

Men's basketball has high hopes for season

BY GERRY FABER

"Expect to win a championship this year," says Dalhousie men's basketball head coach Tim McGarrigle thinking of the players trying out for this year's Tigers. Of course almost every coach starts their season with that goal, but McGarrigle says it with enough confidence so as to be sure that people know he will do everything he can to make it a reality. If the past is any indication, hoops fans should be excited. In the three years McGarrigle has been at Dalhousie, the Tigers have won two regular season titles and captured the AUAA title once.

This year's Tigers have their work cut out for them to replace the people gone from last year's team. Centre Dallas Shannon, guard Kannin Osei-Tutu, and five-year starter and monster rebounder Shawn Plancke have all used up their years of eligibility. Other departures from last year's team include front court men Blair Pallopson and Tim Elliott, rebounder extraordinaire Ray Fountain, as well as rugged point guards Tim Maloney and Dwayne Hopkinson. Elliot has decided to play for King's and Maloney was playing for the soccer Tigers before being injured.

There have also been some changes in the coaching staff. Jim Charters, McGarrigle's assistant for four years, has moved from the basketball sidelines to the spectator seats as Dalhousie's Director of Varsity Promotions. Coach McGarrigle will, once again, be assisted this year by long-time coach Mark Parker.

Parker has been with the Dalhousie teams under three head coaches, as well as coaching in the Metro high school league as the head coach of the Halifax West Warriors. He brings a wealth of experience to the team and is a man who demands nothing but a person's hardest work.

The other assistant coach is former King's assistant Andrew Cook. Cook is a hard working guy who relates well to the players and who has tremendous basketball knowledge.

The Tigers have five players returning from last year's 15-5 squad. Leading the way is 5'8" point guard Brian Parker who returns for his fifth year. Parker, a team co-captain last season, was an AUAA first team All-Star and second team All-Canadian. He averaged 20.0 points, 6 assists and 4 rebounds per game, while breaking or tying league records for steals and three-point percentage. He placed first in the Conference and fourth in the country in free throw percentage.

Another key returnee is 6'1" Darryl Baptiste. The fourth-year guard is a tremendous defensive stopper who averaged 9 points per game last year and showed fans that they can expect much more with a 26-point explosion coming against crosstown rivals St. Mary's. Baptiste worked extremely hard through the off season and comes into training camp in great shape.

Former Georgetown Hoya Mike Sabol, who showed a brief glimpse of his talent last year before getting injured has recovered well from surgery. The 6'7" fourth-year forward plans on showing everyone the extent of his talent this year.

Also returning are 6'3" second-year swingman Dale Jackson and 5'8" second-year guard Jesse Brothers. Both solidify the backcourt and are expected to contribute major statistics to the team this season.

Two big transfers are eligible to play for the Tigers this year. Fans will be

excited to hear of the addition of 6'7" Paul Williscroft to the team. Williscroft, in his third year from Richmond BC, transfers in from Langara College which is also in British Columbia. In the summer of 1996, Williscroft played for the Jones Cup team. He will pose many match-up problems for opponents as the coaches plan on using him as a small forward because of his excellent shooting and good dribbling skills.

The other transfer is 6'8" forward Dave Mullaly from the University of Prince Edward Island. The Charlottetown native is in his second year of eligibility and will be used to give the Tigers some inside scoring punch and help on the boards.

The coaching staff lists solid play from the younger guys as a key to success for the upcoming season. Coach McGarrigle has brought in a (literally) big recruiting class — the smallest recruit is 6'7" — and there will be no shortage of rookies for this help to come from.

From Midland, Ontario comes 6'7" Scott Devnick whose smooth game and slick rebounding will help the Tigers at the three forward positions. Also from Ontario is 6'7" Ken Hodgkins from Guelph. Hodgkins brings a combination of power, strength and a desire to always become a better player that will help the Tigers battle in the paint. From St. Stephen, New Brunswick comes 6'9" Tim Zinck whose shot-blocking and inside defence will make things much

tougher for opponents who come near the Tigers' basket.

The other big recruit is bruising 6'7" Colin Crawford from Dartmouth High School, Nova Scotia Division 1 high school champions last year. Crawford plays well with his back to the basket and is a solid defender who is difficult to get around. When you add to this mix the surprises that walk-on players can give, the freshman class is strong and looks to solidify the Tigers for a few years to come.

The Tigers have a lot of frontcourt depth and will pound the ball inside the key to make use of it, but the guards could end up logging major minutes. Another key to success for the upcoming year is the number of injuries. "We have to stay injury-free, especially in the backcourt," says McGarrigle.

This year, the AUAA has changed the playoff format so that all eight teams make the playoffs.

"This is something that could affect the effort the players put into the regular season," says Cook. However, fans will have to wait and see.

The Tigers' first game is October 25 in a tournament at UCCB featuring St. FX and Laval, as well as the Tigers and host Capers. The Tigers' first home game isn't until November 18, when they take on St. Mary's.

If you are looking to help out, coach McGarrigle is looking for managers and people who have experience as score keepers. All those interested should call 494-3753.

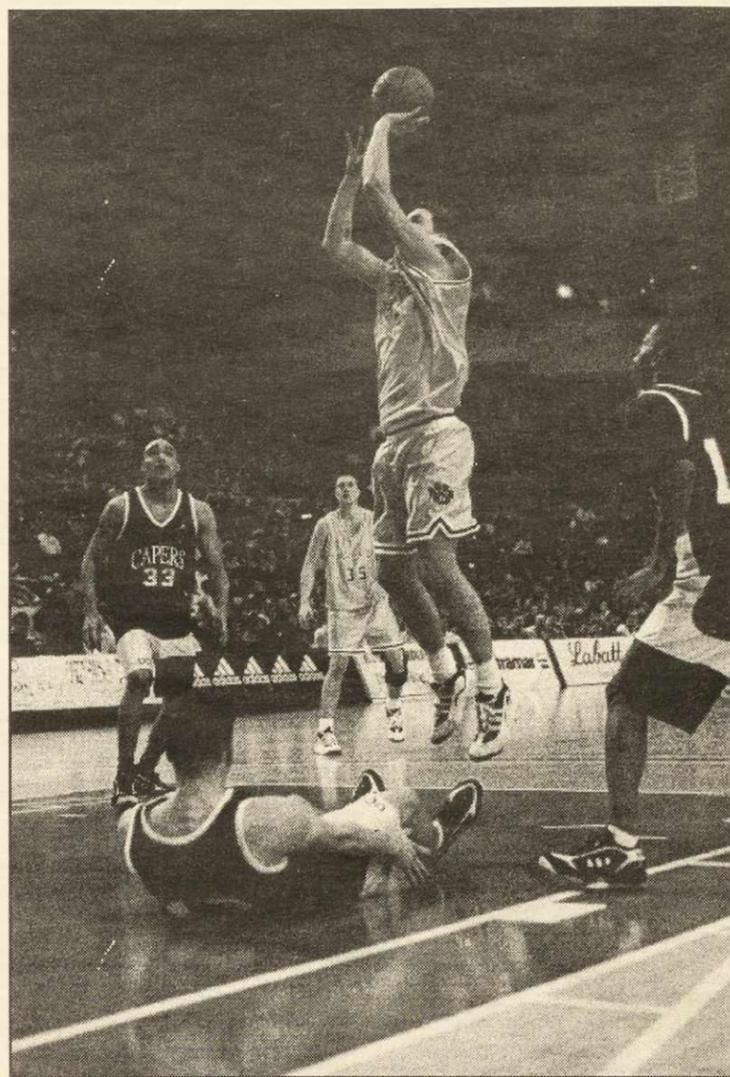


Photo by Danielle Boudreau.

Women's basketball rebuilding for '97-'98

BY ANDREW COOK

Entering her twenty-first season as the head coach of the Dalhousie women's basketball team, Carolyn Savoy faces a daunting task. Gone is the veteran leadership of graduated senior guard Dani Moe, gone is the tenacious rebounding of graduated senior forward Sue Parke. Most importantly, gone is one of the most dominant forces the league has ever seen, Carolyn Wares.

As Wares — who graduated last year after an All-Canadian season — plies her trade south of the border, she leaves behind five teammates and a bundle of fresh faces ready to prove they can continue the legacy she upheld for the last four seasons.

Coach Savoy enters the pre-season with the team cupboard not entirely bare. She returns two players from last season's regular rotation and three others from last season's roster. Sophomore guard Sara Hennenberry headlines the returnees. Hennenberry, who came out of her father's highly successful program at Sackville High, spent much of last season getting acclimated to university basketball and

playing a limited role on a star-laden team. This season, Hennenberry will be counted on both to fill the leadership role and to fill up the scoresheet.

Returnees Jessica Mace, Alana Coffin and Angela Thistle will also be forced into expanded roles at the swing position. Mace, a second-year science student from Almonte, Ontario saw the most floor time of this group last season and will get first shot at helping Hennenberry provide leadership to the youthful line-up.

The new faces will become familiar faces very quickly as several freshmen will be expected to log significant minutes from day one. Attempting to fill the all-conference shoes of Wares and Parke will be Logan Dunning of Calgary, Alberta; Martine Huot of St. Jean Chrysostome, Quebec and Jillian MacDonald of Moncton, New Brunswick. MacDonald is coming to Dalhousie after a season in which she led her Harrison Trimble high school team to a provincial title.

The responsibility of getting the ball to the promising young post players will fall in the hands of freshman Angelia Creelock. Coming out of Sussex, New Brunswick, Creelock will take over the vacant point guard position left by Patti Hutchinson. After spending the summer leading the New Brunswick provincial team during the Canada Games competition in Brandon, Manitoba, Creelock goes into AUAA competition with experience against high level competition.

Without a stable full of superstars, this year's women's basketball team will not face the seemingly constant burden of high expectations. This, however, does not dim the hopes of coach Savoy.

"I feel that we've had a good recruiting year. We've put together a group of young prospects who are going to uphold the proud tradition the Dalhousie women's basketball team has come to stand for."



Field hockey blanks SMU

BY JENNIFER LAMONT

Rain didn't slow down Dal Sunday when Dalhousie's Field Hockey Club team beat the St. Mary's varsity team 1-0.

Goalie Laura Schrumm fought off many shots on net, while the offense took care of the scoring. Dal's goal was scored by Jane Storey, a former member of the New Brunswick provincial team, on a short corner. Storey said that, before the game, she had told herself she was going to score a goal.

This win is the latest in a series of accomplishments for the Field Hockey Club. The team has also played the University of Prince Edward Island varsity team. Defeated by UPEI in the first half, the club came back strong to tie them in the second at a score of 1-1.

Both the tie and the win are especially impressive given the limited field time that the club has to practice. The varsity teams that they play practice several times a week, and play more games. This gives them the advantage of having played together more often.

Mary Teakles, a rookie to the Dal team who has played with Storey on the New Brunswick team, says that she finds "everyone works together — most are previous [Dal] players, so they understand each other's strengths."

Dalhousie has also played a local women's team, "The Pink Ladies", twice. They lost the first game, and tied the second at 0-0.

Dalhousie plays St. Mary's tonight (October 9) in the third of a series of four half-field scrimmages at 8:00. Dal and SMU are currently even at one win apiece.