

Men find victory

BY ANDREW COOK

The shoulders of Brian Parker must be getting tired. The 5'10 guard has carried a load befitting a giant. Whether it's scoring, rebounding, passing, or defence, he has thrown his teammates on his back and carried them through a long, six-game road trip.

With last week's sweep, the road trip can be deemed a success. The Tigers ended the trip with four wins and two losses, with victories this past week in Wolfville against Acadia and over Saint Mary's (SMU) at the Tower.

The 81-61 win on Thursday night over the Axemen sent a message to the rest of the conference that wins against the Tigers are going to be hard to come by down the stretch.

Dalhousie showed no mercy in taking Geoff Kott and the entire Acadia inside line-up off their game. Kott was held to just four points. Acadia's makeshift backcourt did put up double figures, but every point that Chris Cain and Marcus Jamieson scored was well-earned.

For the Tigers, it was a one-man wrecking crew. Clearly in a zone, Parker not only controlled the tempo but controlled the scoreboard as well, with a 32-point outburst. The point total aside, it was his accuracy that drew attention — Parker was 13 for 18 from the hardwood, including six for six from outside the arc.

As per usual against his former team, Reggie Oblitey put in a solid performance, joining Parker in double figures with 13 points.

What shouldn't go unnoticed, as it often does, was the play on the defensive end by the Tigers. That was the reason that Acadia coach, Dave Nutbrown, spent much of the game spitting out expletives as he watched his crew struggle to shoot 30 percent from the field.

"The second half was the best twenty minutes of defence that we have put in this year," said Tigers' coach Tim McGarrigle. "We had good rotations to the ball and we finished it off with our rebounding."

On Sunday night, fans watched a typical Huskies/Tigers show-

down at the Tower. Dal would put together spurts where Parker and Oblitey would take over the game, sparking a fastbreak that is all too often missing. Intensity would then bow out to complacency, causing a game bordering on a blow-

out to turn into a two-possession affair. The final score was 96-90 in the Tigers' favour.

Give the Huskies their due. Still lacking in backcourt experience and a second frontcourt scorer, they battled through the bickering. Saint. Mary's found enough composure to put a scare into the Tigers and excite their fans.

With SMU in a rotating 2-3, 3-2 zone defence, it was the outside attack for Dalhousie which again wore out the scorekeeper's pen. Of the 96 points that the Tigers scored, Parker and Oblitey marked 37 and 31, respectively.

For SMU, the offensive attack came from their now formidable inside-outside duo of Jason Medford and Jordan McCormick. Medford fought off constant double teams to pound in 29 points while McCormick, the league's hottest frosh, dropped in 17 from the outside.

Back at home on Tuesday to face the X-Men from Antigonish, Parker again led the way with 19 points as Dal romped to an 84-55 victory. That's the good news. The bad news is that Shawn Plancke, just back from a three-month hiatus with a torn anterior cruciate ligament, went down with a twisted knee. Also, gritty utility forward Blair Pallopson left with an accelerated heartbeat. They join centre Dallas Shannon on the sidelines.

The Tigers embark on another crucial game in their AUSA quest as they visit the Island to take on the Panthers of UPEI. With the two cats tied at the top, Saturday's game against UPEI takes on much significance. For Dalhousie, a number one ranking may be at stake, while the Panthers are still trying to claw their way into the exclusive company of Dal and Acadia in the CIAU's top ten.

Women falter, but still on top

BY ANDREW COOK

The Dalhousie women's basketball team split their games for the second straight week. The women,

BASKETBALL

who have been looking a bit worn of late, are battling through those mid-season blahs which most top-calibre teams face.

An added obstacle in that battle is the fact that the last six games have been on the road. Their longest trip of the season may have ended on a bit of a sour note, but finishing with a 4-2 record is nothing to be ashamed of and isn't the main concern of the team.

"I'm more interested in our performance and our development than the wins and losses at this point in the season," said coach Carolyn Savoy.

The week began in Wolfville with a hard-earned 68-60 road victory. The Tigers used their imposing physical presence to overcome a hungry Acadia team who always raises their level of play for Dalhousie.

"Our pressure really slowed down their offence," commented coach Savoy. "That is what won the game for us."

Dalhousie used their physical presence to control things early and the shooting of Jackie Fleiger carried them the rest of the way.

Fleiger had 18 points while Carolyn Wares led the team in rebounding.

Virginia Cann had 21 for the Axettes, who are just hoping to make the playoffs.

The Tigers hit the wall against the Huskies Sunday evening at the Tower. In what will happen from time to time in a league where teams face each other up to four times in one season, Saint. Mary's had Dal's number on this night.

The Huskies got up early and spent the bulk of the game fighting off Tigers' runs and held on to a 69-62 victory.

"Our girls have been taking winning for granted," said Savoy. "When things aren't easy we get frustrated and that is something

we have to overcome."

Saint Mary's, not attempting to scrap with Dal inside the paint, looked to the perimeter for their scoring. More specifically, the starting guard tandem of Jadranka Crnogorac and Shawna Wright combined for 38 points, led by Crnogorac's game high 23. Bonnie MacLean also marked 12 for the Huskies.

Even in defeat, Wares put up solid numbers for Dalhousie, pounding in 18 points, while Fleiger tossed in 15 points from the outside. Freshman Jody Euloth continued her solid play off of the bench, stepping up her offensive output with a contribution of 11 points.

With the week now in the books, though not easily forgotten, the Tigers have a lighter load ahead. The women travel to UPEI

for a game against the Panthers on Saturday evening.

Nationally, it's wait and see for the Tigers, who still aspire to keep a position among the nation's finest. Dalhousie has been hovering between the eighth and tenth positions all season and must hope coaches around the country will finally give Atlantic Canadian basketball some respect. Respect not only by keeping the Tigers ranked, but also by adding a Memorial team which has proven it can play with anybody.

In the conference, the race tightens with Dalhousie and Memorial knotted atop the AUSA with 36 points. Should things continue as is, the weekend of the 24th of February figures to sort out the conference standings with back-to-back games between the two squads in St. John's.

Two wrestlers qualify for nationals

BY GAZETTE STAFF

For the first time since 1983, Dalhousie sent a wrestling team to the AUSA championships, and two members of the squad succeeded in earning a spot at the CIAUs.

Scott Aldridge became the first Tiger in 13 years to be crowned an AUSA wrestling champion when he won the 90 kilogram weight class. He defeated his Memorial University opponent 14-3 and crushed the UNB wrestler 11-1 during the tournament this past weekend at the University of New Brunswick.

In the 72 kilogram class, Thomas Langerfield earned a silver medal and a trip to Brock University in St. Catherines, Ontario for nationals. He won a nail-biting 5-4 match over his UNB opponent, who was the 1995 AUSA champion, but was pinned by his MUN opponent in a very physical final.

Dalhousie barely missed qualifying another wrestler for CIAU's when Paul Bitsack lost a 6-5 sudden death overtime match in the 65 kg class and placed third.

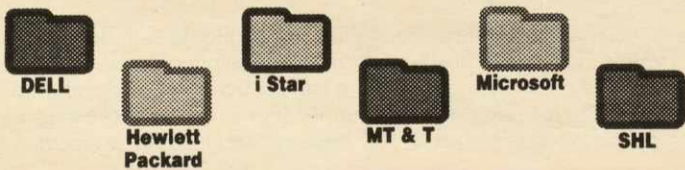
Two other notable Dalhousie performances were Mike MacNutt in the 76 kg class and Gavin Tweedie at 68 kg. Both wrestlers competed very well but lost close matches to veteran MUN and UNB opponents.

A women's Atlantic university exhibition tournament was also held at the same time. Once again, Dalhousie's women wrestlers continued their winning ways. Terri Rose and Sheila Phippen both won their respective classes. Kim Ferris placed second, losing a close match to an experienced UNB wrestler.

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