

Tigers clip Eagle's wings

by Gordie Sutherland

The Dalhousie hockey Tigers tasted revenge Saturday night in winning their first home game of the season, 5-4 over the Moncton Blue Eagles.

The game was played before a vocal Mardi-Gras crowd of about 500 fans. The win raised the Tigers' record to 2-0-1, good for a second place tie in the Kelly Division. The Blue Eagles, last year's Canadian champions, dropped to second place in the MacAdam Division as their record evened at 1-1.

Dalhousie forward Mike Griffith fueled the Tiger offence with a hat-trick. Craig Morrison and Gord Kiley added singles.

Sylvain Lemay, who had 38 points in the 1989-90 campaign, responded with two goals for the Universite de Moncton. Steve Salter and Serge Pepin chipped in one apiece to round out the Blue Eagle scoring.

Last season the Blue Eagles eliminated the Tigers in the AUHC semi-finals in two straight games, a fact that the Tigers did not forget.

"It's always good to win your first home game and especially against Moncton," said second-year player Mike Griffith. "They have been kind of a rival for Dalhousie for a number of years. I know there was a feeling in the dressing room after they beat us out last year that we owed them something."

Moncton outplayed the Tigers in the opening frame, outshooting the home squad 13-9. The period ended with the Blue Eagles leading 2-1. The black and gold came back in the second period with two consecutive goals. Moncton's Steve Salter tipped a shot off the stick of Richard Linteau to tie the score at 3-3 late in the period. The two teams traded power-play goals in the first ten minutes of the final period before Gord Kiley scored the winner at the 15:20 mark.

All three of Griffith's goals came on the power-play. "I felt pretty good out there tonight," said Griffith, a former player for the Ottawa 67's. "I was nice and relaxed and not uptight anymore or anything like that. I'm just going out there and playing hockey and having fun at it. When you are having fun at something it is a lot easier to work harder."

In all, the game featured six power-play goals and one shorthanded tally. The teams were rarely at even strength and two of Moncton's four goals were scored when they had a two-man advantage.

"In university hockey the game is run by your power-play and your penalty killing and because they call the penalties so tight you have to have a good power-play to take advantage of it or have good penalty killing when you lose some of your discipline," said Griffith. "I think we did pretty good tonight."

The Tigers next home game is Friday, Nov. 9 at 7.30 pm, as they play host to the St. F.X. X-Men.



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