

Tigers Find the Island Hospitable

by Bruce Galloway

The Dal hockey Tigers had revenge over the weekend by defeating UPEI twice in AUSA league action at Charlottetown. Last year, the Panthers surprised Dal in the AUSA semi-final's, eliminating the first place Tigers from post-season play.

Last weekend the Tigers left nothing to chance, crushing UPEI 7-1 on Saturday, while Sunday saw Dalhousie come from behind to post a 5-3 victory.

Tiger captain Brian Gualazzi led all Dal scorers with three goals in the two games while Moochie Friesen and Tim Cranston picked up two apiece.

In Sunday's game the Tigers found themselves down 3-1 at the end of the first period after making some costly errors in their own end. However, the Tigers came out flying in the second period, scoring three goals, and then cruised to a 5-3 victory. Friesen had two goals for the Tigers while Cranston, Gualazzi and Louie Lavoie contributed singles.

Saturday afternoon Dal exploded for six unanswered goals in the third period enroute to a 7-1 shellacking of the Panthers. After playing to a 1-1 tie over the first

two periods, Dal switched to a strong forechecking game which totally confused the Panthers.

Dal coach Peter Esdale was pleased with the team's weekend performances. "Anytime you go to the Island and pick up four points you know you've played well," said Esdale.

A key factor in the Tigers' play was the strong goaltending of Darren Cossar and Glen Ernst. As in earlier games Esdale rotated the two keepers, with Cossar playing Saturday and Ernst getting the nod Sunday. "They are both first rate goalies, and can make significant contributions to the team," remarked Esdale.

Ironically, Cossar and Ernst have shared goalkeeping duties before, having played together for Brantford of the Ontario Major Junior League.

The Tigers are on the road again this weekend as they travel to Orono, Maine to take on the University of Maine Black Bears. The Tigers' next home game is on November 16 when they host the Acadia Axemen. Game time is 7:30 at the Dal rink.



Morris/Dal Photo

A Chinese forward comes in hard on the Dal net during last Thursday's 4-1 victory for the Chinese National team.

Chinese Nationals Stymie Tigers

by John Perkyns

The Dalhousie Memorial Arena (not rink - that was the old one) was full last Thursday night for an exhibition hockey game between our Tigers and the National team from the Peoples' Republic of China, with the Chinese Nationals winning 4-1.

Hockey and China are not likely partners and I'm sure everybody who was there had at least one misconceived notion of the team. I knew they wouldn't be small, but I thought the coaching help they've had from Canada might have helped out their obvious deficiencies in the shooting and checking department.

The Chinese team's forte was perhaps their discipline on offence.

They had several well polished plays, and they played their positions well. However, they didn't seem to have the same "hockey sense" that the Tigers had. On one occasion China found themselves in a three-on-one situation and for no apparent reason two of them dropped back.

The Tigers didn't seem to attach much importance to the game. The usual hard-hitting play was not in evidence for most of the game. Unfortunately, when the Dal attack did intensify, the real star of the otherwise average Chinese team really shone. Their goalie made several brilliant saves, including one on John Kibyuk on a breakaway. In general, there were many good Dal chances missed by a whisker.

The game was a crowd-pleaser - there were a lot of close calls at the goal line and poor calls by the referee to jeer about. It was not, however, a game well played by either team, as evidenced by two short-handed goals (one against each team), and the numerous two-on-one and three-on-two plays going both ways.

Nobody seemed to mind the bungled opportunities, though, and the largely Chinese-Canadian crowd seemed to go home happy with the visitors on the good side of the 4-1 final score.

Post script: One night later the Saint Mary's Huskies bullied the Chinese Nationals into an embarrassing 9-1 defeat.



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