Men win easily, women make encouraging discovery

by Sandy Smith

The Dalhousie men's volleyball team defeated the UNB Rebels in straight matches rather convincingly this past weekend at Dalplex. Friday the men bested the visitors by a 15-6, 15-6, 15-8 score, and Saturday the Tigers won 15-7, 18-16, 15-4.

Friday's game was the first home game of the year for the Tigers (their only home performance before the New Year) and they were greeted by a surprisingly large and en-thusiastic crowd. Many local junior and senior high school students were attending the game on free passes, but they and most of the rest of the crowd soon began to take more interest in the many door prizes being offered than in the game. The Tigers seemed to be able to score points or get service back virtually at will, making for a somewhat less than exciting match for the fans. As Saturday's offensive player of the game and team captain Jan Prsala noted, "We expected a much tougher game. We knew they'd just had a four hour van ride, but they're supposed to be the next toughest team.- They've already beaten Moncton who we beat in last year's final, so we were a bit surprised when we blew them out.

Bernie Derible's thirteen kills in Friday's match earned him the offensive player of the game award and last year's captain, Phil Perrin, was selected Dal's top defensive player.

The crowd was much smaller for Saturday's match, probably, as coach Al Scott noted, because Friday's match was not that close.

The Rebels threatened to beat the Tigers on only one occasion over the two matches, and that was in game two of Saturday's match. The Tigers play had become rather lakadasical, or as Prsala put it, "We weren't hot after getting the balls," and so the Rebels began to click on offense. Their kills began to land on the Tigers' side of the net and the Rebels found themselves serving for game point twice at 15-14. Prsala said that "the

sudden onset of pressure to win...put on even more pressure." The Tigers, however, were able to handle the pressure well and took the

The UNB squad was visibly disappointed after coming so close to winning game two, and the result of game three seemed a foregone conclusion. Dal played with its greatest intensity in the third game, seeming to expect another tough game that never came. Roddy Walsh, an outstanding freshman, was named Saturday's defensive player of the gamer.

While the men had a fairly easy time of things this weekend with UNB, the women's team won one match Saturday and lost one Sunday in somewhat of a learning experience against Memorial in St. John's.

Coach Lois MacGregor explains, 'It was really good for the team to realize that they could beat Montreal. People had been saying that there was no way they could because Memorial had three senior national team members and two junior national team members; but I've been telling them all along they're the better team.'

MacGregor cited the Tigers touch play in the first game Saturday as the key to their 16-14, 15-0, 9-15, 15-9 win. MacGregor describes the scene: 'They had us at game serve, 14-13, eleven times. There were a couple of hundred fans there...and the noise was like a hockey game.' And so, after eleven tries by Memorial and eleven tries by Dalhousie, the Tigers eventually got the points they needed and were on their way to taking the match.

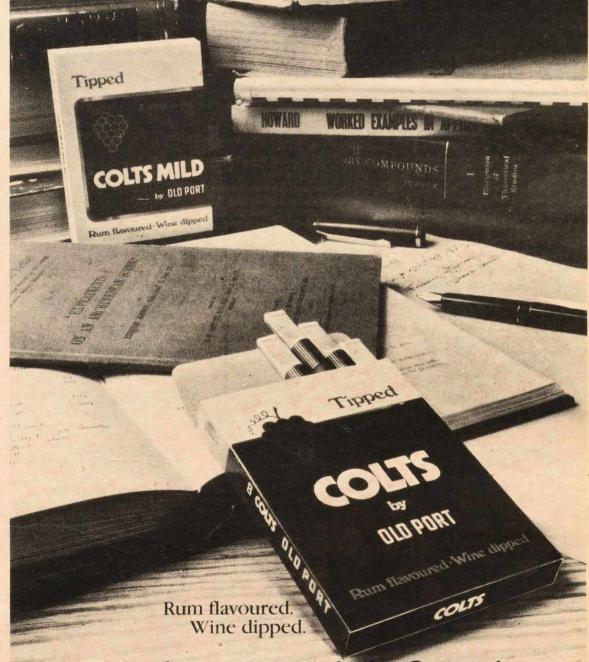
After Sunday's 15-3, 15-12, 11-15, 15-12 loss MacGregor said 'We just didn't get going.' The women faced a situation similar to that they encountered in Saturday's first game. Memorial led 13-0 in the second game only to have the Dal women bring the score to 13-12. Had the Tigers won that game MacGregor was sure they would have won the match.

Karen Fraser was again the outstanding Tiger for the weekend scoring 27 kills and five blocking points. Brenda Turner, a strong first year player, was Dal's superior defensive player with eleven blocking points. Karin Maessen was worthy of mention, too; she scored 26 serving points including six ace serves.

Both the men's and women's Tigers are entered in the Universitie de Moncton's tournament this Friday and Saturday. Following this weekend, the men will be playing in four other tournaments, the last one being their next home appearance, the second annual Dalhousie Invitational Volleyball Classic. The women, during the same period of time, play only once. That match is scheduled for early January in Moncton. Their next home appearance will be the 'Classic' as well. The 'Classic' is taking place on the weekend of the 23rd of January.



Jamie Fraser and Rod Walsh seem a bit confused as to who should keep their eye on the ball. Fraser, making the bump, concentrates on where the ball is going, while Walsh is all eyes on the ball.



Engineers win 'Toilet Bowl'

by Bernie Petolas

Last Saturday, St. Mary's stadium was the location of the fifth annual "toilet bowl". This football game is played annually between the engineering societies of Dalhousie and St. Mary's universities. This year, on a field made up mostly of water with some mud underneath, the Dal engineers battled to a strong 20-0 victory over their St. Mary's counterparts. Behind the precision passing of quarterback Dave Haley and the strong running of halfback Gord Tynes, the Dal engineers scored two touchdowns and

one two-point convert in the first half. In the last few minutes of the game, Haley intercepted a St. Mary's pass and ran it back for a touchdown to put the game away for Dal.

The Dalhousie defence was very strong, limiting St. Mary's to only two first downs the whole game. In consolation games played that day, Acadia engineers defeated St. Mary's 7-0 and Dal beat Acadia in the last game 6-0. Congratulations to all engineers who had the spirit to come and play football on a day like last Saturday!

Crack a pack of Colts along with the books.