

## **Basketball fighting for bye**

BY ANDREW COOK

While Dalhousie students took their reading week to relax, their men's basketball team used the week to regain its winning ways and gear up for the upcoming AUAA playoffs. Dalhousie played host to crosstown rivals SMU on Tuesday, greeting them with an 89-76 thumping. Four days later Memorial made their biannual trip to Dalplex and split the two game weekend series.

The blowout victory on Tuesday was sparked by tremendous performances from the Tigers backcourt combo of Brian Parker and Darryl Baptiste, and a solid first half effort from senior Shawn Plancke. Plancke got Dalhousie rolling early with 15 of his 21 points coming in the first half. Baptiste and Parker turned it on in the second half, finishing with 23 and 25 respectively.

Saturday saw Memorial, the league's hottest team, and newest member of the national coaches poll, return to Dalplex for the first time since its appearance in last season's Rod Shoveller tournament. The game was tight throughout with Dalhousie prevailing late for a 92-86 win.

Memorial's Jermaine Bruce, the team's only member not born in Newfoundland, sparked his club off the bench marking 20 points while another bench player, Shane Harte, had a team high 23.

The inside-outside duo of Plancke and Parker had the answer to Memorial's strong bench. Plancke dropped a season high 26 and helped his cause for a league rebounding title with 10 boards. Parker produced another All-Canadian effort, lighting the scoreboard for 33 points to go along with a career high 15 assists and 7 rebounds.

On Sunday, the deeper Seahawks wore down the Tigers and hung on late for an 86-84 victory. Dalhousie managed a 12-3 run during the dying minutes to take a two-point lead, but a Bruce runner, a short Peter Benoite jump shot, and a missed Dalhousie lay up in the final seconds decided the contest.

Bruce, the player of the game, put forth another solid effort with 18 points while league scoring leader Benoite had a game high 20. Senior forward John Devereaux added 18 including the final two free throws to seal the Tiger's fate. Dal's Parker nearly recorded a triple double with 20 points, 11 assists and 7 rebounds. Forward Ray Fountain struggled all weekend with his shooting but dominated the glass. Fountain had a game high 12 rebounds in Saturday's win and an amazing 23 boards in Sunday's loss.

With the 2-1 week, Dalhousie now must prepare from their upcoming battle with first place St. FX. The loss on Sunday means the game with the X-Men will decide the final of the league's two first round byes, with Memorial capturing the other. Should they lose, Dalhousie will finish in third position and square off against either Acadia or Cape Breton in the AUAA's opening round. Should they win Dalhousie will begin play in the semifinals on Saturday.

Friday night's game is the last home game for seniors Shawn Plancke, Dallas Shannon and Kanin Osei-Tutu. Be sure to come out and send them off in style.

## Hockey

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obstacles through the attributes that define us as a team."

"We worked hard," stated Letourneau, explaining, "When we got shots, we were driving to the net and we banged in a lot of rebounds and we got the deflections and got some traffic in front of [Clark] so he couldn't see all the shots. When we were down we didn't get frustrated like the night before. We just kept plugging away and plugging away and eventually the puck bounced our way and we came out with the win."

The Tigers went on to the next round of the playoffs and suffered a 4-1 loss to the Axemen at home.

"The responsibility falls squarely on my shoulders," said Young at the time. "I have to find a way to make our power play work. It hasn't been working for the past ten games. I have to find a way to get it clicking. We missed some great opportunities in the second period."

On a final note, Warner noted, "There's a good bunch of guys coming back next year so we'll have to take that as a positive."

All that is left for the Tigers to do is look back and count the positives of the season and prepare for a hopefully more successful '97/'98 season.



