

SPORTS

Busy holiday for women's basketball

BY KEN HWANG

At the end of November, the Dal women's basketball team travelled to Antigonish for the final game of 1991 which counted in AUSA standings. The X-ettes led at the half 48-25, and won the game 88-58. Melita Belyea led St. F-X with 18 points, 14 of which came from free throws. X-ette captain Donna Barton had 13 points and 15 rebounds. Theresa MacCuish also played a strong game, with 15 points. Jackie Hebert led the Tigers with 16 points. The X-ettes had a 45 field goal percentage, while the Tigers shot only 28 per cent. St. F-X had a record of 1-3 in AUSA standings.

While Dal students were enjoying their Christmas vacation, the Tigers hit the road. They played in the Rodd Invitational Tournament at UPEI at the end of December, and they travelled to Montreal in the new year for the McGill Invitational Tournament.

Dal played three games in PEI over the weekend of December 27. They lost to Images East 76-62, and then won their next two games, beating Ottawa 65-45 and York 71-60. Dal's own Jennifer Clark was one of the five tournament All-Stars.

The Tigers were in Montreal for

the weekend of January 4. On Friday night, they beat the McGill Martlets 75-64. They lost to UNB the following evening, and they beat Acadia 56-44 on Sunday. This gave the Tigers third place. The University of Toronto Blues took the gold medal, and UNB the silver. Once again, Jennifer Clark was a tournament All-Star. The other teams participating in the tournament were Queens, Concordia and Bishop's.

Angie McLeod, who missed the first part of the season because of a broken leg, returned to the Dal lineup for both tournaments, but Krista Forde sprained her ankle before the McGill tournament and will be out for a couple of weeks.

Tigers' head coach Carolyn Savoy said, "I'm very pleased with the team's performance on the whole. It was good to have Angie McLeod back in the lineup; she provides more experience in the perimeter. [However,] we still have to improve from the foul line. I'm looking forward to the second half of the season."

On January 10 the Tigers will visit UPEI for their fifth AUSA game. The UNB team will come to Halifax the following week for an afternoon game at Studley Gym on January 18.

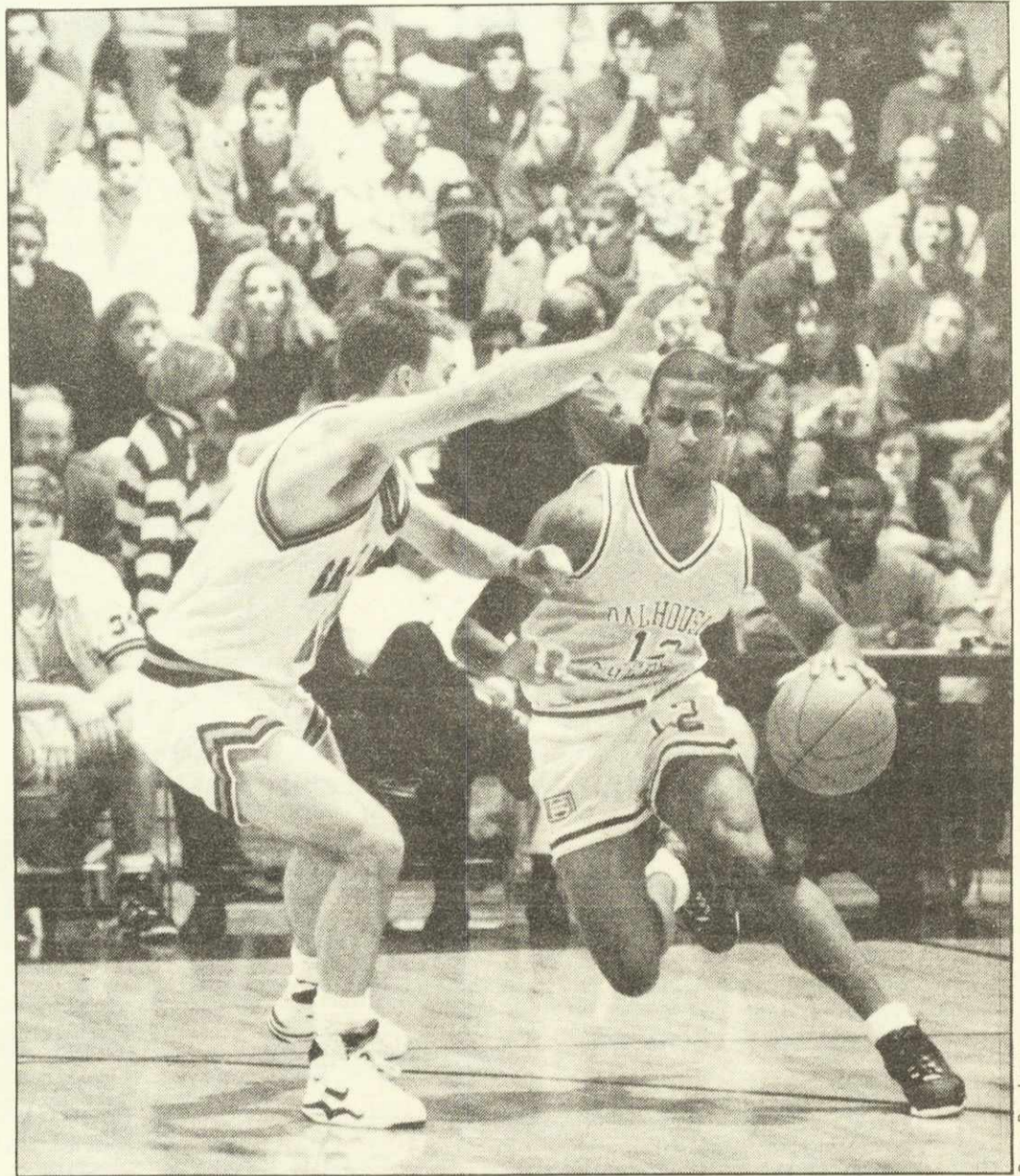


PHOTO: BILL JENSEN

The Dal Men's B-ball team downed the Laurentian Voyageurs and the Nova Scotia All-Stars in the weekend's Rod Shoveller Memorial tournament, but lost the final 78-75 at the hands of St. Mary's

NHL bosses unwilling to pioneer HIV testing

Once again hockey fans cannot just 'sit back and enjoy the game.' We have been asked to consider a new controversy, but this time the issue does not concern the future of the NHL as much as it does the lives and of the players themselves.

Two recent incidents have sparked a debate about mandatory testing of all professional athletes for the HIV virus. In November, Magic Johnson's brave admittance to the world that he tested HIV positive sent waves of panic throughout the sports community. Following this, a direct blow of reality struck the NHL last month when a Montreal doctor revealed a former patient who died from AIDS related complications and had confessed to having sexual relations with at least fifty NHL players.

Some NHL players — Wayne Gretzky being the most quoted — are calling on the league to implement mandatory AIDS testing. It has been pointed out laboriously that hockey is a bloody sport (second only to boxing) and that when a lot of blood is exchanged the chance of contracting the virus

increases tremendously. Although this is true, doctors agree that Hepatitis B is more likely to be exchanged during a hockey fight than is HIV. To date in the NHL there has not been one case of Hepatitis B which can be attributed to blood exchange on the ice.

Ever since the movie Slapshot hit the big screen, wild stories about player promiscuity have sporadically grabbed headlines. Stories of Montreal Canadiens sleeping with minors and of multiple love nests on the road have enticed gossip starved fans for years. Before the threat of AIDS, no league bigwig could see any reason to educate young players about the problems that can arise from unprotected sex. Hey, what's wrong with getting a sixteen year old groupie pregnant when you have a wife and two kids at home? But now AIDS puts the players' life directly in danger, and when it's "me, myself and I" who's at risk, immediate action must be taken.

Wayne Gretzky has enjoyed his share of passionate harangues campaigning to have fighting banned

in the league. So far, it has appeared that only Janet was listening. Some insiders claim that Wayne's wish will be granted because even the NHL's gruesome goons won't think it worth risking their lives for the sake of a round of fisticuffs. Fans in Detroit, of course, would beg to differ.

For the sake of argument, as-

Sports EDITORIAL

sume that today the NHL implements a mandatory AIDS testing statute. Tomorrow player X tests HIV positive and the league must now deal with X in a manner that satisfies the players, the league and the public. What if player X is a 21 year old all-star who had 57 goals last season? Will his team gladly say, "We know that he has a 5 million dollar guaranteed contract, was traded for three of our veterans

and is the team leader, BUT having the virus is good enough reason for us to give him up." Don't bet the farm on it.

Finally, if a player is expelled from the league what will stop him from following the examples of many other HIV carriers fired from their jobs by challenging the NHL in court using the Charter of Rights and Freedoms or the Human Rights code. When does one player's "freedoms from..." take precedence over another's "freedoms to..."?

Many important issues which seemed on the verge of gaining recognition by the league's controllers are in jeopardy of being shelved and replaced by the more lively, and in some ways less controversial, topic of AIDS. Owners and presidents have been anxiously awaiting for an excuse to ignore the explosive debates which have arisen over fighting, drug testing and American television accessibility.

The NHL is notorious for its failure to implement a successful — or even comprehensible — policy to deal with drug abuse by its

athletes. There is no definite course of action to take when a player is caught using drugs. The owners constantly cower behind players when they are confronted with this ambiguity and with the prospect of instituting mandatory drug testing. If the NHL cannot properly deal with a problem as unjustifiable and detrimental to the league as drug and alcohol abuse, how can they be expected to create and enforce a reasonable and effective policy about AIDS when universal confusion surrounds this epidemic?

Perhaps the chuckleheads who run the NHL should allow another professional sporting association to be the pioneers this time. The league should first address the plethora of problems which they are currently facing. Considering the state of tomfoolery that the National Hockey League finds itself in, it seems impossible that they will deal with this incredibly serious issue in a mature, sensible and effective way.

Suzu Kovinsky