

Dalhousie's bitter defeat to U.P.E.I.

by Joel Fournier

The Tigers loss on Sunday to the UPEI Panthers was probably their most bitter defeat of the four games they have lost so far this season.

Pre-game optimism among the players and coaches ran high and this feeling was shared by many of the fans including this writer. This was to be the game that would see the Tigers live up to their potential and get back on the winning track.

This was to be the game that would see the less then explosive offence shake off the doldrums they have been in and control the game with a well balanced attack. This was to be the game that would feature four outstanding athletes playing before their home fans for the last time.

Unfortunately this was the game that would probably for the reasons mentioned above, leave the players and the coaches with their worst taste of defeat ever. When you want to do something so badly that you can taste it and then fail, especially after coming very close, the feeling is almost indescribable.

Football is an emotional game, it is played in a super charged emotional atmosphere. As a result when you win it's a feeling like nothing else you've ever experienced- the problem is when you lose it's almost unbearable. Of course that only applies to players and coaches who put everything they have into it - last Sunday the boys gave it all they had.

Because of their eagerness they made some very costly errors in the early going and this coupled with a

well executed passing attack by the Panthers soon found Dal on the Short end of a 17-0 score. Before the half was over however, the Tigers had battled back behind the pin-point passing attack of Quarterback Mark Raymond to close the half out trailing only by three.

The third quarter was probably one of Dal's best this year. A beautiful passing play from Raymond to Steve Keer put the Tigers ahead for the first time in the game a position they held until about the

three minute mark of the last quarter.

Then the roof caved in. PEI completed a long bomb that took them down to the Dal four yard line and two plays later they plunged over for the score. Even then the feeling on the Dal bench was that somehow they would get it back. But this time it was just not to be and the final whistle sounded with the Panthers the winners by four points.

The four players who played their

last home game were co-captains Peter Coll and Barry Fleming and line stars Garth Horne and Billy Skinner. When I say that these four athletes are without a doubt among the finest individuals that I have ever had the pleasure of coaching I am also echoing the sentiments of the entire coaching staff. They are all, besides being tremendously talented and dedicated athletes, fine gentlemen. They would be considered a credit to any athletic

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Soccer completes perfect record

The SMU Stadium last Saturday was the scene of the Soccer Tigers final league game. The Tigers were out to complete a perfect 10 and 0 record. The Huskies were also very anxious to try and defeat the best team in the league. Kevin Mayo was able to take advantage of a perfect cross by Cogan to put the Tigers ahead by one goal at the half.

Martin Bates was required to "do a job" on ace striker McMahon of St. Mary's. He did just that and played his best game of the season. Unfortunately a penalty was awarded to the Huskies which was converted by Carl Singh. With the game tied at 1-1 the Tigers began to put on the pressure. There was a phase in the game where Dalhousie were asking all the questions. This phase climaxed with a good play from Bob Moss which allowed Sandy Burns to score the winning goal. This was Burns first goal of the season and was very fitting for the captain to score the winning

goal at the end of a perfect regular season.

Next weekend sees the Tigers in the play offs. Unless they win these two games the perfect 10 and 0 record is for nothing. With the Atlantic Play offs and the National Championships all of which are sudden death games, it means that the Tigers are beginning a brand new season. We wish them the very best of luck. What this campus needs is a National Champion and the Soccer Tigers could bring that to Dalhousie this year.

It must also be mentioned that the Tigers "B" team also played this weekend. They tied 2-2 with Acadia. This result means that the "B" team are League Champions and keep the President's Trophy again this year. Not much is said about the Tigers back-up squad but it is very important. Not only do they play good soccer and win championships but they provide good consistent opposition for the

"A" team. Without this support the "A" team would undoubtedly suffer. Good work "B" team, the university is proud of you.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

This week's game against the Huskies was going to be tough. The Huskies have one or two good players. One player in particular would have been a threat to the Tigers in this final game. It was necessary, therefore, to mark this player of the game, thus nullifying the effect of that player. Martin Bates, was charged with this responsibility and he performed his duty well. Strong and determined Bates never allowed his quarry to turn. This young man from New Waterford captured the fans and they were delighted in his destructive ability. It has been said of this Cape Breton native that he was not born but quarried. Congratulations Martin Bates - Tiger of the Week.

Get it while its free !

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