

Dal takes season opener

By Joel Fournier

Last Saturday's victory for the football Tigers over the Mount Allison Mounties was a long time coming, but it made the win even sweeter for the jubilant team, coaches and fans.

In perfect football weather, Dalhousie got off to a commanding lead and was never seriously challenged, though the score would indicate that the game was close.

In a complete reversal of form from their lopsided loss to the Acadia Axemen, the Tigers displayed a balanced running and passing attack that netted them close to 400 yards in total offense. Mike Thomson, a rookie quarterback from Toronto displayed poise and confidence and won the praise of the coaching staff in directing the team to its first league win in two seasons. Tom Mertaugh, another rookie loaded with potential, rushed for over 100 yards to lead both teams in that department. In addition, Mertaugh had a fifty yard run called back because of an illegal interference penalty.

Mark Pertus, a graduate of St. Pat's here in Halifax, gave the fans something to cheer about as he powered his way through the opposition to pick up valuable yardage when it was badly needed. If these two backs continue to perform in this manner, it could mean a very pleasant autumn for Dal supporters.

A great deal of the credit for the Tabbies fine showing on offence has to go to the linemen whose devastating blocks opened some amazing holes in the Mount "A" defence. This is the third year together for guard John Godley, center Mike Burns, and tackles Bill Skinner and Garth Horne. This able contingent, assisted by sophomore guard, Rob Duncan and freshman tight end, Tim Hogan have to be recognized as possibly the best down linemen in the league.

The receiving crew led by senior Doug Ransome, junior Graham Starrett and rookies Pete Myer and Steve Kier caught everything thrown their way. They should provide plenty of headaches for the other teams in the conference for the balance of the season.

Switching to defence, the picture is even brighter. I have personally been involved in football as a player and a coach for eighteen years, and in all that time I can't remember a defence that hit as hard as Dal's, with the possible exception of the 1967 East York Argonauts.

It was obvious from the opening



whistle that these boys had come to play football in its true sense, in other words, to out-hit their opponents. Most of the team's experience is concentrated in the defence, and the combination of experience, desire and talent paid off handsomely, as they consistently stopped the Mount "A" attack in its tracks.

The defence was hurt mostly by needless penalties, which resulted from a combination of over-anxiousness on the players' parts and other factors which best remain unsaid. Suffice it to say that a lesson was learned by all.

In fairness, I should mention the name of each individual on the defence as I have for the offence, but space limitations prevent this. I could single out particular players, but this too would be unfair because each and every participant gave what I thought was a tremendous effort. I'll make up for this slight in my next report.

The only real dark spot on the whole afternoon's proceedings was the loss of fullback, Gord Selinger through a knee injury. The mishap, which could keep the Saskatchewan native out of action for three to four weeks, was a serious blow to the team and could significantly affect the Tigers fortunes in future games. Selinger, a third year Law student, had proved his effectiveness by scoring a touchdown on his second

carry of the game. His running and blocking ability, combined with his punting strength will be sorely missed by the entire team. Hopefully his recovery will be fast enough to allow him to play in the second half of the season.

On Saturday, the team travels to Wolfville to meet the strong Acadia Axemen who are fresh from a victory over the highly rated St. Francis Xavier squad. This will be the Tigers big test and one which this writer is eagerly looking forward to. You can bet your student loan (if you've got it yet) that it's going to be one heck of a battle.

Last Saturday's crowd was excellent and in speaking to the players after the game, I'm convinced that this really solid show of support had a decided effect on the outcome of the game. This is a great time of year for a trip to the Valley and I guarantee you'll see super football. Get all the gang together and meet the team at Soldiers Field for what could be the biggest football upset in recent years.

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