

Foul balls not up to scratch



Overtime
MARK ALBERSTAT

ALISON GORDON COVERED the Toronto Blue Jays for the *Toronto Star* for several years, starting in 1979.

Her five seasons with the American League club have been summed up in *Foul Balls*, published by McClelland and Stewart (\$19.95).

It is an interesting book, to say the least, but not a very informative one. The writing style is unique, and many of the experiences Gordon recounts are certainly unique, but the general content of the book seems to be almost fluff, perhaps because the high expectations I had for the book never materialized.

We'll start at the beginning — the cover. My edition is hardback and if you're interested in the book don't wait for the paperback — there might not be one. The cover is a picture, not a photograph, of the diamond, stands and press box and lots of sky looking in from centre field at Exhibition Stadium. The picture is mundane, predictable, and not at all eye-catching. Any author who puts time into a book doesn't want people to buy and read the book just because there is a good picture on the cover, but something a little more exciting could have been found and possibly would have made a bigger impression.

Enough about the cover, now to the book itself. It reads quickly, the chapters are a good length, the writing flows, there are insights not often found in sports books, the paper quality is great (three cheers for McClelland and Stewart) and there are no inside pictures. I kind of like pictures in sports books, but I don't absolutely need them, contrary to popular belief.

I truly thought that the book would be refreshing after only reading the first paragraph, which has in it:

Their (the players') heads lolled to the side, as if the weight of their cassette-deck headsets, playing gospel music here, country over there, Latin American Salsa two rows back, was too much for their necks to bear.

This is the most interesting way of describing a group of athletes who have little in common other than the uniforms they wear that I have ever come across.

The book continues on with the occasional high point like the above quote but there are major glitches and gullies in between.

One question I had while I was reading this book is how many average baseball fans really care about what a particular press box is like or how the journalists go from the press box to the dressing rooms after the game, or really care about her problems with time zones and filing stories on time.

There is an entire chapter on the media and her praises for certain members of that esteemed group of hard-working individuals, but she also puts her media guide notes throughout other parts of the book where it is clearly not needed.

To sum up, if you are only a mild baseball fan, there is no need to read this book. If you are a fanatic Blue Jay fan you will probably want it. If you are a potential member of the baseball media it probably will be helpful as well.

I believe Gordon has two books in this one; the first on the Blue Jays and her experiences with them, and the second on what it is like to be a sports reporter, and, more importantly, a female sportswriter in a male-dominated field.

The combination of the two, *Foul Balls*, just doesn't quite get up to bat. On a scale of one to ten, it's a five.



Roger McIntyre (white shirt, above), scored the tying goal for the Tigers in an AUA confrontation with last year's champions, UPEI, on the weekend. McIntyre led the Tigers in scoring in 1984, with four goals. The team placed third in the AUA last fall with a 2-5-4 record, but is hoping to improve on those stats this season. In other weekend action, the Tigers battled to a scoreless 0-0 draw with Mount Allison. Photo: David MacMillan, Dal Photo.

Soccer team posts two ties weekend action

By MARK ALBERSTAT

THE DALHOUSIE TIGERS men's soccer team kicked off its 1985 season with two ties on the past weekend. The first game, against last year's AUA champions, the University of Prince Edward Island Panthers, resulted in a 1-1 score, while Sunday's game at Mount Allison had a 0-0 final tally.

Roger McIntyre was credited with the Tigers' lone goal against the Panthers, while Richard-Pierre Gillis had PEI's marker.

Eric McIntyre, Dalhousie head coach, attributed the tie to Dal's slow start.

"We were very slow to start and that's a common problem in all soccer games. Those first 20 minutes are vital," noted McIntyre. "The Panthers, on the other hand, started off quickly from the opening whistle."

The Panthers' goal came from a routine free kick and McIntyre described it as a "simple goal."

This opening marker awakened the Tigers and the team then started playing better.

"After their goal, we really woke up and started playing excellent soccer, moving the ball

around very well," said McIntyre.

The Tigers could have had one penalty shot in the game, but the officials missed the call.

"I was surprised that we didn't get a penalty shot," said coach McIntyre. "Sean Sweeney picked the ball up inside the Panthers' half and went through most of the defenders, but then the last two sandwiched him. The officials didn't see it."



The Tigers had another opportunity when Kelly Couchereau received an excellent pass and shot the ball only to see it sail just above the crossbar.

With about four minutes left in the game, Roger McIntyre tied the game off a penalty shot.

In Sunday's game, the Tigers

and the Mounties fought to a scoreless tie with Steve Cooley being credited for the shutout for Dal.

"They were a bit more rested than we were," said McIntyre, adding, "We didn't want to get scored on early so we put on a lot of pressure, but their goalie was equal to our attack."

The Tigers attacked for almost 40 of the first 45 minutes of play.

"In the second half, fatigue set in and a few injuries also slowed us down. This half was more even with both teams controlling and moving the ball very well," said McIntyre.

The Tigers' first home game is on Saturday at 1 p.m., when Dalhousie hosts St. Francis Xavier.

"They beat us twice last year but I'm not going to yield to statistics," said McIntyre about the approaching game.

"I'm expecting a tough and crucial game. Reflecting back, this was the game that eliminated us from the playoffs last season, and as far as I'm concerned, the Tigers are going into the game with the attitude that we have to win and a tie just won't do," said McIntyre.

Tiger sports this week

Sept. 21	Soccer	at Dal	St. F. X.	1 p.m.
Sept. 21	Field Hockey	at Dal	MUN	3 p.m.
Sept. 22	Field Hockey	at Dal	MUN	1 p.m.
Sept. 25	Soccer	at Dal	4 p.m.	
Sept. 25	Field Hockey	at Dal	SMU	4 p.m.
Sept. 25	Soccer	at SMU	SMU	4 p.m.