

and simply praying for the best, Acadia held off a fierce Tiger onslaught to claim its first win over Dal in three years — an achievement that, judging by the celebrations at the whistle, seemed like a World Cup win.

But if the Acadia keeper is one major factor in the game's outcome, so too is the fact that two of Dal's star players were absent from the pitch — midfielder Tony Pignatiello, a CSL veteran with a rocket-launching kick, and winger Craig Janc, . Both sat out due to injuries, and found it hard to watch from the sidelines.

"The loss was kind of depressing for Tony and I," admitted Janc. "It was a

hard fought game that we would have loved to influence; Dal had great chances but Fahrquar came up with all the right saves. He made the difference."

That difference amounts to nothing short of an upset. It was Dal's second game of the season, and despite the fact that it was a far better showing than its lacklustre draw with Saint Francis Xavier (with improved cohesion, distribution and attacking) it seems evident, in the words of Townsend, that the squad is still searching for a personality.

A solid week of practice separates the upset and Dal's next game. Appropriately enough, it's another game against Acadia. As a re-match, you can

be sure that it will be an intense, entertaining game, with more than just revenge on the Dal agenda. Add to the fact that it will be Dal's home-opener, and it will be the perfect opportunity to develop that enigmatic personality. With both Pignatiello and Janc back in the line-up, and rookie hopeful David McFarlane off his injury, as well as Rob Sawler back in form, the boys are going to be in a unique situation to make some waves felt around the conference. Simply put, this next game can make or break Dal's personality. With Fahrquar and Chisolm, two of the best keepers in the province, it'll be a super-heavyweight bout not to be missed. Come early for ringside seats: Sunday, September 26, at 2 p.m. on Studley Field.

Other action around the league is raising some eyebrows as well. Saint Francis Xavier and l'université de Moncton have both acquired some very strong players, and will have a lot to say in the race for the Final Four. StFX showed it's strength with a 4-0 win over Acadia (n.b.: Fahrquar did not play) on Sept. 15, while Moncton beat SMU 2-1 on Sept. 18 and then Mount Allison 1-0 on Sept. 19. SMU bounced back from their loss to Moncton to defeat the university of P.E.I. 1-0.

StFX heads to Dal on Wednesday, Sept. 29, for a game that will likely be a deciding indicator of what to expect once playoffs come around (kickoff is at 4 p.m.). Dal won't have to worry

about Moncton until Oct. 17.

With a new league format this year, things will get really hairy in the way of points. Instead of two different divisions where the top two from each advance to playoffs, one whole league is created, but with a unique characteristic: crossover games (i.e., games between teams that were from different conferences) will be worth double points: 4 for a win, 2 for a draw. Each team will only play one crossover game, while continuing to play two (one home and one away) with teams who were in the same division last year. That leaves certain games with double weight, and a loss in two or three of these games, despite an otherwise perfect record, could knock you out for good. Talk about intense.

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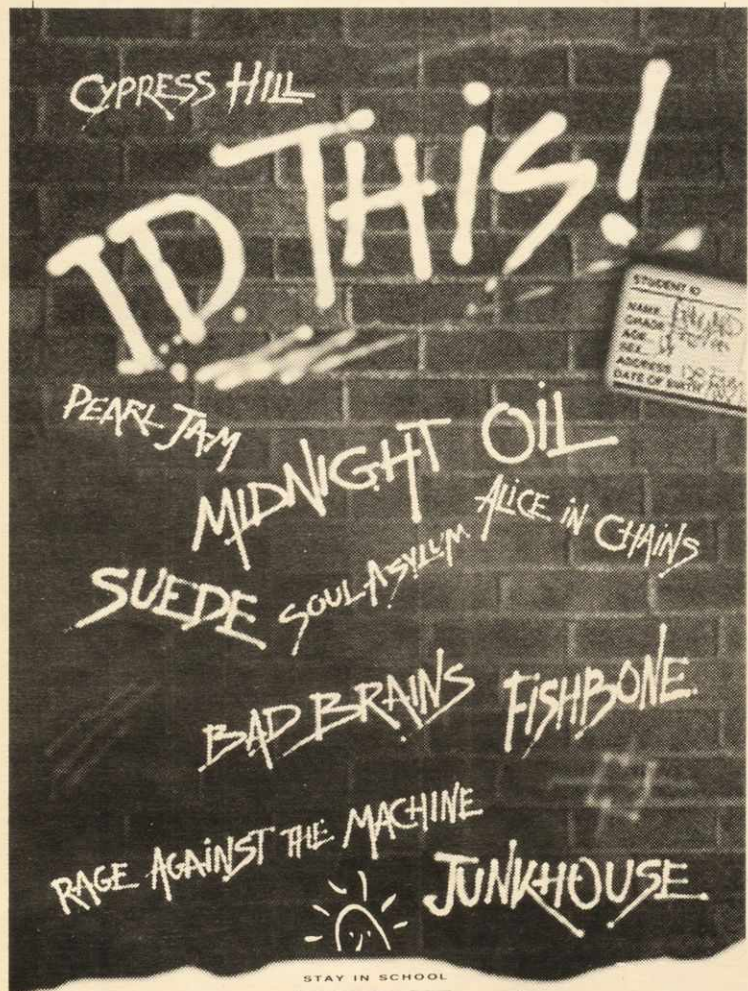
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