

# The sweetest signs of spring

For most people, the greatest signs of Spring are the greening foliage, rising temperatures and a symphony of floral and faunal re-emergence after a long, cold winter. For sports fans though, the month of April signifies something sweeter and more reliable, especially relevant considering this is the last week in March and the ground is covered in 8 inches of snow.

## SPORTS EDITORIAL

Unlike the conventional ingredients of the season (such as hayfever), mid-week basketball and pre-season baseball make spring time a sports enthusiasts dream. The month of April is like paradise without the palm trees. From the beginning of baseball to the end of regular season hockey, fans like myself are swept up in a gust of exalted bliss from which we seek no escape nor asylum.

For the sake of those unfortunate few who have never shared this annual soul-cleansing experience, and who do not understand why every year at this time many heated debates are built upon statistics, predictions, disap-

pointments and congratulations, I shall briefly explain what the excitement is all about.

1. **SPRING TRAINING:** The annual sign that spring has arrived for many folks is the Grapefruit League of Major League Baseball. One can find people huddled intensely around statistic books and the Sports Illustrated Baseball Preview (always bet against them), figuring out their picks for various baseball pools (illegal?).

The point of these contests is not merely to win money. The main joy comes from updating weekly statistics, antagonizing your friends when their slugger gets injured in Week Two, and in feeling like you are a part of what goes on in the Big Leagues as your line-up rises and falls due to your picks and trades. **GO JAYS GO!**

2. **THE FINAL FOUR:** Perhaps the most thrilling event in early spring is the climax of the NCAA Basketball tournament, a.k.a. The Final Four. By the last week in March, the original field of 64 teams from around the U.S. is narrowed down to four hungry schools, weeding out many great teams in

the process. Aside from the obvious excitement of buzzer beaters and annual upsets, the best part of the tournament lies in the participants themselves. With rare exception, the players are not thinking about their million dollar salaries or their Nike commercials, but are playing for their school, their team, their pride and, most notably when the television cameras are on, their moms. The spring promises fast-paced, high-action basketball when every game means live or die. **SETON WHO?**

3. **NBA ACTION:** Although the National Basketball Association season is only two-thirds over, powerhouse teams such as Boston and Detroit have already clinched playoff spots. It is never boring to watch the likes of Jordan, Barkley and Parrish so I will designate pro basketball as the fringe benefit to the other April Madness going on. **THE CHIEF RULES!**

4. **NHL PLAYOFFS:** Last and not even close to least are the National Hockey League playoffs. Facing off in April and lasting through to June (what a country), the great Canadian pastime becomes the centre

of many of our lives as the revered Stanley Cup tradition occupies our hearts and minds. Fortunately, exams are over by the time the tournament heats up, so hockey-heads can devote their time and energy to watching, debating, gambling (there's that evil word again) and writing about the greatest game in the world. From Don Cherry to Wayne Gretzky, one can expect totally satisfying, orgasmic delight almost every night of the week in April and May. **LEAFS '92!**

So, if you have never before been interested in sports, this April would be an ideal time to test the water and see why, once a year, otherwise ordinary individuals can be transformed into atomic stat machines on fire. And to those of you who are fortunate enough to share this annual experience of bliss, have a good spring and remember, when it's all over, football is right around the corner.

**Suzy Kovinsky**

Editor's Note: Suzy is suffering from a slight gambling problem (fetish). We've sent her to a clinic in NY this week to work out her problems. Good luck, Suzy.

## Dalhousie track and field round-up

by M. A. K. McLean

Yes, we kid you not, Dalhousie does have a varsity track and field team! Though vastly underrated, undersupported, and underfunded, the Dalhousie track and field team is one of the most successful varsity teams at Dalhousie. The 1991 season has been completed, and the results for Dalhousie are some of the best in its history.

The AUA championship were hosted by the Moncton Blue Eagles on March 1 and 2. The Tigers' 24 member team dominated the meet in its entirety, winning the men's, women's, and overall championships.

The meet opened with the 60m hurdles for men and women. Dal was 2-3 in both events, with a fight for first between Deiter Hauschildt of MUN and Malcolm McLean in the men's events. The 60m sprint for women gave Dal a hard earned second place from Gerard Daniels.

The men's 300m race had 1-2 finish with Butler coming in first with a new record, while Peter Lawson placed second. Dal women ran a 2-3 finish with Michelle Storms and Jocelyn Smith. Smith having previously finished second in the hurdles. Both the women's 60m and 300m races were dominated by Omena Ikede of Saint Mary's, with her having set new records in both events.

The middle and long distance events, traditionally Dal's strong races, met with continued success. Kristen Sweet and Heather Sweet battled it out in both 600m and the 100m, but was edged out by Kristen in a hair-raising finish.

Dal women continued the trend of 1-2 finishes in the 1800m and

the 3000m. Anne-Marie Farnell won both events, as Krista Munro and Dorianne Mullin each came in second.

The men's 600m was won with no surprise by Edward James, with Lawson rounding out the top 3. Dal had Dan Hennigar running in the 1000m with Brent Workman and the 1500m with Paul Smith. Hennigar placed first and third in those events, while Workman placed fourth in the 1000m and Smith fifth in the 1500m. Bruce Parly and ever-controversial Paul Riley both ran in the 3000m coming in sixth and third respectively.

Dal is not traditionally strong in field events, but managed to place consistently in the top three. Dal was represented by several former decathletes and a former heptathlete. Angela Weeks out-jumped the entire field in high jump for an easy first, also achieving second in shot put and long jump and third in hurdles. Derek Bower achieved third place in the hurdles, high jump, and pole vault, as well as fourth place in the shot put and long jump.

Trish Ward jumped to second place in the long jump while she simultaneously fulfilled her duties

Dalhousie received two AUA meet awards in addition to winning the championships. Al Butler was co-awarded male athlete of the meet along with Joel Bourgeois of MNC, and Dal coach Al Yarr was awarded coach of the meet.

*encourage  
interested  
individuals*

All athletes extend special thanks to trainers Sue Comeau, Trish Ward, and Steve MacKay, and coaches Al Yarr, Peter Lord, and Tom Quigg. The Dalhousie cross-country and track and field teams would also like to invite and encourage any interested individuals to participate in next year's seasons.

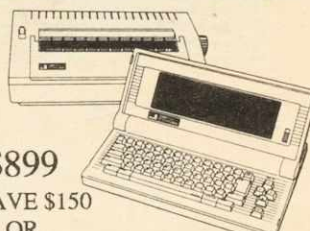


This year's track team racing all the way from Point Pleasant Park to work for next year's Gazette.


The middle and long distance events yielded very tough fields, with the 1500m and the 3000m both having had their records broken by Joel Bourgeois of MCN. Dalhousie swept to victory in all six relay events. There was a new record set in the men's 4x200m relay, while the women's team boldly fought off all competition despite experiencing some minor disorientation.

as a team trainer. Ever-consistent Darren Ward got second place in the high jump and the pole vault, which gave him his ninth second place finish in his three years at Dal. David Purdy was closely edged out into second place in the long jump and placed third in the shot put while Dal coach/athlete Peter Lord modestly set a new record in his speciality, the triple jump.


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• continued from page 10

why in one way I think it was a blessing that I got an opportunity to see what other options are out there."

At the age of 21, Birnie turned down an opportunity to play for Milwaukee and headed for Halifax. His childhood friend Joel Brown was playing for the Dalhousie Tigers and both he and Tiger head coach Darrell Young encouraged Birnie to come to Dalhousie.

He started his University hockey career in January of 1988 and finished the season with eight goals in 12 games. The next season was Birnie's last as a Tiger and he helped lead the team to a surprising first round playoff victory over the

heavily favored Saint Mary's Huskies.

This year the 6'2", 210 pound Birnie is using his aggressive play to help the Dartmouth Senior Moosehead Mounties in their bid for the Allan Cup which is awarded to the Senior 'AAA' national champions. The team is presently involved in a best-of-seven Maritime championship series with the Charlottetown Islanders.

In looking back, Birnie is glad that he left pro hockey when he did. He said that he enjoys playing for the Mounties and looks forward to graduating in the spring with a Bachelor of Commerce degree.