of the nine players on the team, several were still in high school and three others had not practiced with the team for some months as they are currently attending university in the United States.

Maessen and Fraser led the Tigers in hitting with 71 and 57 kills respectively, while Kathy Andrea led in blocking points with 18. Turner collected 27 kills, 5 blocking points and 39 serving points. Wendy Keeping provided fine setting all through the tournament, and Colleen Doyle's strong outside hitting was a major force in the Tiger attack.

They only wear gold

Yeomen came to win

by Andrew Sinclair

For the York Yeomen, winning isn't everything, it's the only thing. "We came here to win", said coach Wally Dyba after his team had beaten the Winnipeg Wesmen in three straight games to take the men's division final of the Dalhousie Volleyball Classic. "We don't wear silver—we take it off. We only wear gold." The Wesmen beat York in four games in preliminary play, but when it came down to the final match the Yeomen proved that they had indeed come to win, serving and blocking their way to victory with comparative ease, 15-10, 17-15, 15-3. Dyba credited the

win largely to his team's strong serving. "We have to serve well to do well", he said, "and we had ten aces in the match. They (the Wesmen) had to go to a more conservative offense, and we have a big block and we started to shut them down."

Team captain Mark Ainsworth was particularly effective from the line, collecting six of those ten aces. Ainsworth also led the team in kills, digs, and blocks, hitting 16 of 25 kill attempts and accumulating eight digs and six blocks. Despite his strong showing in the final, however, Ainsworth did not make the tournament all-star team,



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which was comprised of fellow Yeomen Hernan Humana and John May, Andy Bilinsky of Winnipeg, Georges Lantagne of Quebec YMCA, Yves Plaisance of Laval, and Roddie Walsh of the Tigers. Nicholas Duval of Quebec YMCA was named tournament MVP.

Winning "has not always been easy for York, however, at least not outside their native province, according to Dyba. "We have not won outside of Ontario since I've been coaching this team. You've got to learn how to win, and this victory will be a big boost for us. We're starting to learn how to win the close ones." Dyba was also pleased that the win came at the expense of the Wesmen. "There's no love lost between us. We have a class

organization and they don't, and whenever we can whale on these guys we will." Dyba also expressed the opinion that while his team knew how to win, Dalhousie didn't. "Dalhousie is an excellent team, but it's that knowing how to win that they lack." Dalhousie was undefeated in round robin play, beating the powerful Quebec YMCA team in five games, but lost their semi-final match to the Wesmen in three straight and were overpowered by Quebec in the bronze medal final. Dalhousie coach Al Scott had to admit that Dyba's comment was "almost a true statement. We went to the York Excalibur Tournament and were close, and the same thing happened in Manitoba. We've improved the level of our volleyball, but

I think right now we're going through a very frustrating period. We're close, but we can't seem to play consistently throughout an entire tournament." Team member Jamie Fraser agreed with his coach as to the nature of the team's woes: "When we played Quebec YMCA in the round robin competition, we played very well and we beat them. The problem is our consistency, and I think that comes with experience."

Captain Jan Prsala led the Tigers in kills for the tournament with 75, while Roddie Walsh contributed the most blocking points with 27. Phil Perrin, with 60 kills and 23 blocking points, and Fraser, with 33 kills and 13 blocking points, also turned in fine performances.