

sports

Freestyle, butterfly, breast and backstroking

by John Yip

The Dalhousie Swimming Tigers return this year with many new faces as well as a committed group of veterans. Led by interim coach Dave Fry and his coaching staff of Tiger Alumni, the Swimming Tigers hope to capture both Men's and Women's AUSA titles.

On the women's side, the Tigers will be led by 1991-92 CIAU bronze medalist in the 200 butterfly, Lynne Patterson. Lynne was also Dalhousie's Athlete-of-the-Year last season.

Three other CIAU qualifiers headline our returning athletes, Katy Laycock in the IM events, Donna Phelan in the backstroke and Chrissy Gustavison. Other returning athletes include breaststroker, Carla MacDougall, butterfly, Marsha Gollan, and distance freestylers, Lisa Beaton and Robin MacKay.

New rookies include Katherine Dunn, provincial record holder in the backstroke, freestylers and backstrokers, Kristen Matthews, Sarah Woodworth and Cheryl Woodman. Other newcomers comprise of freestylers, Alicia Daley,

Jessica Fraser and Cathy Bass, and butterfly/IM swimmer, Jennifer Smith.

Team Captain, Janet Tingley, is impressed with this year's team. "With a good combination of veterans and rookies, this year's Tigers add a lot of depth and talent to the team. We plan to be competitive within the AUSA as well as nationally. This year's team shows a lot of drive to capture its tenth title in thirteen years."

The men's team is back with a vengeance. After jungle fever swept through the initial weeks of training,

a team of eighteen men was selected from thirty potential Tigers, the largest turnout in years. The team gained a plethora of talented rookies to add to the experienced athletes on the squad.

Returning CIAU finalist in both 100m and 200m backstroke, Jason Shannon leads our contingent of returnees. Shannon broke both his AUSA records in both backstrokes as well as capturing the AUSA title in the 200IM. Captain Sean Andrews, enters his third season with the Tigers after a successful 91-92 season where he broke the long-standing Dal record in the 100m butterfly and went on to compete in the CIAU championships.

"Capturing this year's AUSA title will be no walk in the park," says Andrews. "UNB has some good swimmers but they lack the discipline and determination that the Tigers have. With Dave Fry's coaching complemented with intense training, the Dal Tigers will prevail in the end."

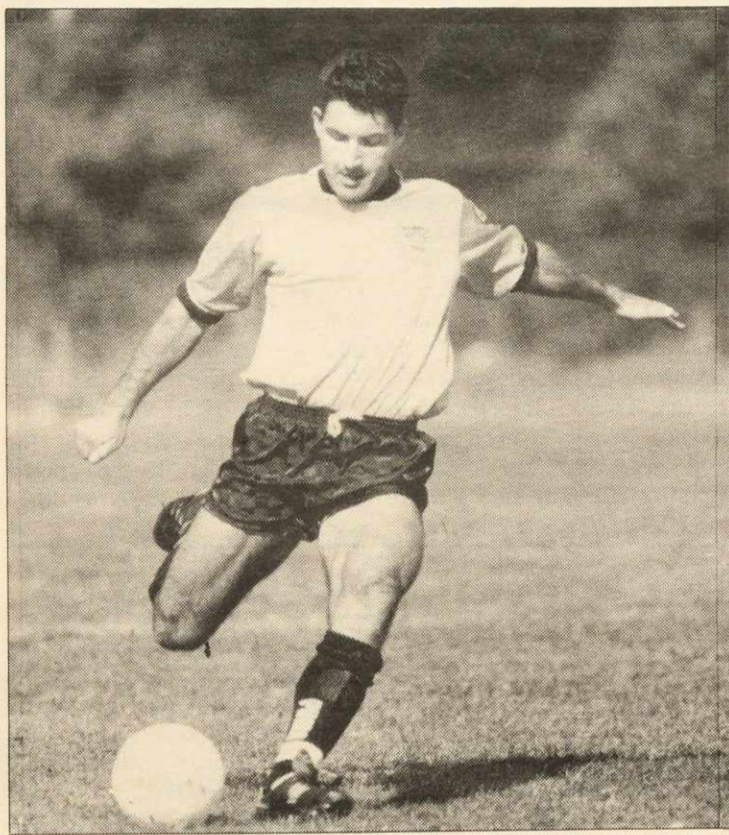
Other welcomed returning swimmers include breaststroker, John O'Brien and Wilbur MacLeod, both

conference finalists, sprint freestyler, John Yip, and butterfly, Dave LeBlanc. D'Arcy Byrne, AUSA record holder in the 400m and 1500m freestyle, as well as Imer Jamie Wright are expected to contribute greatly.

Our promising crop of incoming athletes (some sporting new hairdos) is led by breaststrokers, Craig Scott and Ian Jackson, distance freestyler, Mathew Fraser. Butterfly/IMers, P.J. Cowan and Adam Widdis, are expected to contribute to the Tiger winning tradition. Backstroker, Pat Zerab, and freestyle sprinters, Mike David and Andrew Kirby, should also perform well.

The Men's and Women's Swimming Tigers travel to UNB Fredericton this weekend to participate in the AUSA Invitational. Also present at the meet will be McGill, Laval, Sherbrooke, Acadia, Memorial, UNB, Mount Allison, and Maine. This meet, the first of the year, will be an opportunity for the swimmers to see how well they perform with four weeks of training. It will also be a rare occasion to swim against teams outside of the AUSA Conference.

Men's soccer in playoff battle



Adrian Ibbetson will help to lead the men's soccer team into the playoffs.

by Angel Figueroa

Concluding the regular season with its tenth victory in eleven games, the Dalhousie men's soccer team has cruised into the final but most crucial stage of its quest to defend the Atlantic league championship, won last year for the first time in 14 years. Defeating Saint Francis Xavier 1-0 in a meaningless game on Sunday November 1st, Dal now advances to the Final Four with stellar aspirations, intent on repeating last year's glorious drive to hoist the Holy Grail.

But likewise ambitious are three other teams in contention for the cup that defines collegiate supremacy in maritime soccer. Enter the University of New Brunswick, a team of considerable talent that hasn't been absent from post-season play in the last five years. It plays Dal in the first AUSA semi-final at noon on Friday, November 6. Finishing second in the West Division with a record of 5-5-2, the Red Shirts have revenge on their agenda, as they seek to redeem the 2-1 loss to Dal in last year's championship final. The two will

square off like a super bout between two arch-rivals that will leave one dispirited and the other elated.

Also in the thick of the matter is Saint Mary's, at 7-2-2 and second to Dal in the East Division. The Huskies are largely regarded as the favourite in the other semi-final against l'université de Moncton, to be played at 2 pm. Moncton finished its season at 5-4-3 to win the West Division by a slim margin, bumping Mount Allison out of the playoffs for the first time in three years.

The winners will go head-to-head at 2 pm Saturday for the AUSA championship title. Competition will take place at Beazley Field in Dartmouth, due to the atrocious condition of Studley Field.

Head Coach Ian Kent was straight to the point when reflecting on Dal's playoff situation: "I have full confidence in the team," he said. "We worked really hard all year. The guys should feel confident that if the team all shows up in their work clothes, they'll be smiling at the end of the weekend. Our whole focus is on UNB on Friday. We want to play that

game like there is no tomorrow. And as long as the guys come playing as if there is no tomorrow, then there will be a tomorrow."

As much as some might decry hubris, confidence such as that is, oddly enough, an asset of the team. Hand in hand with reserve and ambition, these are qualities which will help prepare for the big game, and carry the team over as it did last year. Now is when the real season begins—and make now bones about it, this squad is a bunch of men infested with ambition.

"If we're not hungry for it now, we never will be," says defender Adrian Ibbetson, whose asset to the team was unmistakably evident in every game this year. "[The playoffs] are what we have worked for all season. Most of the lads are pretty hungry for it, as most are in their last year. With only two rookies in the starting eleven (Geoff Axell and Trevor Chisolm) there's a lot of experience in the squad, so there's a lot of anticipation going into Friday's game, and this should be in our favour."

"We are all in the high right now," adds veteran striker John Richmond, who leads in the team's goal scoring, with 7. "As usual we have to think in terms of one game at a time. As long as we keep strong as a team as we have all season, then we shouldn't have many problems. It was a bit unfortunate with the last game against SMU [which Dal lost 1-0] but we have our sights set on the playoffs now, where we will all be

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Dalhousie Athletes of the Week

* Rayleen Hill *



'92 AUSA Cross Country Champ

Oct. 26 - Oct. 31



* Chris Halfyard *



7th at Cross Country AUSA's

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