

# SPORTS

## Dal rocks the house with 2000 fans

by Jo Kitch

Over 2000 screaming fans packed the Memorial arena last Friday night for a Kelly Division showdown. The game pitted the number one ranked team in the nation, the Acadia Axemen and the Dalhousie Tigers. Fans hoping for hard hitting, exciting hockey were not disappointed, this was a great game.

The Tigers were put into an early hole as referee Peter Macdonald called two quick penalties to start the game. Down two men Dal goalie Scott Macdonald snared a tipped shot from the point and then stood his ground defending a 2 on 1 rush, killing the penalty. After Norm Batherson of Acadia was impaled on the far glass by Allan Cox the ref called another Dal penalty, the third for the Tigers before Acadia had been penalized once. At 10:49 of the first period Kevin Knop ripped a blistering shot from the point beating Macdonald and putting Acadia up 1-0. Fifty seconds later Dalhousie committed a terrible puck control error behind their net giving up control and the Acadia player stuffed an easy one in the short side. At this point the Tigers seemed shaken, both by the ref and their opponents and needed to return to their physical play. Hit, Hit, Hit!

With one second left in their first man advantage Dal began to fight back. Andrew MacVicar recovered a loose puck in Acadia territory, rushed the net on his backhand and flipped the puck over a surprised opposition goalie cutting the lead in half. This great goal stopped the momentum and the crowd went nuts. After exchanging goals the teams headed for the dressing room with the score Refs 3 Dal 2.

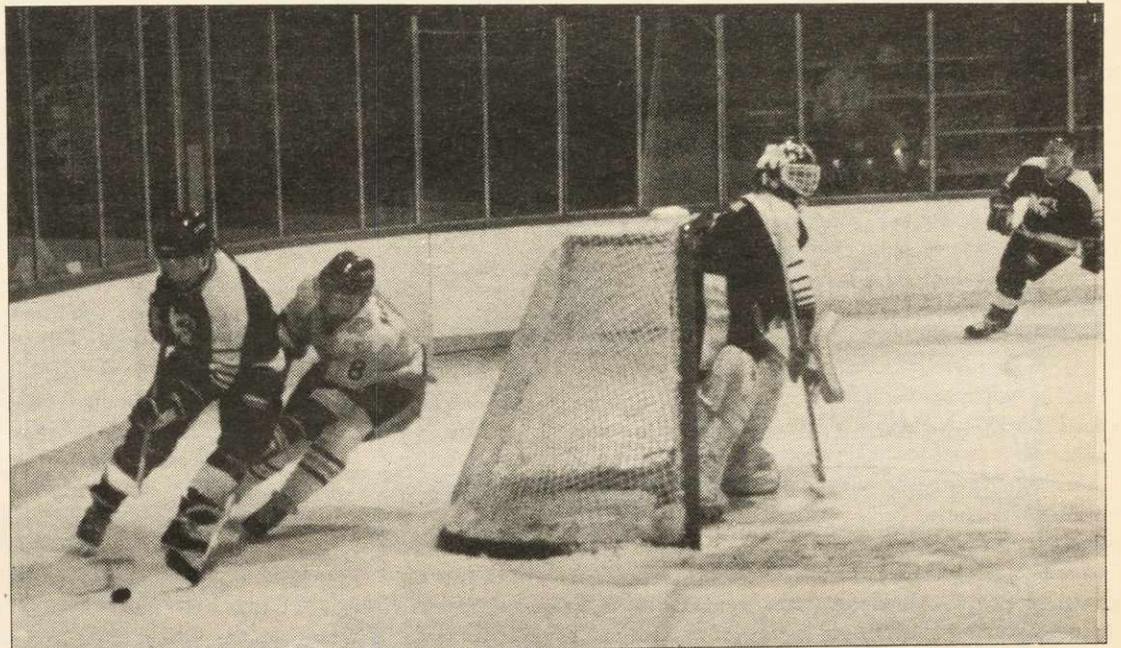
The home team started the second period out penalized and simply tried to contain with special teams. At 3:59, totally away from the play, referee MacDonald called a 5 minute penalty against Dal. This call was total bullshit and was very reflective of the zebra's intention to influence the game. As the crowd let him have it MacDonald relented and called a blatant elbow on Acadia a minute later. The Tigers, obviously frustrated by whistle happy Mac, started playing extremely disciplined, physical hockey. At 8:28 Dal forward Scott Milroy calmly explained to an Acadia forward the perils of coming over the middle—boom, what a hit! From the stands you could see the

anguish on the visitor's face as the wind deflated from his body with haste. He was decked and intelligently retreated to his bench. Inspired, the Tigers scored on the power-play just before the period ended, tying the score. Acadia may have had first place nailed down but a message was sent with that hit. The road to the CIAU's comes over the middle here at Dal- so keep you're head up.

As the zamboni cleaned the ice there was a sense of nervous anticipation in the building. The number one team in the country with only one loss was headed for number two. Waiting for the third period to start I was very happy I had moved from the visitors section to the home crowd. My late arrival gave me a ticket situated amongst the bus boozers from Wolfville. Don't get me wrong, drinkers are great, but these fans stank like your dirty old grandfather. Bourbon or Sherry, unshaven and slurred.

At 4:09 of the third the Tigers took their first lead of the game. Greg Smyth took a rebound on his backhand and crossed the goal mouth waiting, waiting, waiting some more, then snap! a backhander into the top right corner, 4-3 Dal. The crowd raised the roof supporting the hard working home squad. Acadia showed their frustrations by playing cheap with their sticks. While the play was stopped with 15 minutes to go in the game, punky #15 from Acadia slashed Joe Suk for no reason as he skated off the ice. O'Reilly, you're as bush league as your fans. With 6 minutes left Acadia scored off the face off when a shot from the point hit an Acadia player in the head, bounced to the goalmouth, and was tipped home. Neither team scored in the intense overtime period and Dal earned an incredible tie.

The officiating in this game was brutal. I so look forward to the day when officials at the amateur and professional levels realize we, the fans, come to see the players play, not the refs blow whistles. MacDonald continually baited the coaches and players and seemed to enjoy stopping the play for gloved puck infractions and needless penalties. I understand that you must not let games get out of hand but my experience with Dal home games has been that the play only stops when a penalty is called. Way to go Dal, you fought well against two opponents Friday night.



Agressive forechecking leads to wins

DAL PHOTO: MIKE DAVENPORT

by Derek Neary

Hockey's Dalhousie Tigers have earned five of a possible six points over their last three games. The Tigers scored a pair of come-from-behind victories over the Saint Mary's Huskies and fought the Acadia Axemen to a 4-4 draw.

The scoreboard doesn't register bodychecks but the Tigers were way out in front in that category during their Sunday, February 7 meeting with the Huskies.

"In the first five minutes we had 23 hits which is amazing," said coach Darrell Young, who does keep tabs on the physical play. The Tigers' aggressiveness led to a number of scoring chances, including two shots that hit the post. Unfortunately, the scoreboard also doesn't record great saves and both SMU's Jamie McGuire and Dal's Scott MacDonald made plenty of them in the first period.

Both teams made up for the lack of offence in the second period. Kiefer Housie, Ken MacDermid, and Andrew MacVicar each scored as the contest was knotted at 3-3 after two periods of play.

Saint Mary's went ahead at 2:26 of the third on a Joel Cousins goal. It wasn't until 18:28 that right winger Greg Smyth evened the score when he beat McGuire with a backhand.

With 43 seconds remaining on the clock, the puck bounced off the boards and Smyth stuffed it in the SMU net for the game winner.

"It's never over till the final buzzer goes," Smyth said after the game. "Tonight it was a lucky win. You're not going to win games like that every night, but they all count."

"I think we could have played much better than we did," said coach Young. "It's not an excuse but we're playing a heavy schedule: we play something like 15 games in 45 days in this half. Emotionally the game on Friday night [against Acadia] took a lot out of the guys."

### -only 2 games left

The Tigers took on the Axemen on February 5 and the Dalhousie Memorial Arena was jammed in anticipation of an intense battle. Acadia led 2-0 midway through the opening frame when MacVicar pulled the Tigers to within a goal. George Wilcox added a second tally for Dal but the home team trailed 3-2 at the intermission. MacVicar scored the only goal of the second period and Smyth put the Tigers up 4-3 with a power play marker early in the third. Dal held the lead until Acadia's Duane Dennis notched his second

goal on the night to send the game into overtime. Despite a number of power plays and an abundance of shots, the Tigers were unable to beat Acadia's Dennis Sproston late in the game or in OT. Dal did manage to put an end to the Axemen's game winning streak.

On Wednesday, February 3 the Tigers built a 4-1 cushion over two periods against Saint Mary's. MacVicar, Wilcox, Joe Suk, and Trent Gleason each had singles for Dalhousie. But the Tigers collapsed in the third period as SMU roared back to score four unanswered goals and take a 5-4 lead. Defenseman Brian MacDonald tied the game with a late marker. Centre Corey MacIntyre helped the Tigers pull out the win when he scored the game winner with 2:07 left in regulation.

Following weekend play Dal stood at 14-8-1 and have not been defeated in seven games.

"We're in pretty good standing," said coach Young. "We're playing with confidence. We're on our way up. That's all that matters right now."

The Tigers played the St. Francis Xavier X-Men on Wednesday, February 10. Dal will wrap up the regular season with a pair of home games. UPEI will provide the competition on Friday, February 12 and the Cape Breton Capers will visit on Sunday, February 14.

### Scoreboard

	Kelly Division						MacAdam Division						
	W	L	T	F	A	Pts	W	L	T	F	A	Pts	
Acadia	21	1	2	154	66	44	UNB	16	7	1	141	98	33
Dal	14	8	1	119	101	29	Moncton	12	11	1	97	99	25
St. Mary's	10	13	1	110	127	21	St. Thomas	11	12	2	115	121	24
Cape Breton	10	13	1	112	122	21	UPEI	7	13	4	93	122	18
St. FX	7	17	0	99	136	14	Mt. A	5	18	1	93	141	11

Friday Night UPEI at Dal 7:30 pm  
 Sunday Afternoon UCB at Dal 2:00 pm

### Dalhousie Athletes of the Week

\* APRIL DELORME \*

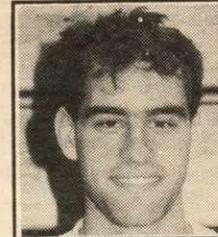


WVB -  
2 wins

Feb. 1 - 8



\* EVERETT ROSE \*



MVB -  
4th @  
Laval  
Carnival

Player of the Game: 92 assists, 21 digs, 5 st. blk

Tournament All-Star: 48 K, 2.55 SR, 9 st. blk

### Follow the Tigers