

Sports

Dal Tigers edge Axemen

by Greg Dennis

The Dalhousie Tigers edged the Acadia Axemen 4-2 Saturday evening to slip into first place in the east division of the Atlantic Intercollegiate Hockey League, one point up on St. F.X.

Adrian Facca's powerplay goal at 5:02 of the second period lifted Dal to their victory over Acadia. After a lackluster first period in which the Axemen took a 2-1 lead, the Tigers came to life in the 2nd frame and quickly knotted the score when Brian Gualazzi snapped the puck high over a sprawling Jeff Beazley for his second goal of the night and eleventh of the year. Just three minutes later, Kevin Zimmel found Facca parked in front of the Axemen goal and the big left-winger made no mistake in potting the game winner.

With the clock ticking away the final seconds of the last period and the Axemen goaltender on the bench in favor of an extra attacker, defenceman Louis Lavoie directed the puck towards the vacated cage and

scored the fourth Tiger goal.

Acadia took their first period lead on a power-play goal by Juan Strickland and a short-handed tally by Keith Holbrook.

Tiger goaltender Ken Bickerton turned in a spectacular performance kicking out 28 shots and robbing the speedy Strickland at least three times. In the final minute, shortly before Lavoie's clincher, Bickerton made the play of the game

snaring a wicked drive from the point labelled for the corner of the net.

Coach Pierre Page is pleased with the strides his club has made since the 6-1 loss to SMU two weeks ago but still feels there is much room for improvement. "We need to work on our specialty teams, forechecking and face-offs," said Page, "and especially on defence. I'd like to see more leadership in controlling and carrying the puck."

The best defence is the best offence."

Dal now faces four games in a week beginning last night in Antigonish against the second place X-Men, who have two games in hand on the Tigers. This is a must-win situation and provides the Tigers with their biggest challenge this season thus far. On the weekend Dal plays host to UPEI and Memorial on Saturday at two o'clock and Sunday

at one respectively. Due to prior commitments by the Forum, these 'home' games will be played at Scotia Stadium in Cole Harbour. At 1:15 on Saturday, a bus will pick up students in front of the SUB to transport them, free of charge, to and fro the UPEI game. No arrangements have been made for the Sunday game. Then on Wednesday the 28th, Acadia returns for an 8:00 encounter at the Forum.

Standings (as of Monday, November 19)

	EAST			Pts.	GF	GA
	W	L	T			
Dalhousie	5	2	1	11	37	30
St. F.X.	5	1	0	10	44	22
Acadia	4	4	0	8	32	30
St. Mary's	3	3	0	6	29	13

	WEST			Pts.	GF	GA
	W	L	T			
Mt. Allison	5	3	0	10	44	41
Moncton	4	1	1	9	42	27
U.P.E.I.	4	3	0	8	33	21
U.N.B.	2	4	0	4	23	37
St. Thomas	2	7	0	4	36	64
Memorial	1	7	0	2	27	62

Dal Rugby wins provincial crown

Halifax RFC: 17
Dal RFC: 18

An over-confident Halifax side was very quickly surprised by Dal's tough, mobile pack and by the superb running and kicking of the backs. Fly-half Steve Boutcher put Dal on the scoreboard with a penalty kick from the twenty-five meter line early in the first half and then went on to supply another three points with a superb drop goal from a free kick in front of Halifax's posts. The Halifax squad was considerably heavier than their Dal counterparts and consequently won most of the ball from the scrums, but Dalhousie forwards, being taller and more mobile, won all the line-outs and most of the loose play. Boutcher's kicking allowed wingers Ross Denman and Steve Barley to wreak havoc in the Halifax backfield but solid and sometimes desperate tackling by Halifax prevented any Dalhousie tries. The two Halifax tries resulted from pushover scrumming close to Dal's goal line and their lead was further consolidated by an easy penalty kick leaving the half-time score 11:6 in favour of Halifax.

Steve Boutcher scored yet another drop goal early in the second half, this time from forty meters distance, reducing the point spread to two. Superb line-out play by Rick Pearson and John Stairs provided the side with lots of possession and paved the way for fast, exciting running by the backs. Center Nigel Kent momentarily raised Dal's hopes by striding past a Halifax winger and running through a couple of opposition players for a try but a dubious call by the linesman negated the effort. However, Steve Boutcher gave Dal the lead with his third drop goal of the game and a few minutes later Nigel Kent intercepted a pass and hurtled 60 meters up the field for an easily converted try. Although Halifax came back to score before the final whistle, it was Dalhousie who emerged with a well deserved victory and a berth in

the following weekend's final.

Dal RFC: 12 Truro RFC: 0

Dal had to play into an extremely strong wind during the first half of this final against Truro and the ball was almost constantly in the Dalhousie half. However very strong forward play, led by a brilliant performance by number eight Trevor Probyn, easily contained the Truro offensive. Both fullback Brian Oliphant and fly-half Steve Boutcher displayed flawless defensive abilities, fielding and returning Truro's high kicks effortlessly. Center Jeremy Daw again provided the awesome tackles for which, in just one short season, he has already gained considerable renown. The game was scoreless at half-time but with the wind behind them for the upcoming forty minutes, things had turned very much in Dal's favour.

Dal's 12 points were all easily supplied by Steve Boutcher from four penalty kicks bringing to a remarkable 26 the total number of points supplied by him in the two playoff games. However the low score in no way reflects Dal's total dominance of the half—Truro managed to cross the half-way line only once and for most of the time were engaged in a somewhat frantic defense of their goal line. Prop forward Allan Locke, fortified with fearsome garlic breath, and his fellow prop Lloyd Gaskell both played extremely well in the loose—tackling, supporting and making several useful breaks. After pouncing upon a loose ball in the end zone, a bruised Jeremy Daw was robbed of a try by a very doubtful call from the referee and the very determined efforts of wingers Ross Denman and Steve Barley came within inches of getting the ball over the line. When the final whistle went the score stood only at 12:0 but it was more than enough to bestow upon a jubilant Dalhousie side the title of Nova Scotia Rugby Champions.



Rum flavoured.
Wine dipped.

Crack a pack of Colts along with the cards.