

Tigers return from western shootout

Men's volleyball falls short

BY MICHAEL HARTLEY

From the Arctic like conditions of the Canadian prairies came the Dalhousie Tigers Men's Volleyball team on Monday. The team endured its most extensive road trip of the season that saw them play a total of eleven matches in only eight days. As it turned out however, it was probably a trip will hopefully become absent from mind in a hurry.

The first test for the Tigers was a three-game Invitational tour with the Saskatchewan Huskies and a touring team from Japan in the thriving metropolis of Saskatoon. The Tigers lost both matches to the perennial national contenders from the West. The boys however, did pull off a victory over the Japanese team, who's bags had been misplaced at the airport and had the match delayed by over an hour. The difference in style between East and West was evident as soon as they entered the gym. The much more structured and disciplined Japanese team was technically sound but lacked the height that the Tigers enjoyed. "We were just that much bigger than they were," said captain Dave Cox, who battled the latest version of the flu all week and

was forced to sit out numerous games and missed an entire match later in the week.

On the weekend, Dalhousie had a chance to make some serious noise in terms of national rankings, but they didn't. The Tigers may have showed the effects of a long bus ride to Winnipeg Manitoba on the weekend but made no excuses for not winning a match during the four day tournament.

"We just didn't have it on the weekend. Our best players didn't play that way and adding to the fact that we had guys sick, we just couldn't catch many breaks," fourth

year setter Sasho MacKenzie said. "We may have been a couple of breaks away from not only a couple of more wins, but a good over-all weekend."

Dalhousie next travels to St. John's for a weekend on the tropical island known as Newfoundland (you know, the one that is about a seven hour boat ride from North Sydney, yeah, that one). The Tigers are going to have to refocus this week in practice if they are going to beat the Sea-Hawks on Saturday and again on Sunday.

"They are going to play us tough," reserve middle blocker and

serving dead-eye Darren Calabrese said. The Minto High grad added, "they may think they will be able to exploit a tired team so we are going to have to make sure that we execute the game plan [coach Dan] Ota gives us."

After the trip to Newfoundland, the Tigers are hosting the 21st annual Dalhousie Volleyball Classic on the weekend of January 21 to 23. Both the men's and women's teams are involved with action getting started at high noon on the Friday. Catch the men at 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and, pending their performance, the gold/bronze medal match on Sunday.

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Tigers host Rod Shoveller tourney

Men's basketball lose in finals

BY GAZETTE STAFF

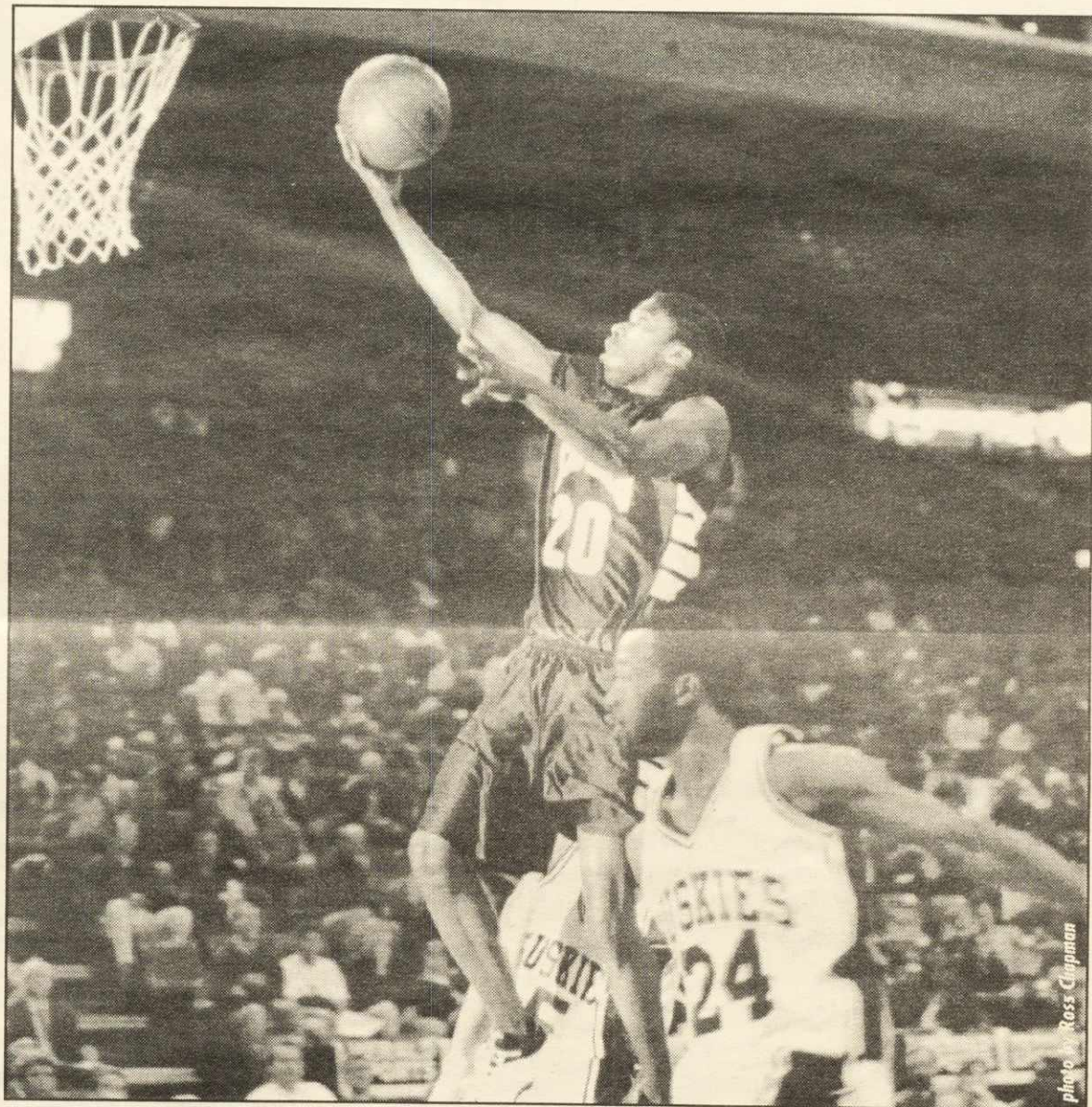
This past weekend, the Dalhousie Tigers men's basketball team played host to the annual Rod Shoveller Memorial Men's Basketball Tournament at Dalplex. This year's tournament was made up of seven teams from the ACAA as well as MSVU of the ACAA.

In the first round, the host Tigers faced the underdog Mystics from Mount Saint Vincent. The Mount came into the game looking to prove to Dal and the rest of the field that they shouldn't be taken lightly. The first half was a chippy

back and forth affair with both teams trading baskets the whole way. After the break, the game continued in the way that it began, with both teams battling hard. In the end, the Tigers proved to be too much for the Mystics and won 84-77. First year swing-man Will Jernigan paced the Tigers with twenty-four points.

In the second round, the Tigers drew a tougher opponent in the Acadia Axemen. The Tigers and Axemen hadn't yet played each other this season. The game was a see-saw battle with neither team able to put the other one away. The contrasting styles of the run and gun Tigers versus the half-court, bruising Axemen was very entertaining for the fans as both teams tried to assert their own tempo. The "TSN turning point" of the game came in the last two minutes with the Tigers holding on to a slim two point lead. After an iffy call against Acadia, Axeman Head Coach Dave Nutbrown exploded at a referee and earned himself two technical fouls and was ejected from the game. This gave the Tigers four shots from the line and possession, which Dal converted into a six-point lead. High scorer for Dal was Will Jernigan, with 21 off the bench in a 74-69 win. Tiger point guard Benny Edison was named player of the game.

The win against Acadia put the Tigers into the championship game where they were set to face the nationally fourth ranked St. F.X. X-Men. In their previous two meetings, the Tigers were unable to defeat X, yet they felt very con-



Any similarities to this past weekend's play is purely coincidental.

fidant going into the game. The match-up was a basketball fan's delight as both teams played the game on the run, fast-breaking for

easy points. The X-Men took advantage of a momentary Dalhousie lapse, going ahead 48-35 by halftime. X continued where they left off in the second half and ran up a huge lead that once reached 31 points. The X-men won the game handily by a score of 103-81, taking the first place in the tournament.

Dal's Benny Edison and Will Jernigan were both named to the tournament all-star team.

The Tigers next game is Wednesday when they travel to Antigonish to seek revenge against the X-Men on their home court. Their next home game is Saturday the 15th at 8:00 p.m. against the UPEI Panthers.



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