

Volleyball's Cox setting up for banner year

BY CARMEN TAM

Sports have always dominated David Cox's choice of extracurricular activities, and this year was no exception.

The talented 20-year-old from Unionville, Ontario is sharing setting duties for the Dalhousie men's volleyball Tigers with fellow teammates Peter Exall and Sasho Mackenzie.

Cox picked up volleyball in grade six after encouragement from a friend, Mark Heese, a future Canadian beach volleyball Olympic medalist. Cox also divided his time between hockey, basketball, rugby and golf. In his senior year of high school, he was offered a golf scholarship at a school in Pennsylvania. With volleyball in the back in his mind, his decision came down to "wanting to play a team sport".

Cox's varsity options were to play for either Dalhousie or the University of Western Ontario. Cox's verdict was easy.

"Dal was my first choice. It was no decision really," said Cox, now in his second season with the Tigers. "Dal offered a good academic base, and I knew that it had one of the best volleyball programs in Canada."

He immediately fell in love with the city, saying that, while Halifax may be smaller, "the people are a little friendlier".

"[In my first year] I had lots of catching up to do in relation to the other guys and to adapt to the volleyball at this level," Cox said. "There was a lot to learn."

Long-time head coach for the Tigers, Al Scott, assisted that learning process.

"Al Scott is an amazing coach — I have a lot of respect for him," Cox says. "I have learned so much, not only technically but [passing] on what we learn on court to lessons in every day life."

Scott returns the praise, saying, "Dave brings a tremendous, extremely positive approach to training and competition. He is one of the most improved — if not the most improved — returning player this season."

Also influencing Cox in his rookie year were his teammates, veterans John Hobin, Terry Martin, Jason Trepanier and former captain Eric Villeneuve.

"It was great to play with Eric," Cox said. "He is a leader that demanded that the team be prepared to give one hundred per cent. He brings out the very best in people."

Last year the Tigers had their most successful season, capping the year off with a CIAU silver medal in their first appearance at the National finals. Dalhousie downed the University of Saskatchewan and University of Calgary before losing in straight sets to the Alberta Golden Bears in the gold medal match.

"Hopefully the team can learn from last year's experience and use it to our advantage," says Cox.

Team captain Hobin says Cox takes his game very seriously.

"I think in David's first year, he typified what Al is looking for on court," he said, adding that Cox manages to keep his "mental, physical and volleyball game in [equal] perspective."

"I can see his progress. He is also open to constructive criticism and, in a

setter, that is especially important."

Cox has seen more court time this term and was named Player of the Game at the Mizuno Collegiate Volleyball Challenge for a stellar performance in the second match. The Tigers won the series 3-0.

"Dave's hard work has been rewarded as he has started numerous games for us this season," Scott said. "He is developing into a key player for the team."

"Dave is a great team player and comes prepared to practice a hundred per cent every day," echoed Martin, a 1997 All-Canadian. "He and Jimmy [Exall] are really close in abilities so they are able to push each other to work harder."

The Tigers are second-ranked in the CIAU this week, reflecting on their recent tournament win at the prestigious Sherbrooke Vert et Or Omnium.

"It is so close between so many teams that you have to keep in mind not to take the rankings for granted," Cox said.

While he is very optimistic for this season, Cox is cautious about making predictions.

"There are some new faces this year [at Dal], and we are continuing to improve every time on court... Our first goal is to make AUs."

Cox is studying economics at Dalhousie and will likely seek a career in financial investments after graduation. Until then, he would like to continue playing volleyball for Dal. With daily practices, a full course load and weekend tournaments, Cox says "It's hard at some points but you just have to balance everything out." Yet, Cox enjoys travelling with the team and the camaraderie that the players share.

As the Tigers are entering the end of first term with their best season start behind them, Cox says he has no regrets on passing up a scholarship.

The Tigers currently hold a 2-0 conference record and will take on the University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds, also at 2-0, in a pair of matches this week.

"They are a really good team and every one of their starters are back from last season," he says. Once again Cox recalls a lesson from the past: "They took us to five sets last year, where we won the fifth 15-13, that is one of those

pivotal moments where the match could have gone either way." And he warns, "They are not a team to be taken lightly."

Come and support the Tigers as they look to extend their unbeaten streak from last season. Dal takes on the Varsity Reds tonight at 7pm at the Dalplex and at 6pm on Friday at Studley Gym. Admission is free to all Dal students with valid ID.

Dal second in Moncton

BY NATALIE MACLELLAN

The women's volleyball Tigers were swept 3-0 by the hosting Université de Moncton in the championship match at an invitational tournament last weekend. The Tigers put up a good fight, but were beaten 15-12, 15-10 and 15-5.

Moncton was unbeaten in all six matches during the three-day tournament. Dal went 4-1, and Tigers Cara MacKenzie and Jen Parkes were named to the All-Star team.

"It went well," said leftside Alicia MacFarlane. "We were trying some new things, the line-up was all mixed up and everybody got a chance to play."

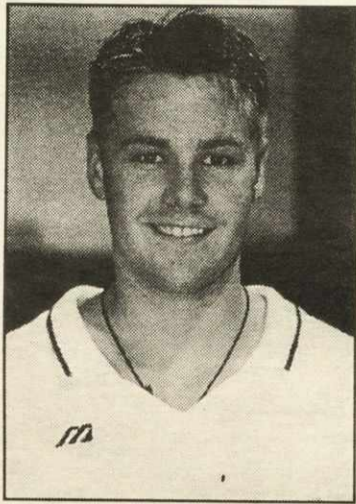
"Everyone played really well, especially the ones coming off the

bench." Rookie Stephanie Hart, in her only court appearance of the weekend, got to try out her jump serve to put away Mount Allison.

The Tigers downed UNB in round-robin play 17-15, 15-8, 13-15 and 15-12; beat Acadia 15-6, 15-10 and 16-14; defeated Mount Allison 15-6, 15-9 and 15-10; and swept St. Mary's 15-13, 15-9 and 15-5. They lost to Moncton in round-robin play 15-13, 15-13 and 15-13.

The team is currently ranked fourth in the league, but as they haven't played as many games as everyone else, they aren't putting much stock in the rankings yet.

"We're realizing we're improving in a lot of areas, and we've got a feel for things we have to work on for next term and over the break," MacFarlane said.



AUAA Men's Basketball Scoring Leaders

Name	Team	GP	Pts	PPG(%)
Brian Parker	Dal	4	102	25.5
Peter Benoitte	MUN	4	92	23.0
Jonah Taussig	SMU	4	81	20.3
Greg Lucas	PEI	6	117	19.5
Gordon McNeilly	UNB	6	116	19.3
Jermaine Bruce	MUN	4	74	18.5
Scott Morrison	PEI	6	110	18.3
Dave Low	UNB	6	107	17.8
Darryl Baptiste	Dal	4	65	16.3
Lorne Keilly	MUN	4	62	15.5

DALHOUSIE INTRAMURAL SUPREMACY STANDINGS [AS OF NOVEMBER 24, 1997]

Coed Residence	Men's Residence
Studley/Eliza 178	Cameron 119
Bronson/Smith 178	Studley/Eliza 110
Wild Raiders 122	Bronson/Smith 82
Killer Cod 95	Henderson 61

Coed Interfaculty	Men's Interfaculty
Pharmacy 268	Pharmacy 141
Medicine 234	Law 131
Law 232	Medicine 129
Cougars 210	Cougars 93
Commerce 98	Physio 81
MBA 89	Dentistry 58
Physio 58	MBA 52
Biology 58	Biology 30
Nursing 44	Commerce 20
Dentistry 38	SAPHERK 13

Women's

Law	54
Pharmacy	48
Henderson	45
Bronson/Smith	29
SAPHERK	21
Physio	7
Shirreff	1

SCORERS FOR DALHOUSIE HOCKEY [up to and including November 30, Dal@SFX]

Ted Naylor	5-13-18
Martin LaPointe	4-13-17
Chris Pittman	7-7-14
Chad Kalmakoff	8-5-13
Tim Hill	4-7-11
Derrick Pyke	4-7-11
Jan Melichercik	3-6-9
Dave Haynes	6-2-8
Craig Whynot	2-6-8
Trevor Doyle	1-6-7
Marc Warner	5-1-6
Dallas Gray	3-1-4
Mark Alexander	2-1-3
Shane Gibbs	0-3-3
Richard Ujvary	0-3-3
Jamie Henderson	1-1-2
Jody Shelley	1-1-2
Jason Wolfe	1-1-2
Pat Russell	0-2-2
Jason Pellerin	1-0-1



Upcoming events

MEN'S BASKETBALL
 Dec. 28 Dal@Ryerson Tournament
 Dec. 29 Dal@Ryerson Tournament
 Dec. 30 Dal@Ryerson Tournament

Jan. 2 Rod Shoveller Memorial Tournament

Jan. 3 Rod Shoveller Memorial Tournament

Jan. 4 Rod Shoveller Memorial Tournament

Jan. 17 Dal@MUN 8pm

Jan. 18 Dal@MUN 2pm

Jan. 21 ACA@Dal 8pm

Jan. 25 UNB@Dal 3pm

Jan. 28 Dal@SMU 8pm

Jan. 31 Dal@SFX 8pm

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Dec. 29 Brandon@Dal 7pm

Dec. 30 Winnipeg@Dal 7pm

Jan. 1 Dal@SMU Tournament

Jan. 2 Dal@SMU Tournament

Jan. 3 Dal@SMU Tournament

Jan. 13 SFX@Dal 8pm

Jan. 17 Dal@MUN 6pm

Jan. 18 Dal@MUN noon

Jan. 21 ACA@Dal 6pm

Jan. 25 UNB@Dal 1pm

Jan. 28 Dal@SMU 6pm

Jan. 31 Dal@SFX 6pm

HOCKEY

Jan. 2 Manitoba@Dal (Exh.) 7pm

Jan. 7 Dal@SFX 7:30pm

Jan. 11 Dal@ACA 2pm

Jan. 14 SFX@Dal 7pm

Jan. 17 MtA@Dal 7pm

Jan. 18 UNB@Dal 2pm

Jan. 21 Dal@ACA 7:30pm

Jan. 24 SMU@Dal 7pm

Jan. 31 UPEI@Dal 7pm

SWIMMING

Jan. 10 Metro Invitational

Jan. 11 Metro Invitational

Jan. 12 Metro Invitational

Jan. 18 Dal vs Nova Scotia Select 4pm

Jan. 19 Blue vs Whites 2pm

Jan. 23 MtA/Dal@UNB 7pm

Jan. 24 UNB/Dal@MtA 2pm

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Dec. 4 UNB@Dal 7pm

Dec. 5 UNB@Dal 6pm

(@ Studley)

Jan. 10 MUN@Dal 7pm

Jan. 11 MUN@Dal noon

Jan. 16 Dal Classic

Jan. 17 Dal Classic

Jan. 18 Dal Classic

Jan. 24 Dal@UNB 7pm

Jan. 25 Dal@UNB 1pm

Jan. 30 Dal@Laval Tournament

Jan. 31 Dal@Laval Tournament

Feb. 1 Dal@Laval Tournament

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Jan. 2 Waterloo Invitational

Jan. 3 Waterloo Invitational

Jan. 4 Waterloo Invitational

Jan. 10 Dal@UdeM 7pm

Jan. 11 Dal@MtA 2pm

Jan. 14 SFX@Dal 6pm

Jan. 16 Dal Classic

Jan. 17 Dal Classic

Jan. 18 Dal Classic

Jan. 24 UCCB@Dal 6pm

Jan. 25 UCCB@Dal 11am

Jan. 27 Dal@ACA 7:30pm

Jan. 28 Dal@UNB 8pm

Jan. 31 Dal@UNB 1pm

