

Tigers settle for fourth place

Midnight strikes early for Cinderella entry

BY MICHAEL HARTLEY

Going into the CIAU championship as underdogs, the Dalhousie Tigers Men's Volleyball team really had nothing to lose and everything to gain. Ranked eighth in the national showdown at Laval University, the Cinderella Tigers were in tough situation facing the number one ranked home team coming into the three-day tournament. On that Friday night, with the barn full of Rouge et Or fanatics, not many gave Dal an outside chance at beating Laval, who had won all five head-to-head matches this season.

Similar to the childhood fairy tale that has been told so many times, the Tigers attended the ball in style. In a huge national level upset, Dalhousie took the host team

to a fifth set. The boys were not about to be content with their performance over the first four games, and came out in the fifth with something to prove. With the evil step-sisters raging in jealousy, the Tigers danced with the Prince, taking the fifth set and sending the home team back to the dressing room in tears and the capacity crowd wondering why Laval wasn't playing Queens in the first place.

During the week leading up to the tournament, the Tigers — like Rodney Dangerfield — felt as though they weren't getting any respect from the rest of the coaches in the CIAU. The Queens Golden Gales — who were beaten soundly three times by the Tigers this season — were ranked in sixth place coming into the tournament. However, this turn of events was seen more as an opportunity rather than

a bad omen. This gives us an opportunity to do something special, said team Captain Dave Cox.

He was right.

This was not the first time Laval had been in this situation. As noted by the Director of Player Personnel, Dr. John McCabe, Laval had lost at home as a number one seed before. Sherbrooke beat them years ago. It's great to see. A great win for the program and in particular head coach Dan Ota, but Dal would have to string together two more of those for the national crown.

The semifinal, played on Saturday against eventual champions Manitoba, was the scene of the glass slipper disappearing. Dalhousie fell in three straight to the wildcard entry, relegating them to the bronze medal match.

Realizing that the carriage was a pumpkin again and the horses

had turned back into mice, Dalhousie was forced to refocus on third place and their match against Manitoba's cross-town rivals, the University of Winnipeg. In a disappointing end to a great run, the Tigers fell to Winnipeg 3 - 0.

As is the case with many of these national gatherings, the rumour mill was working overtime. Manitoba's championship was clouded because of a dispute with the CIAU over an ineligible player. Manitoba appealed and the ruling was overturned, allowing a national team member to play for the Bisons. In a related twist, it had been hinted that the University of Manitoba had extended their class withdraw date to Monday of this past week, allowing this clown to play in the national tournament and then drop out of school. What truth there is to these rumours has yet to be determined,

but controversy always seems to rear its ugly head in the papers.

The win against Laval turned an up and down season for the Tigers into a successful one. Quickly vanished were the memories of 0-for-the trip out west and the Shock on the Rock in Newfoundland. They were replaced with newfound showings in Ontario, Sherbrooke and again at nationals.

The Tigers could potentially return their entire roster next year, but realistically will be without the services of Dave Cox and Sasho MacKenzie, who will both be lost to graduation. However, with a good recruiting class coming in and the invaluable experience gained by some of the younger players this season, a fourth place finish could very well be improved upon to include a medal in next year's national championship.

NSPIRG WANTS

YOU!



The Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group is now seeking nominations for next year's board of directors



Nominations are open from March 8 to March 22

INTERESTED??

It's easy...

you'll need 25 signatures on a nomination form you pick up at the nspirg office

the board meets every two weeks and works on consensus to make decisions about nspirg
you must be a full-time Dal student
drop by! room 314 SUB
494-6662 nspirg@is2.dal.ca

Quick lunches,
great brunches
and evenings
that never end.

All at 25% off



Le Bistro Café

Halifax's Original French Bistro
Park Victoria, 1333 South Park Street
Tel. 423-8428

25% off

Present this coupon to your server and receive 25% off the price of your next visit to Le Bistro. Offer expires April 30th, 2000
One coupon per customer, per visit.