

Never mind Carmen Sandiego...

Whatever happened to Greg Dreveny?

BY EUGENIA BAYADA

When Tiger goalkeeper Greg Dreveny left Dalhousie hockey in December '96, his primary reason for leaving was his internship in Therapeutic Recreation. He didn't think that he had much of a future in hockey and "knew that some people would be pissed off that I left".

Like three-quarters of his class, Dreveny went to the United States where there is greater demand for professionals in Therapeutic Recreation and hence greater availability of positions. He started working at the Baptist Medical Center, a psychiatric hospital in Birmingham, Alabama, but still kept in touch with some of his former teammates to see how the Tigers were faring.

"As far as I was concerned, I was backing up Freddy Corkum who was playing well at the time," he says now of his departure from Dal. "When you're backing up like that, you have to look at all your options."

As luck would have it, Dreveny knew the assistant coach of the Birmingham Bulls, Mike Zruna, who was from his home town of Tupperville, Ontario. He figured he could get some ice time and tried out.

"I was awful," he says now. "The game was much faster. It took me about two weeks to get into any good game shape and feel that I was starting to get the hang of the game."

Dreveny credits Tigers assistant coach Kim Houston with his getting into a good enough physical condition to play for the Bulls.

"One of the reasons that I adjusted so quickly was because I was in pretty good shape when I left Dal and that's because of Kim Houston. He was always there motivating when you didn't want to work out."

"I learned to appreciate it because [in Birmingham] there's no-one there pushing you. It's good to have someone like that on the team." Especially, he notes, in a league where there is a higher skill level and shots on goal average-out anywhere between 35 and 50. "You just can't afford to get lazy."

The first game he played was in front of a crowd of 9800 against the Mississippi Sea Wolves, a far cry from Memorial Arena. The Bulls had been having a rather rough season and had consistently lost to the Sea Wolves throughout the year. Thinking they had nothing to lose, "they figured they'd give the new guy a chance."

Dreveny admits that his nerves were shot during that first game.

"The first period I was awful — I went out to play the puck behind the net and dropped my stick." The coach gave him a bit of a talking to between periods and the rest, as they say, is history. He stopped over 35 shots and the game went into a

shootout which the Bulls ended up winning 3-2, their first win over Mississippi of the season.

After that, he went 10-0-1 in his first 11 starts and was leading the East Coast Hockey League's goalkeepers. Dreveny ended up playing the majority of games for the remainder of the season and finished with a 21-10-1 record. The Bulls ended up trading their number one goalkeeper Chuck Thuss to Mobile, Alabama which opened the door for Dreveny to be number one.

Dreveny was the first Bull to make it to the front page of the *Birmingham Post*, a local paper, and broke two of the Bulls' records during the season: Goals Against

Average (3.77) and Most Goaltender Wins (21). The team was first in the league for some time before slipping into second place by just a two-point margin. They swept Mississippi 3-0 in the playoffs, before Louisiana beat them in five games, the last of

which went into double overtime (score was 6-5; shots on goal were 58-56 for the winning team).

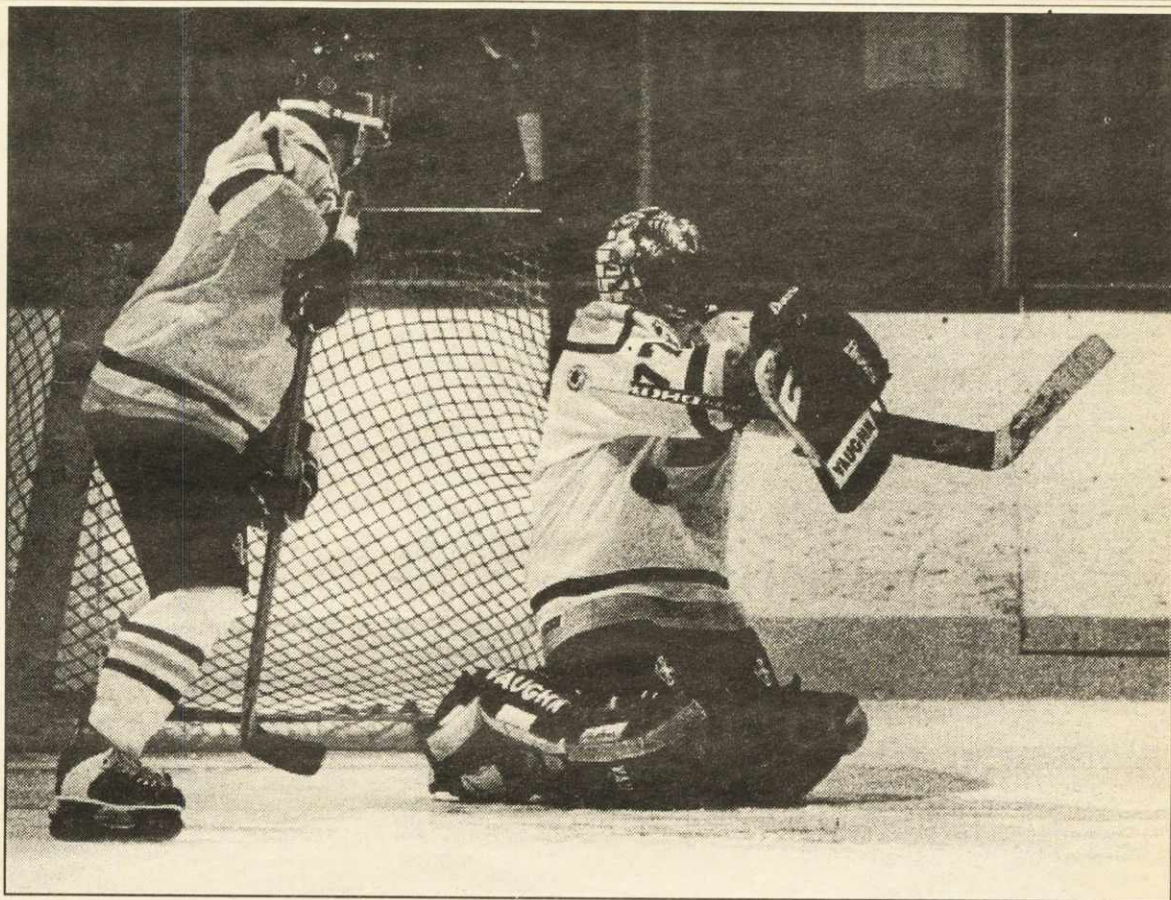
Throughout this time, Dreveny never once considered postponing his studies and he graduated last May. He now finds it ironic that it was Tigers' head coach Darrell Young who first sparked his interest in recreation when he wasn't really sure about what he wanted to study and that's how he got to the East Coast League in the first place. He also cites Colleen Hood, Jerry Singleton and Tony and Pat Richards as the professors who "kept me on track when I was distracted by hockey... they made school interesting for me".

"As a result of the East Coast Hockey League, he has rejuvenated his pro hockey career," said then-Team Canada's Mike Johnson (now playing in Germany) in May '97. "It's been a big jump for him. It's a very different style and he has adjusted very well. With another year in the league, he'll come into his own and he can have a great pro hockey career."

Dreveny spent the summer participating in various summer camps, most recently with the Cincinnati Cyclones of the IHL. He has since returned to the Bulls but his options remain open as far as the Cyclones are concerned.

"My trip [to Birmingham] was a horror show," remembers Dreveny. "It took me 30 hours to get there... I blew my transmission out and ended up driving 400 miles with my top two gears... It started off being the worst thing ever and ended up being the best thing I've ever done in my life so far."

"As it turned out, everything worked out for the best for everybody. The Tigers got [Neil] Savary and Darrell's set for next year... It's just one of those things [that], if you don't do it, you'll always be kicking yourself."



Greg Dreveny (r) and Richard Ujvary (l) in action at Memorial Arena last season. Photo by Steve Pattingale

Veteran core to lead Tigers

BY EUGENIA BAYADA

There are almost as many new faces as there are old to the Dalhousie women's volleyball team this year. A strong core of returning starters as well as a promising group of rookies to the Tigers will be looking to improve on last season's 14-4 league finish.

Returning for her final year at Dal is fifth-year middle blocker Jen Parkes. Parkes was team MVP last season as well as being named to the AUAA All-Star team.

Also returning for a fourth year with the Tigers is last year's team captain Cara MacKenzie (leftside). MacKenzie was also selected to the AUAA All-Star team last season.

Other returning seniors this year are setter Michelle Aucoin, leftside hitter Alicia MacFarlane, and middle blocker Denise Chapman. The core of Tiger veterans is completed by third-year defence specialist Karen Martin and sophomore leftside hitter Robyn Comeau.

New to the Tigers this season are Kelly Collier and Kristy Staples. Middle blocker Collier may be playing in her first year for Dal but she is by no means a rookie. The fifth-year engineering student is in her third year of eligibility, having previously played for SMU and TUNS. She returns to volleyball after a two-year hiatus.

Staples is a setter from Ontario. Although she is in her first year of eligibility, she is in her third year of studies. Staples transferred to Dalhousie from UNB last year.

Rookies to watch out for this year include setter Kim Wickstrom and leftside hitter Janis Chapman. Wickstrom is from Truro, Nova Scotia and was a member of last year's Nova

Scotia Canada Games team. Also, her high school team at the Cobequid Educational Centre captured last year's provincial title. The younger sister of

with which "to uphold the tradition of excellence in women's volleyball" here at Dalhousie.

These sentiments are also reflected by MacKenzie.

"We have a pretty good core [of players] coming back," she notes. "We have five starters returning [after] the departure of Kia Johansson and a strong group of rookies."

Though MacKenzie sees the obvious advantages of having a core group who are used to each other's game, she feels that the veterans and those players new to the team can help each other.

"There's a lot of new and old experience [on the team]... It's going to be a good experience for everybody," she says. The Tigers were swept 15-2, 15-7, 15-12 in last year's AUAA championship game by perennial cross-town rivals, the SMU Huskies. The Tigers will not let bygones be bygones.

"We're all back, we know what we want... we want to win but we also want it to be a positive experience for everyone," states MacKenzie matter-of-factly.



Denise Chapman, Janis Chapman was also part of the NS Canada Games team and played for Dartmouth High before joining the Tigers

Leftside hitters Melanie Hansen and Stephanie Hart round off this year's team. Hansen is from Prince Edward Island while Hart hails from Margaree, Cape Breton.

The coaching staff has also undergone a complete overhaul in the last few months. Lori Welsh-Hawley replaces Leslie Irie as the new head coach. She will be assisted by Chris Au-Yeung, Mark Hansen and Tim Pellerine who are all in their first year coaching for the Tigers.

Welsh-Hawley feels that this year's squad is a "great blend of experienced veterans and promising newcomers"



Eastern Comfort Shuttle Service

SPECIAL STUDENT RATE

\$30

Halifax • Sydney • Louisbourg

(902) 562-0438

OR

1-888-528-1222

Air Conditioned Cigarette Smoking Permitted



GURU RESTAURANT

Authentic East Indian Dining in the most intimate surroundings.

Open 7 days a week

5234 Blowers St., Halifax

422-6347

ATLANTIC OVERSEAS TEACHING INSTITUTE



TEACH ENGLISH OVERSEAS TEFL CERTIFICATE COURSE

Pay off that Student Loan Enjoy the experience of a lifetime

- ◆ Dynamic experienced teachers
- ◆ M.ED (TESOL) Curriculum Advisor
- ◆ Successful placement worldwide
- ◆ Affordability and excellence

- ◆ 2 week evening course - Sep 29
- ◆ 5 consecutive Saturdays - Oct. 11
- ◆ One week intensive course - Oct. 11-17
- ◆ Orientation on Course and Opportunities - \$10 fee - Wed, Oct. 15, 7PM - 9PM

For information:
1106 Barrington St. Halifax
B3H 2R2
(902)423-4767 Fax: 422-4724

e-mail: aoti@istar.ca
http://home.istar.ca/~aoti