

HOLT ON SPORT

by Gary Holt

The basketball Tigers lost another so-called "big game". This time it was to Acadia, 80-59, at the Halifax Forum. I suppose that the old cry of, "Dal choked", will be heard around the city (especially on Robie Street) as it has in the past when the team has lost so-called big games. Whether or not the charge was valid in those games, and I'm not saying what my opinion is on that, I do not think it can be applied in this instance.

To me the team played so badly in the first ten minutes that they really never got the chance to choke, if you like that term. I certainly do not. It was a case of being outplayed and outcoached for that vital period early in the ball game which so often sets the tempo for the remainder.

It was rumoured that Al Yarr wanted to press and pressure the Axemen into making mistakes and turning the ball over. It looked as if the boys went on the court with this in mind, but when it started to happen they completely lost their cool. They turned the ball over continuously and Acadia were getting easy hoops time after time.

To their credit the Tigers did not roll over and play dead but, led by Steve Bezanson, they gamely fought back. At one point the score was 27-5. Dal scrambled and clawed their way back into the ball game. They were able to lower the margin to ten points late in the first half. It was like getting to the 20,000 foot mark on a 21,000 foot mountain, they just couldn't get over the hump.

Looking the game in the best light for Dalhousie, from the time the score was 27-5 for Acadia until the end of the game the Tigers played Acadia on even terms. If the game had started at that point, Dal would have won by one point.

Unfortunately, basketball games are 40 minutes long, not 30. The team that gets the jump early has quite an advantage. Giving a team that has the players and the coaching of the caliber that the Axemen have such a jump, puts the opposition into trouble.

From my observations of the game, I only saw three players on the Dal team that I thought were playing the kind of basketball of which they are capable. First and foremost was Steve Bezanson. To use a cliché, he hustled his butt all night. The same can be said for Brock Savage, in the limited floor time he saw. The third man is Brian Peters. If it hadn't been for his shooting the Tigers would never have come as close as they did.

The rest of the aggregation did not come close to the basketball of which they were

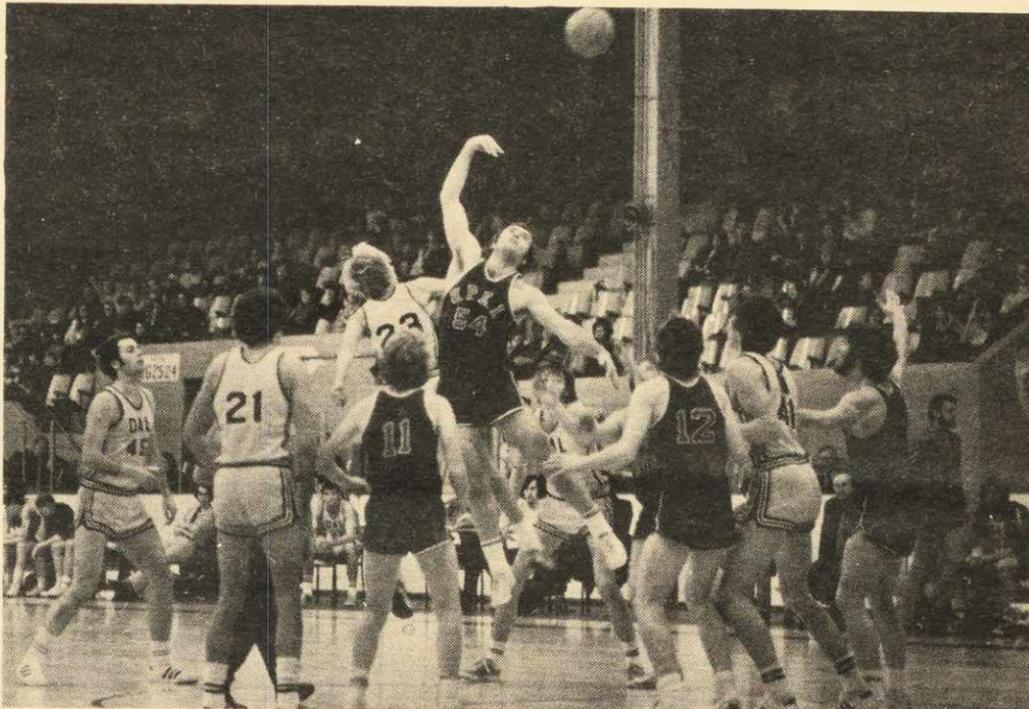
capable of performing. One comment about Pete Sprogis. This is a guy who has lived with a basketball in his hands since he was 12 years old or so and is supposed to love the game. But you look at him on the floor and he looks like a guy who is doing a job that he absolutely detests. He looks as if he can't wait until the game is over so he can leave. He never cracks a smile or gives any sort of indication that he is enjoying himself. A bit of advice, Pete, loosen up on the court, start having fun. You will probably play better as a result.

The loss to Acadia is not the end of the season for the team but they have certainly made their task one hell of a lot harder if they hope to be conference champions. In effect, it means that the team will have to go into the lions den down at Acadia and come way with a win. It can be done; it has been done before, but it is not easy. They must do it now, and it's no one's fault but their own.

Something I would like to see Al Yarr do as far as team line-up is concerned; put Brian Peters on the wing instead of in the post. Peters is the best shooter on the team from outside 20 feet and he is big enough to shoot over most of the players in this league. He also has the moves to go around people. Inside the guy has trouble hitting the backboard with inside shots from four feet or less. Mike Flinn can do the job inside, with Bill Graves in reserve. This should also help the zone offense with a shooter like Brian outside. The team is still having trouble scoring against a zone defense.

The Tigers did come back Friday night to whip UPEI 88-57 but it was nothing to write home about. It was not a question of winning, but only by how much. The fact is, the team could have scored a 100 points if they had been shooting a little better.

Over to hockey, it looks as if the Tigers are in trouble as far as the play-offs are concerned. They lost to Moncton 4-3 and to Mount A 4-3. I can't say a great deal about the games as I haven't heard any comment about them. It runs their league record to 5-6. Play-offs can be made with an 11-7 or possibly 10-



GOING UP! — Tiger Pete Sprogis (23) and Panther Bill Robertson (54) go high in the air for a jump ball as teammates wait for the tap. Dal won 88-57.

steve jones/ dal photo

8 record. Dal still has games with SMU, PEI on the Island and two with St. F.X. so it will be a tough job to make the post season games. My only hope is that the team does not throw in

the towel and say to hell with it. They should have more pride than that.

That's all from me this week, but stay tuned next week for more of the same. Some time in

the future I may have something really big that will raise quite a stink as far as Dalhousie athletics are concerned.

Dal hosts swim meet

by Slim Slick

Dalhousie Swim team was host to MUN and UNB January 15 for an Atlantic Intercollegiate swim meet held at the Halifax Centennial Pool. Dal picked up five firsts and numerous seconds and third place finishes.

Dal's superstar, Guildford, swam to a first in 200 Freestyle (2:04.0), a first in 500 freestyle (5:37.9) lapping all the other swimmers by at least two lengths of the pool and a third in the 200 individual medley.

Our other firsts were: Leah Hull on a split decision in 50 yard freestyle, and Gail McFall in 200 breaststroke (3:04.4). It was a bitter second place for Dal's woman diver Donna Sutcliffe who had 105.45 points to first place M. Trenholm from UNB who had 105.55 points.

Final team results in women saw UNB defeat Dal. In men's results, MUN was overall winner with UNB in second spot. On January 14 both UNB and MUN defeated Acadia.

Our next swim meet is on

Friday, January 28 when we travel to Mt. A. and then on the UNB the next morning.

* * *

Tis the season to start sponsoring, and that includes Dal's swim team. This year, as previously, the Canadian Amateur Swimming Association is launching a campaign to raise funds for four reasons: (1) finances are required for professional coaching, (2) they are seeking exposure to a greater variety of competition meaning trips to international and national meets, Olympic trials, Pan Am games, etc., (3) struggling clubs need stabilizing, and (4) swimming success is proportional to training time in the water, so clubs must be able to

buy additional pool time.

The campaign is called the National Swim-a-Thon. The swimmer solicits pledges for a fixed amount of money (in cents) per length, or the pledge may be pledges for the swim. Each swimmer is limited to a single, continuous swim of two hours duration or 200 lengths, whichever comes first.

Following the swim, scheduled for February 1, the swimmer collects the pledges, displaying the authenticated report. 70% of the money earned goes to the swimmer's club, 20% goes to the provincial section of the C.A.S.A., and 10% goes to the national body of the C.A.S.A. Sponsor the swimmers, ask them about it and get involved.

Vern's Spaghetti & Pizza Palace

FREE DELIVERY
4 P.M. TO 1 A.M. DAILY

PIZZA IS OUR SPECIALTY
12 VARIETIES FOR YOUR EATING PLEASURE

OPEN FROM 11 A.M. TO 3 A.M. DAILY
6448 Quinpool Rd.
423-4168