

sports

Mayo leads men's bball in pair of wins

by Joe O'Connor

I believe that there are some unwritten rules, fundamental to our lives, that govern human actions and interactions. I am convinced that somewhere close to the top of this list, dating from the dawn of our existence, is one that reads: being a winner is better than being a loser.

Free your imagination, if you will, and envision another time, a time when the struggle to survive

was a daily reality. Into this picture "walks" Neanderthal man, fresh from the hunt and sadly empty-handed. Not a lot of high fives or "atta boys" in that cave.

This past week, the Dalhousie Men's Basketball team burst from the shadows to bask (rightfully so) in the glorious light that is victory...Dal 101-St. F. X. 100; Dal 78-SMU 72; Dal 79-UPEI 76. Perhaps for the first time this season the Tigers have placed all the pieces of the puzzle

together and found their perfect equation for success.

Friday night at the Tower, in front of a hostile, homeless crowd, Dal took to the floor against the Saint Mary's Huskies. The first half summary is quite simple, SMU player X, Y, or Z, has the ball, passes said ball to Will Njoku, Njoku shoots, rebounds, shoots, 2 points.

It was frustrating to watch as the Huskies simply outplayed the Tigers and established a seemingly com-

manding 43-34 lead at the half.

The final twenty minutes proved to be very different. Aggressive team defence, highlighted by the outstanding play of Chudi Igbemeka and Gary Blair effectively curtailed Njoku's position of prosperity. On offence, Jeff Mayo and Shawn Plancke decided it was time to showcase their talents. The two emerging stars combined to score 52 points, with Mayo earning player of the game honours for a 34 point effort. The result, victory by a six point margin.

Sunday afternoon at the Dalplex, in a critical game against the UPEI Panthers, Dalhousie provided the sparse crowd of Tiger faithful with an encore performance, allowing them to finish the week with a perfect 3-0 record. Mayo again was player of the game, scoring 27 points. Marcus Jamieson, always a tough defender, finally found his range and notched

12 points. The 79-76 victory over the Panthers moved Dal into sole possession of fourth place, and proved beyond a doubt that this is a team of winners determined to make their mark in the AUAA.

Which, sports 'fans' brings me to my (the team, and Coach Greenlaw's) point of contention. Support, or lack thereof. The Tigers are an inexperienced team, given to bouts of inconsistency. Yet, to watch a game is to realize that this core of players has among them the best talents in Maritime basketball. The stage upon which they perform is rapidly growing too small to support them. Yes, I perceive CIAU glory.

As a student join this odyssey: a young, talented team, the early 90s, you can't help but feel an overwhelming sense of destiny.

Which reminds me; how about dem COWBOYS!

Women deserve national ranking

by Matthew Christian

A record of 9-3 is impressive. But, does this record alone merit national recognition? Probably not.

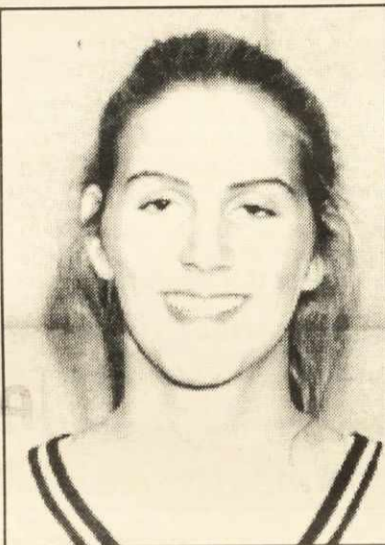
However, the Dalhousie Tigers women's basketball team has accomplished more than their record might suggest.

First of all, you must look at the other AUAA teams that have been granted national top-ten exposure. Here, the focus naturally shifts to St. Francis Xavier, who, before a ball was bounced, were ranked tenth in the nation. Then, in the season opener, the Xaverians visited Dalplex and were promptly dismantled by the Tigers.

Result- St. F.X. falling off the national scene, Dal staying off the national scene.

Three weeks ago, St. F.X. regained their pre-season stature. One week later the Tigers travelled to Antigonish and defeated the Xaverians again. The results were the same; St. F.X. fell out of the top-ten and Dal stayed off the top-ten. This evidence alone suggests that there is something wrong with the national ranking system.

Exhibition and tournament play has yet to be factored in however,



Kathie Sanderson

The best case of this shows up in the ladies' trip to Manitoba, and their chance encounter with the country's top team from Winnipeg. Dalhousie was supposed to play the consolation final. Winnipeg came ready for the championship game. But, because of a snowstorm, neither teams' opposition showed, and they decided to play one another.

The Tigers promptly beat the nation's top rated team and returned home with little local recognition let

alone any one on the national scene noticing their accomplishment.

Coach Savoy and any of the players would tell you that what concerns them is not national rankings. Playing tough night after night and establishing themselves in the AUAA is a more practical goal. It is also the first step to a very attainable goal of capturing the AUAA banner.

The Tigers are a young team prone to the "bad game" every so often. It's a learning experience for players and coaches alike. The women have a very bright future ahead of them and some time soon the Dalhousie Tiger women's basketball team will receive the national recognition they deserve.

DAL CONTINUES TO ROLL

Sunday at Dalplex, five Tigers reached double figures in Dalhousie's 83-48 romp over the UPEI Panthers.

Rookie Carolyn Ware led all point getters with 19, 14 of those coming in the second half. Kathie Sanderson had 14, Jennifer Offman meshed 12 while Jennifer Clark and Renee McKenzie added 11 and 10 respectively. The Tigers are tied with the Xaverians for second place.

Tonight (Thursday) the Tigers host the Saint Mary's Huskies. Tuesday they travel to Antigonish to play St. F.X.

MacDonald

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years. It takes a while to be able to make that commitment and to realize what it takes to be successful in university."

Dalhousie head coach Darrell Young says he looks to Brian to provide leadership for the younger players on the team.

"I think the guys are looking for leadership from him," says Young. "He is a good, hard worker, he comes to practice everyday. With the success he has achieved academically, the younger guys look up to him."

"He understands what it takes to win," says Young. "He is willing to do whatever it takes to win."

MacDonald says he has another chance to be on a winner.

"I think our chances at Dal are very good, as good as they've been in a while to go to the Nationals," says MacDonald. "We're looking forward to a good season."

But whatever happens, when MacDonald finishes his collegiate career, hockey will still remain an important part of his life.

"I look forward to playing senior hockey somewhere," he says. "I love the game and to not play would be a great loss. I couldn't imagine not playing some sort of competitive hockey."

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