

Dal Soccer teams hold on to first place

Crucial matches with SMU set for next week

BY TERRY HAWES

The Dalhousie Tigers soccer teams managed to cling on to first place in their respective divisions, although there were some bumps along the way.

With the strenuous three game weekend either the make or break for some teams, the black and gold passed this test with flying colors and now look forward to a lengthy break before both teams face important fixtures with local rivals Saint Mary's.

The women went 1-0-2 on the weekend to sit at 17 points, one ahead of St. FX, while the mens' side won their first two matches of the weekend before losing their first game of the year, 4-2 to the X-Men in Antigonish on Sunday.

Women's Soccer

Dalhousie 3 Acadia 2 (Oct 1)

The underdog Axettes led 1-0 at half-time on a goal from



Sarah Rush, but the potential for an upset was short-lived as Dal exploded for three second half goals.

Stefanie Finateri scored her sixth goal of the season and Kelly Larkin scored her first two goals of 1999 to lead the Tigers to victory. Ahead to Acadia's misery was the dismissal of Annette Mahon, still Dal managed to pull out the victory in awkward circumstances.

Dalhousie 1 Cape Breton 1 (Oct 2)

The teams played to a draw for the second consecutive year in a match where the Tigers could not solve Capers goalkeeper Deanna MacAulay.

Finateri opened the scoring just eight minutes in, before Cape Breton scored an own goal by the Tigers defence. The point was crucial in the Capers attempt to make the playoffs.

"We're improving every game and although Dal put tremendous pressure on our defence, Deanna was there when we needed her, she played very well," said Capers coach Stephen Timmons.

Dalhousie 0 St FX 0 (Oct 3)

The goalless draw in Antigonish enabled the Tigers to stay in first place ahead of the X-Women.

Dal goalkeeper Roxanne Murphy recorded her fourth shutout of the season, while X

netminder Beth McCharles picked up her third clean sheet of the year.

Men's Soccer

Dalhousie 6 Acadia 1 (Oct 1)

Jeff Hibberts led the Tigers attack with a hat-trick in the blowout over the Axemen in Wolfville.

Also scoring for Dal were Nador Awanen with a pair of goals and Joey Fraelic. It was 6-0 until Matt Budreski gave the Axemen some consolation, but Dal put up a wall and left the opposition with a lot to think about.

Dalhousie 4 Cape Breton 0 (Oct 2)

Once again, the difference in class was evident from the opening whistle as the Tigers outplayed Cape Breton on Saturday at Wickwire Field.

Just three minutes into the match, Dal had a goal by Hibberts waved off for offside, but he would make amends just twelve minutes later when he took a pass from five yards out and put it past Capers goalkeeper James Aitken to start the goal tally on the day.

The Capers best chance of the first half occurred around the midway point when Randy Tanner crossed the ball over to Shannon Brushett only for Brushett to completely miss the timing of the cross and the ball went into touch.

Dal continued their positive start to the match and they

increased their lead on 32 minutes when Chris Coxon found Awanen on the right hand side of the box, Aitken slipped leaving Awanen with a simple tap into the open net.

Five minutes later, the Tigers went up by three as Kevin Steeves found rookie Colin Duffy, whose drive got past Aitken to the lower left-side of the net. By this time, Dal was in full control of the match as coach Pat Nearing made several substitutions in the second half to give the lads rest before the match in Antigonish on Sunday.

Still, there was time for a fourth goal on 47 minutes as the Tigers broke through the Capers defence for a 2 on 1 break, Hibberts found Awanen and he made no mistake scoring his second of the match and seventh of the year.

The final chance went to Cape Breton as they did everything they could to break Grant Spences' shutout bid. Brushett was left wide open from about 15 yards out only for Spence to make a diving stop as the ball was headed for the left hand side of the net.

In all honesty, the Capers were big on heart, but offered very little in terms of creative play and Dal exposed this weakness to their advantage.

St FX 4 Dalhousie 2 (Oct 3)

The X-Men came into the match on a three game losing streak after going undefeated in

their first four, but with visions of the team possibly missing the playoffs, X delivered their best performance of the season.

They took a 2-0 first half lead on goals by Fadi Kamel and Jeremy Grison before Hibberts scored to cut the deficit to one at the break. Colin Chisholm put X back up by two, before Hibberts scored his tenth of the season and second of the match in the 87th minute to make it 3-2. However, Steve Rhodenizer gave Xavier the all important insurance goal to hand Dalhousie their first loss of the year.

"X came out determined to inject some pride back in their season and the tenacity and drive that they played with totally surprised us," said coach Nearing.

"We battled back to 3-2 and continued to press, but, all in all, they were full credit for the victory and they played the game as if it were a playoff final."

The loss drops the Tigers into a first place tie with the SMU Huskies at 6-1-1 with the teams set to meet at Huskies Stadium on October 13, the winner will be the odds on favorite to host the AUA championship from November, 5-7. Nearing assures that the team will be prepared for the match.

"It's the biggest match of the season and it will almost certainly decide where the AUAs will be played, we know we have to be ready, we don't want a repeat of this performance."

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