

the Gazette

Volume 126 Number 21

Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

March 10, 1994



BRONZE!

Men take national honours

by David Jackson

For three graduating Tigers, finishing as the number three team in Canada is a pretty good way to end their university volleyball careers.

Fifth-year players Paul Villeneuve, Kirk Yanofsky, and Jody Holden were all on the floor as the Tigers won bronze at the CIAU Championship at Dalplex Sunday, beating the University of Alberta in five sets.

"There was a little disappointment because we weren't in the gold-medal match, but I mean, leaving with a medal around our necks; what more can you ask for?" said Villeneuve. "There's a great field of teams here. I think any one of the eight teams could have come out with gold, so being in the top three was pretty sweet."

Dal would have had a chance to play for gold, but for a nerve-wracking 16-17, 16-14, 16-14, 15-9 loss to the eventual champions from Laval in the semi-final Saturday night. The Tigers were the only team to win a set from Laval in the tournament.

"I could be happier, let's put it that way," said Holden. "I wanted the gold medal, and we had the team to do it, but we can definitely all be proud of what we accomplished."

"We showed that we can play with the best teams and I think the guys are going to hold their heads up high and be proud."

It was the best showing for the Tigers at the national championship since a third-place finish in 1982, the last time Dal was the host team. Holden said the home fan support was excellent at all the Tigers' games and really helped the team

get going Sunday as it recovered from the Laval loss.

"I knew both teams were going to have a little bit of trouble getting warmed up in the morning," he said. "That's when your crowd really helps you, that seventh-man factor, really helped us out a lot. Whenever something good happened, they fired us up, we fired ourselves up, and we played even harder."

Holden and Villeneuve, both named CIAU championship all-stars, weren't with the team for the first half of the season, but came back to the Tigers after Christmas for one last shot at the CIAU medal that had eluded them in their previous four trips to the nationals. Villeneuve said his decision to use his last year of eligibility was the right one.

"There's no second-guessing now," he said. "If we'd come out seventh or eighth, I'd probably be kicking myself, but a finish like this, I'm so glad I came back."

Kirk Yanofsky is glad he stayed with the program for the full five years. "Five years of hard work and to finally get something to show for it, there's no better feeling in the world," he said. "This is our gold medal right here."

University volleyball may be over for this Tiger trio, but at least one will pursue his volleyball career further. Jody Holden said he will play professionally on the beach this summer, and then in Europe. Paul Villeneuve and Kirk Yanofsky aren't sure what's ahead for them.

"I have no idea what I'm going to do with my life right now," said Yanofsky. "I'll think about that in about a week when I calm down."

Rob Ager makes a return while Dave St. Helene looks on during weekend action at the CIAU national volleyball championships hosted by Dalhousie last weekend. The Tigers came close but lost in the semi-finals to the eventual winners Laval.

DALPHOTO: MIKE DEVONPORT

Dal takes AUAA track title

by Frank MacEachern

The Dalhousie women's track and field team crushed all opponents at the AUAA indoor track and field championships Saturday to take home a first place finish. The event was in Moncton.

The men also did extremely well finishing second to Memorial University of Newfoundland by only five points.

The women's 145 points were well ahead of second place University of Moncton (37). Memorial finished third with 35 points while Saint Mary's was last with 9 points.

Paula Peters led the Dal attack by capturing the 300 metre and 600m

race with times of 41:22 and 1:41.11 respectively. She also won two relay races.

In the 4x100m relay Peters, Mooney, Moore and Murray won with a time of 4:47.74. In the 4x400 relay Peters collected the gold with teammates Jenkins, Tracy Hoskin and Murray.

In the 4x200m relay Mooney, Bard, Weeks and Moore won with a time of 1:55.48.

Tracy Hoskin won the 1,000m with a time of 2:58.7, while teammates Shari Boyle and Anne-Marie Farnell won the 1,500m and 3,000m with times of 4:51.46 and 10:19.7 respectively.

Rachelle Beaton won the high

jump with a leap of 1.65m while Marnie Gorman (11.40m) won the triple jump. Gorman (9.3m) also won the shot put.

The men won just about every running event as they were denied only in the 60m and the 4x200m relay which Saint Mary's picked up.

Peter Lawson won the 300m and the 600m with times of 36:32 and 1:23.65 while Paul Riley was also a double winner in the 1,500m and 3,000m with times of 4:11.30 and 8:48.76. Steve Whynot captured the 1,000m with a time of 1:23.65.

The Tigers also captured the 4x400m relay (3:40.65) and the 4x800m relay (8:52.0).

Dal women grab AUAA silver

by Matt Christian

The Dalhousie Tigers women's basketball team earned more than just AUAA silver at the conference championships last weekend in Fredericton. They earned respect.

In the opening game of the tournament, the number one-ranked UNB Varsity Reds edged fourth-seed St. Mary's 60-54, and went on to win first place. Later on it was showtime for the Tigers and X-Women, ranked third and second respectively. With fast-paced end-to-end action for the whole 40 minutes, Dalhousie, led by fourth-year Jennifer Clark, took the game and season series from St. F.X. with a 67-62 victory.

In the final, however, the comparatively young Tigers were facing nagging injuries and a tough opponent. The Varsity Reds were in town just a week earlier, and clinched the

regular-season title at Dalplex with a convincing win over the short-staffed Tigers. Dal's injury report was shortened but not eliminated. The one stand-out on the list was CIAU all-rookie selection Carolyn Wares.

Wares, who led the league in scoring and rebounding, went into the game nursing a sore knee. Midway through the contest, playing in the cramped UNB gym, Wares tripped over a photographer on the baseline and re-injured her knee, quickly

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It's playoff time for the Tigers. See more inside ◀