

Laval wins Dalhousie hockey tourney

by Morley Bates

Laval Rouge et Or provided local hockey fans with a show of superiority last weekend in capturing the 1977 edition of the Dalhousie Invitational Hockey Tournament. The Quebec squad breezed through both the Dalhousie Tigers and Ottawa Gee Gees behind the sparkling goaltending of Michel Ouleet.

After Dalhousie President Henry Hicks officially opened the two-day event, the Acadia Axemen took to the ice against Ottawa in a game requiring overtime magic to decide the outcome.

Acadia opened the scoring early in the first period with Mark Roberts beating Ottawa goalie Dan Lafleur with a blast from the point. Less than a minute later, Ottawa's Dave Saunders took a pass from Francis Couturier to even the count at 1-1, only to see Lee Gilbert regain the Acadia lead a minute later. Brad Saunders put Acadia ahead 3-2 at the end of one period.

In the second, Gee Gees' Paul Hunter took a great cross pass and beat Acadia goalie Hal Baird to tie the score once again. An unassisted effort from Mike Johnson sent the Valley squad into the lead for the fourth time, however Dave Saunders' second goal of the game knotted things once again, ultimately forcing overtime.

It didn't take long for the extra time to settle the affair, as Kevin Benson combined with Gerry Smith and Paul Charron to win the game for Ottawa at 1:57 of overtime.

The second game of the tourney featured more wide open play, much to the disadvantage of the Dalhousie Tigers, as Laval defeated the host team 7-4. Carol Labrie and Louis Gagnon gave Laval a quick 2-0 lead before Earl Theriault put the Tigers on the scoreboard midway through the first period.

Before the second period was seven minutes old, the Laval power machine had done its damage. Gagnon connected for his second goal of the evening, while Gilles Grenier and Sylvio Rancourt found the mark to roll up the score 5-1. Rancourt's goal came while teammate Serge Loisele was serving an elbowing penalty. Dal's Wayne Briscall lifted Tiger hopes while Loisele was still in the penalty box, taking passes from Jacques Robert and Allie MacDonald to make the score 5-2 at the end of forty minutes.

After Labrie gave Laval a 6-2 lead early in the third period, the Tigers began to press. Mike Leblanc narrowed the count to 6-3 at 4:36, but goalie Ouleet kept the Tigers at bay until Linus Fraser made the score 6-4 at 17:32. The Tigers pressed, but Grenier fired his second goal to spoil any bid for a Tiger comeback and the game ended Laval 7, Dalhousie 4.

In the Consolation game, the Acadia Axemen showed far more strength in handling Dalhousie 3-1 in a penalty-filled affair. Referee Ray Jollimore whistled 52 minutes in penalties during the rough encounter. Juan Strickland broke through two Dal defenders to get things started for Acadia at 14:35 of the first period. Steve Axton widened the gap to 2-0, taking passes from John MacNiel and Barry Callahan at 14:32 of the second period.

In the third, Strickland scored his second goal of the afternoon, before Rick Gaetz put the Tigers on the scoresheet at 13:35. The Axemen



Dal Photo/Morris

Ottawa Gee Gees defeated Acadia Axemen in overtime in game one of the Dalhousie invitational hockey tournament held last weekend. Loyola won the event.

held on behind the stellar goaltending of Ronnie Lamey. Despite the loss, Ken Bickerton played an outstanding game in the Tiger goal, coming up with some electrifying saves, especially in the second period. For the Tigers, it was a case of inferior strength at the hands of Acadia's defence.

The championship game proved to be the most exciting by far. It appeared, at one time, that such would not be the case. Guy Cavanagh gave Laval a 1-0 lead midway through the first period before Ottawa goalie gambled on a clearing play, and lost, resulting in a goal by Laval's Gillis Grenier at 14:32. Less than a minute later, Richard Blanchet gave Laval a 3-0 lead, while Yves Perusse gave the Quebec sextet a 4-0 lead after the first stanza.

When Cavanagh gave Laval a 5-0 lead early in the second, it appeared that the Gee Gees would give up. They didn't, however, as Brian Chambers finally beat Ouleet less

than a minute after Cavanagh's goal. Rich Makuch fired a power play goal midway through the period to close the gap 5-2. The Ottawa comeback continued as Kevin Benson beat Ouleet with a wicked shot high on the glove side.

Benson scored his second goal of the afternoon at 12:02 of the third frame, giving the Gee Gees hope for the victory. The Gee Gees pressed for the equalizer, and had a chance when Grenier was sent off for hooking with 1:34 remaining. Ottawa coach Bob Charlebois made a questionable choice, electing to keep goalie Dan Lafleur in the game, instead of going with six attackers. Laval held on and walked off with a 5-4 tourney-clinching victory.

Gilles Grenier of Laval lead all tournament scorers with six points on the strength of three goals and three assists, good enough to be named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

The Laval squad placed three players on the tournament All-Star team. In addition to Grenier, goalie Michel Ouleet and center Carol Labrie were joined by Ottawa defenceman Francis Couturier and forward Kevin Benson. Tiger defenceman Allie MacDonald rounded out the select squad.

After such a disappointing weekend, Tigers coach Pierre Page has more adjustments in store. The Laval game was mostly a case of complete superiority over the Tigers. However, in Sunday's game against Acadia, Dalhousie forwards showed little cohesion and strength. Acadia simply pushed them around at will, giving them little opportunity to launch a sustained attack. Dal will have to get a little tougher if they hope to have a successful season.

The Tigers' next home game is Friday night against the Concordia Stingers, always a tough opposition. Let's support our team. See you there.

Waterpolo season underway

The regular waterpolo season has now been under way for three weeks, and Dal has a number of teams participating. To begin with, Dal has entered two teams in the Provincial Senior League; the Dal Lions and the Dal Panthers.

The Lions' are the leading team at present with a total of nine points, comprised of four wins and a tie in the six games they have played. They have a strong shooting team with the arms of Brian Lane, Gordie MacDonald, and Ralph Simpson contributing the majority of their goals. The Lions are dominated with former Newfoundlanders, Evan Kipnis, Gordie MacDonald, Jim Landrigan, and, of course, the infamous Newf goalie Patty Whalen, who has contributed magnificently to the team's relatively weak defense. Although the Lions have started off strongly they can expect sufficient competition from the Dartmouth Lakers and the Halifax Trojans to keep them

fighting for that top position.

Unfortunately, the Dal Panthers are not enjoying as much success as their counterparts. They trail the league at present with only two points, made up of only one win in their six games. However, the team does have a few strong points. Their defense is probably the best in the league, led by the talented George Mullally in the center defense position, and Colin Bryson in goal. Tim Prince and Greg Lovely fall back to make the defensive line a threat to any offense. The offensive line contains its own threat with Mark Cann and Pierre LaPoste driving in from the wings, with Peter March at center. The Panthers definitely have their fair share of potential, with all of their players talented individually. However, this probably spells out the Panthers' main problem, and one which has led them down the path of defeat this early in the season. Despite the individual talent, the

team is having trouble functioning as a unit, resulting in very little team play. Nevertheless, the season is still young, and the Panthers still have time to settle down, get their working boots on, and move up in the ranks.

The Dalhousie Waterpolo Club has also entered teams in both the Provincial Intermediate and Women's Leagues. Unfortunately, because of some difficulties in organization, the season for these teams has yet to begin. However, practice sessions are still available for any of those players who are registered, or wish to register, in Intermediate or Women's play. They are as follows: Women's 8:00-9:00; Intermediates 9:00-10:00, both on Sunday mornings at Centennial Pool. As well as these pool times there is open pool time from 6:00-7:00 every Friday evening for all those members of the Dal Waterpolo Club.