

Hoopsters rebound

by Sam McCaig

The Tigers have bounced back from a late-season swoon. With one game remaining in regular season play, Dal sits atop the Atlantic Universities Basketball Conference with a 14-5 record. More importantly, the Tigers have clinched first place in the conference and will head into next weekend's AUAA playoffs as the team to beat.

Way, way back on Saturday, February 18, the Tigers' woes continued as they dropped an 86-79 decision to the University of Prince Edward Island Panthers in Charlottetown. Dalhousie saw a 50-44 halftime lead evaporate as the hometown Panthers roared back to snatch a victory from the jaws of defeat.

For the Tigers, Kevin Bellamy exhibited his long-range prowess with 19 points. Big man Shawn Plancke meshed 16 while ripping down 13 boards, multi-talented Reggie Oblitey scored 14 and David Reynolds rounded out the Tigers who reached double-digits as he added 11.

From this low point, Dalhousie rebounded with an impressive 77-59 homecourt win over the St. Francis Xavier X-men. The Tigers were obviously aware of the importance of getting back in the win column as they responded with 55% shooting from the field. A close game at halftime, Dalhousie burst out of the gates in the second half as they quickly put together a 9-0 run. The rest of the half saw the Tiger lead hover between 15 and 22 points before settling on 18 by the time the final buzzer sounded.

Plancke put in a strong fundamental game, playing strongly at both ends of the floor. His stats reflected his impressive play, as he threw down 19 points while grabbing 11 rebounds and blocking 5 shots. Oblitey answered the bell with 14 points while Bellamy and Christian Currie each popped 11.

The winning ways continued this past weekend as the University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds came to town on Saturday, February 25. Dalhousie shut the door and walked away with a 65-50 victory. The Tigers were further encouraged as Jeff Mayo made a return to the line-up after a two-week lay-off due to a lingering back injury. Mayo chipped in with four points in limited duty.

Other Tigers to put up some numbers were Plancke with 13, and Bellamy and Clive Henry with 12 apiece.

In most recent play, Dalhousie dumped a reeling Saint Mary's Huskies squad by a score of 83-75 at the Tower on Tuesday, February 28. A balanced attack was the key as the Tigers coasted to victory, with five players scoring in double-digits. Leading the way was three-point threat Kevin Bellamy as he drained 18. Plancke and Henry each contributed 15, Oblitey added 13, and Mayo dropped 10.

This Friday, March 3, the Tigers travel to Wolfville to battle the Axemen in their final regular season game of the year. From there, it is on to the AUAA's on the weekend of March 10 to 12.

What's shakin'

by Sam McCaig

While many of you were swooshing at the slopes or frying in the sun (or, of course, hitting the books at the library), many Dal athletes were sweating it up on your behalf in various gyms, rinks and pools around the AUAA.

So, in case you didn't know...

•Dal swimmers captured the AUAA championship on the men's side, while the women's team was edged out. The men broke the University of New Brunswick Reds four year stranglehold on the title as they nipped UNB 198-182. Meanwhile, the women saw their four year reign as AUAA champions come to an end as their UNB counterparts swam away with a 208-194 victory.

•Surprise, surprise, the men's volleyball team rose from the ashes to win the AUAA volleyball title. Actually, they finished the season with an unblemished 10-0 record in conference play and swept their way to their 15th AUAA championship in 16 years. Dalhousie will try to match or beat last year's bronze showing in the CIAUs as they travel to Laurentian this weekend. The Tigers enter the tournament ranked fourth in the

country.

•Things are looking up on the hoops horizon. The women sharpshooters clinched first place and host privileges as they finished the season with a 15-5 record and a national ranking of eighth. The men upped their record to 14-5 with one game remaining; they've also clinched first place. Women's AUAA action goes down this weekend, while the men wait until March 10 to 12.

•And sadly, the hockey team bowed out of the playoffs after dropping the decisive third game to, you guessed it, the Acadia Axemen. After lambasting the Saint Mary's Huskies in two straight games in the opening round of the playoffs, the Tigers surprised the Axemen with a 6-3 victory at Memorial Arena. From there, it was on to Wolfville for two disappointing losses and the end of another successful/frustrating season.

Anyway, that's what you missed. Fortunately, you can make up for it this very weekend by showing up for AUAA basketball playoffs as the women play host at the Dalplex. Good luck to both squads, as well as to all those competing in CIAU championships.



Dal's Carolyn Wares (15) tips the ball out of Acadia's hands

PHOTO: BILL JENSEN

Swim Tigers take 2nd place in AUAA championships

by Katharine Dunn

This year's AUAA Championships were among the most exciting in recent history.

The men's team came out on top of the University of New Brunswick Varsity Red's for the first time in four years. Although the women came in second behind UNB, these results certainly don't tell the whole tale. The fierce rivalry between UNB and Dalhousie led to phenomenal swims all around.

Dal head coach Nigel Kemp says our swimmers recorded over 90% personal best times.

On the women's side, rookie Kirsten Taberner and veteran Sarah Woodworth were the top scorers. Taberner not only captured the 200m and 800m freestyle events, but she also won the AUAA Female Rookie of the Year award. Her 200m freestyle time of 2:06.89 places her in fifth place in the national rankings. Sarah, who won three events, including the 200m and 400m individual medley and the 200m butterfly, is ranked in the top eight in the country as well.

Three additional women qualified for the CIAU Championships during the weekend. Third year veteran Kirsten Matthews had a tremendous meet and not only medalled in the 50m and 100m backstrokes, but made the standard in the 100m after having just missed it last season. Matthews also won a silver medal in the 50m freestyle.



All smiles after a second place finish in the AUAA championships

PHOTO: BILL JENSEN

U.S. transfer and rookie Erin Malone beat the standard by over half a second on her way to a silver medal in the 100m butterfly, and by over a full second in the 200m butterfly, taking third place. Rookie Gail Siepp smashed the standard in the 200m, 400m, and 800m freestyle events. She medalled in all three as well. Siepp also won a bronze medal

in the 400m individual medley.

Let us not forget all the other women who were an integral part in the success of the women's team. Additional point winners (top 6) include: rookie Amanda Ross (4th 50m & 100m back and 400m IM, 3rd 200m back); rookie Corey Minter (3rd 100m breaststroke, 4th 50m breast, and 5th 200m breast); rookie

Lisa Hughes (5th 100m breaststroke); Fiona Ellis (6th 100m breaststroke); rookie Tara Weber (4th 50m butterfly, 6th 100m butterfly); Margaret Banbury (6th 100m & 200m backstroke); rookie Stacey Connick (3rd 50m freestyle, 5th 50m butterfly and 200m IM); and, rookie Kristie Saunders (6th 50m freestyle).

