

# sports

## Men's soccer roster review

by Angel Figueroa

Well, I'm back (just when you thought it was safe...); back for another year of raving reportage.

As of Monday, tryouts are over and the '93 tribe has been selected. A quick glance at the new roster will make you realize just that -- it's all new. Gone are a whole bunch of the golden oldies, and almost half the squad are wet behind the ears. This makes for a very young team -- quite unlike the past few years, where experience and skill went hand in hand to give Dal its best season results in fifteen years. For a team that has had back to back wins at the Atlantic championships, including a CIAU bronze last year, it will be hard not to expect the same sort of success that has graced the men's soccer program over the past three years.

But head coach Ian Kent is quick not to get distracted by other people's expectations. "There's nothing to repeat because we're a new team. We don't feel any real pressure because seasons are mutually exclusive of each

other. As always, we need to take one game at a time."

Still, as Dal's first exhibition game on Tuesday showed, the Tigers have lost little of their stripes from last year, with a 3-0 victory over Mount Allison at Studley field. (Midfielder Marten Mooers opened the scoring with a random header in the 34th minute, only to answer with another in the 42nd, this time after a setup by halfback Geoff Axell and striker Colin Audain. Audain got one of his own in the 57th minute of play, after a great cross by winger Hieu Quack.)

The pressure might not be on, but this team played with spirit, displaying a dynamic formula of the old and the new. Here's the low-down:

Among the returning players, only four are not in their second year with the team. Defender Jamie Sawler, in his fifth and final year, is the sole member of the dinosaur club, and his experience and skill will be a great asset to the team. Big man Adrian Ibbetson, in command of Dal's defensive wall, is back for his third year as team captain.

Much can be expected from this AUSA all-star, hooted by many as the greatest asset to the team. Also in his third year is midfielder Craig Janc, man-of-little-words, regarded as a maestro of speed and finesse, and absolutely devastating one-on-one. On the wing in the midfield is speedster Rob Sawler, in his fourth year, a loud-mouth with a mission.

This year's brat pack (i.e. second-year types) is headed by Chris Devlin, strong and firm in the midfield, with a lot to say about prophylactics. He'll be accompanied by Geoff Axell, whose sideburns are even bigger than last year. Also back are midfielders Hieu Quack and Morten Mooers, two guys who are showing lots of potential. In the net is star keeper Trevor Chisolm, one of Dal's most important acquisitions last year. Now an experienced veteran after his pivotal performance at last year's CIAUs, this guy is in a class of his own, and will be among the delights to watch in the upcoming year. Up the field will see striker Danny Burns, soft spoken but with a kick that

### Men's Soccer Schedule 1993

#### September

Tuesday 7	Mt. A @ Dal	5:30pm
Saturday 11	Dal @ Acadia	2:00pm
Wednesday 15	Dal @ SMU	4:00pm
Sunday 19	Dal @ Acadia	2:00pm
Sunday 26	Acadia @ Dal	2:00pm
Wednesday 29	StFX @ Dal	4:00pm

Saturday 16	MUN @ Dal	1:00pm
Sunday 17	UDM @ Dal	2:00pm
Saturday 23	Dal @ UNB	3:00pm
Sunday 24	Dal @ MtA	1:00pm
Sunday 31	Dal @ StFX	3:00pm

#### October

Saturday 2	MUN @ Dal	2:00pm
Sunday 3	UPEI @ Dal	2:00pm
Wednesday 13	SMU @ Dal	4:00pm

#### November

Saturday 6-	AUSA Championships
Sunday 7	(top four at home of league winner)

is anything but. Also in their second year of play, but with a wealth of experience, are prima donnas Colin Audain and Tony Pignatiello, both vital players in the Dal scoring machine.

Eight rookies bring not only fresh faces but a fresh perspective to the team. Among this year's key additions are David McFarlane in the midfield, Bairos Almeida in the back, and Colin March up front. All three are very

promising, and show extensive skill that should mix well with the rest of the squad. An interesting newcomer is Chi Kong Ng, a short guy built like a brickhouse whose fitness and tenacity cannot go unnoticed. Also not unnoticeable is fullback Francis MacKinnon (the guy is 6 feet something). Rounding out the rookie additions are Mathew Serieys in the midfield and two backup keepers: David Finlayson and Mathew Padfield.

So many fresh faces leave you wondering about the ones that are gone. Golden oldies like Rob Adams and Neil Sedgwick, two classy players that were pivotal in nabbing the '91 and '92 Atlantic crowns, will surely be missed. So too will Ian Clark, Andy Wheeler, and John Richmond, but let's not get too nostalgic -- '93 is a new year, and the here and now starts a new quest for the Holy Grail.

Assistant coach Matt Townsend thinks that the formula could be there. "The team may be young but I think there is a good maturity level among the players which will be a real benefit. The key to our success will be to match the maturity level of the new comers with the skill and leadership of the veterans."

As a new comer, Colin March agrees. "We're a young but skilled team, with a good measure of individual talent. I feel we can all adapt to playing as a team very easily. With Ian [Kent] we can easily follow the program, and if the team can work as a real unit, the wins will come."

Audain shares that optimism. "We've got a lot of talented rookies. We'll miss Sedgy and Rob and Wheelz, but I think we can be as good if not better than last year, if things work out right. We have a good mixture of young and old players and all with good skill and attitude. Last year we had a lot of experience, but this year we have more depth on the bench. I thought everyone played well [in the exhibition game] and rose to the occasion -- we're better than I thought."

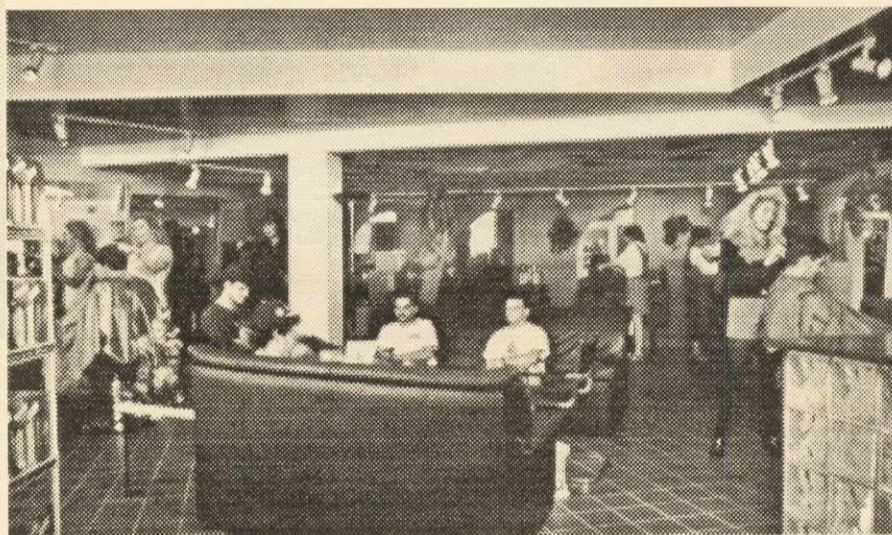
Dal's season opener is against the cross town rivals, and could be considered a rematch of last year's championship final, which St. Mary's lost 2-1. Appropriately enough, St. Mary's could again be the toughest contenders for the title this year.

"It's a great way to start the season," says Kent. It will provide the form for both teams to gather info which will direct the course of training through the season. And just because they've lost their two key strikers shouldn't fool you into thinking they'll be weaker. They've actually obtained some great additions. Add to that a team that is already well-coached, and St. Mary's will be a major force to be reckoned with."

The Dal boys are a class act. Add to that they're a championship team, and you have more than enough reasons not to miss them in action. The season-opener is at Husky Stadium, Wednesday September 15 at 4 pm.



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