

Some comments on officials



Overtime
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PLEASE ALLOW ME TO start off this edition of Overtime with the statement that I am not a referee, umpire or any other type of sport official, nor do I believe that I know one of these brave souls, though anything is possible. Many of this type of people keep their other occupation under close wraps for obvious reasons.

With that out of the way, I will now tell you that I have great admiration for sports officials. They certainly do not have the easiest job in the world: they are constantly being judged, criticized, and cast upon. They are also almost always being second guessed. I will give you an example of this.

Over the summer, Ricky Anderson defended his Canadian welterweight title, losing the fight by a technical knock out in the tenth round. The day after the fight several people in the local boxing scene said "Oh, if I was the ref, I would have counted slower, or given Ricky a chance to catch his breath, or stalled, and would have seen that he wasn't hurt as badly as that bleep bleep thought he was."

In professional football the players are sometimes dumped upon after the game for missing this catch or that block, but the officials on the field are constantly being dumped upon, and they are usually getting it in front of a national audience. How many times have there been replays where the commentators show the replay and say "Oh,

look at that, it was a good call by the officials." Of course it was a good call. They don't mess up that easily, or that often. They are right down there on the field, and there are particular officials to watch particular aspects of the game.

Officials, like the rest of us, are only human and when we criticize them we must keep this point in mind. They will not be perfect on every call, they will miss a few and yes, they may even see something and not call it, but after all, that's life.

The next time you're about to chew out a referee or some other official, put yourself in their position. It takes dedication to put on those uniforms game after game, get abuse hurled on you, and still try to do the best job possible.

Many fans have easily jumped on the hockey officials in the AUSA for sometimes slowing down play, missing all-too-obvious infractions and calling others that they thought were unfair; but this is just some excitement over the game being vented in a not very constructive way.

What I could suggest you do the next time you're about to criticize an official, be it in the amateur or pro ranks, is to use your energies in a more constructive way and think about the play, what the official might have seen and what you would have done if you were in their position.

It may change your view of the call.

Basketball Tigers split weekend games

THE DALHOUSIE WOMEN'S basketball Tigers split a pair of weekend contests and as a result now have a 2-3 record in conference play.

The Tigers defeated the Mount Allison Mounties 92-72 on Friday at the Dalplex but lost 82-61 to the University of Prince Edward Island Lady Panthers on Saturday afternoon in Charlottetown.

In the Mount Allison contest, Tigers' coach Carolyn Savoy received a strong performance from first year Tiger Kathy MacCormack. MacCormack collected 25 points and nine rebounds to lead the Tigers in both categories. Tiger captain Lisa Briggs scored 23 points while Sheri Thurrott and Susan Caldwell each counted 14.

The Mounties were led by Gail Burns with 25 points. Kim Doncaster added 13.

The half-time score was 50-31 for the Tigers.

On Saturday, the Tigers ran up against a tough Island squad and after leading 31-29 at the half, watched as UPEI poured in 53 points in the second stanza to secure the victory.

Briggs scored 14 for the Tigers while Peggy Johnson, who has just returned to the Dalhousie roster, counted 13.

The Lady Panthers' high scorer was five-foot Ria Bahadursingh with 23 points.

The Tigers' next game will be in Antigonish against the St. Francis Xavier X-ettes at 6:00 pm. January 24.

Tigers' streak ends at eight

THE DALHOUSIE MEN'S basketball Tigers saw their undefeated streak in AUBC play end abruptly when they suffered their first loss in league play, 75-66, at the hands of the Acadia Axemen at the Dalplex Tuesday.

The Tigers had defeated St. Mary's Huskies 80-71 on Sunday, and dropped Mount Allison Mounties 97-81 Friday.

In the loss to Acadia, George Leacock led the Tigers with 13 points. Pat Coiley, Darnell Williams, Mike Gillett and Bo Malott had ten points each in the loss.

Six-foot-four swingman Greg Brown led the Tigers with 21 points against St. Mary's. The Tigers fought back from a 41-36 half-time deficit in that game.

The Tigers will be on the road for their next three games. Dalhousie will play at University of Prince Edward Island Jan. 18, visit St. Mary's at 8 p.m. on Jan. 21, and are at St. Francis Xavier Jan. 24.

The Tigers' next home game is against St. Francis Xavier at 8:30 p.m. on January 28th.

Women's hockey club holds clinic

IT COULD HAVE BEEN A modified version of Howie Meeker's hockey school.

That is, minus the names on the helmets and, of course, Howie himself.

But it was pretty much the same in one respect — there was certainly learning and skill development taking place for the 11-to-17 year old girls from East Lantz who hit the ice with the Dal women's hockey club last Sunday.

When Lynn Hackett, women's hockey representative on the Nova Scotia Hockey Association, sent out a survey to find out where hockey was being played by females in the province, she got a quick response from East Lantz, where a fledgling girls hockey squad is just taking flight this year.

The East Lantz group got its start when Rob Dionne, a transplanted Upper Canadian, discovered there was no suitable competitive outlet for his daughter, who had played hockey in Ontario, to ply her skills, and decided to do something about it.

Dionne and a core group of interested local parents got together twenty girls from the ages 11 to 17 who wanted to play hockey. A one-hour time slot per week was secured for practises from the local Minor Hockey Association, and the team was off and running — er, skating.

However, one small problem remains — lack of anyone to play.

The girls played a local pee wee boys team recently, but no other young girls teams exist in the area as opponents.

"We're hoping to get more girls involved," says Gary Smiley, the father of one of the young aspiring goalies on the East Lantz squad. "You can only do so much by just practising. Ideally, we'd like to get enough girls involved to form four teams — two each at two different age levels — so they could play each other."

Chances are good that they'd be able to reach at least half their goal with ease, as 15 additional girls indicated an interest in the sport some time after the original team had been formed.

The purpose of the team's visit to Dalhousie to share the Dal women's hockey club practice was two-fold. First, it provided the girls with living proof that women can and do play hockey — a positive role model effect. And secondly, it provided an opportunity for one-on-one individual work on skills, as each of

the Dalhousie players paired off with one of the East Lantz girls while the whole group went through passing, skating and shooting drills.

The East Lantz goalies, shadowed by their Dalhousie counterparts, were instructed in the fine art of cutting down the angles while other Dalhousie teammates demonstrated shooting techniques or offered skill improvement tips — adjusting a grip here or a stance there. Vocal backing for participants in a relay skating drill was loud and supportive despite the odd player tripping over the blue line or skating past the puck.

"I think it's a really positive thing," said Smiley as he watched the activity from the stands. "I know the girls were really looking forward to it, and I'm sure

there will be a lot of talk about it on the way home. In fact, we'll probably be hearing about it for the rest of the season."

Dalhousie club president Kate Connors was pleased with the way the event transpired. "I think our team looked forward to doing it as much as the girls did," she said. "and we'd probably think about doing it again next year if the chance came up."

If you want to collect your own evidence that women can play hockey — and competently at that — the opportunity will arise this Friday night, when the Dal team hosts Acadia in an exhibition contest at 10:30 p.m. at the Dalhousie Memorial Arena. Dalhousie will travel to Acadia this Sunday to play another exhibition tilt.

Swim Tigers extend unbeaten streak

THE DALHOUSIE TIGERS men's and women's swim teams each extended their respective AUSA undefeated streaks over the weekend as both squads downed their counterparts from Acadia in an AUSA Dual Meet held in Wolfville on Friday.

The Women Tigers, who won 10 of 11 events in winning 67-18, have won six straight AUSA dual meets this season and 14 in a row. The Tigers have also won 53 of their last 54 AUSA dual meets.

The Men Tigers, who swept all 11 events in defeating the Axemen 71-8, have also won six consecutive meets this season and have now won 46 of their last 54.

The men Tigers who clinched first place finishes were Ralph Akerstream, 100m Fly and 100m Breast, Darryl Dutton, 400m IM and 100m Back, Kent Williams, 200 and 400m Free, Chris Petrie,

50m Free, Arthur Rennie, 100m Free and John MacIssac, 800m Free.

In the women's meet, the Tiger winners included Susan Duncan, 800m Free and 100m Back, Marie Moore, 400m IM and 100m Free, Sue Malone, 200m Free, Heather Kaulbach, 50m Free, Mary Mowbray, 100m Fly and Monique Deveau, 400, Free.

The lone Acadia winner was Holly Smith in the 100m Breast.

Tiger coach Nigel Kemp said that this is a rebuilding year for the Acadia teams and that next weekend's AUSA Invitational should provide a more definitive test as to where the Tigers stand in relationship to the rest of the conference. Both of the Tigers teams won the first AUSA Invitational held at Dalhousie in November.

Tigers sports this week

Date	Sport	Against	Place	Time
Jan. 17	Volleyball (M)	U de M	Home	7 p.m.
Jan. 18	Volleyball (M)	U de M	Home	1 p.m.
Jan. 18	Volleyball (W)	MUN	Away	7 p.m.
Jan. 18	Basketball (M)	PEI	Away	7 p.m.
Jan. 18	Hockey	St. F.X.	Home	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 19	Volleyball (W)	MUN	Away	Noon
Jan. 19	Hockey	PEI	Home	2 p.m.
Jan. 21	Basketball (M)	SMU	Away	8 p.m.