

You Win Some... and Lose Some



by Keith Johnston

"If the fans could see a game like that every time, you'd sure have no problems filling this Gym." Those comments from Coach Howard Lockhart of Lakehead University, following the Norwesters' rousing 89-88 victory over the Dal Tigers. As the score indicates, it was a game which produced a lot of fine offence, and was, for most of the way, anybody's game.

The Norwesters were led by 6'8" Texas native Mike

Holyfield who muscled his way in for 30 points and hauled down 11 rebounds. The Lakehead guards; particularly Jim MacKay, utilized Holyfield to his utmost, consistently getting him the ball inside, where the big man appeared virtually unstoppable.

As good as his performance was, however, it was Jeff Watson's lay up with less than 30 seconds left which allowed the Norwesters to leave the gym smiling. He ended up with 28

points overall, stinging Dal for 20 in the second half.

However, the spotlight once again fell upon Dal's Kevin Kelly, who continues to show that despite being a Commerce student, he sure can play basketball. He put together two great halves Friday night, grabbing 12 rebounds and scoring 36 points on a variety of tough inside moves along with his now patented, yet incredible 15 foot step-back, turn around, fade-away, lean-to-the right jumper.

In addition for Dal, towering Mike Donaldson was a force on the boards and chipped in with 14 points while Dave Iverson although erratic at times, added 12 points along with showing that he is "just slightly ahead of his time" in the passing department.

The game, although a bit heartbreaking for the Tigers was definitely encouraging, as it showed they are able to play on even terms with one of the best college teams in the nation. The evenness was not only reflected in the final score, but also in rebounding which Dal led 33-27 and field goal percentages, where Lakehead scored on 48% of their attempts compared to Dal's 47%.

As Coach Yarr claimed following the game, "I think we played a good ball for 33 minutes. It was that period of 7 minutes at the start of the second half that killed us." Those slow second half starts are something the Tigers will have to iron out by tonight before meeting Saint Mary's, who take great delight in using an opportunity like that to bury you.

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The Dal Tigers, coming off a narrow defeat Friday night, sought revenge by pasting "Packy's Boys" from St. F.X. on Saturday 88-76 in a rather low-key game.

Six Tigers scored in double figures with Kevin Kelly leading the way once again with 18. Dave Iverson added 16, and Mike Donaldson, Bob Fagan and John Driscoll all getting 11 apiece. Bill Burns, who is Coach Yarr's opinion, "had his best game of the young season", pumped in 10 points and played stellar defence for the Tigers.

For the X-Men, two players, 6'8" Center Jake Brien and forward Paul McGrath tallied 17 apiece.

The Tigers who had control through most of the game, playing before a somewhat lethargic Antigonish crowd, and scored 42% of their attempts versus 36.5% for St. F.X. The X-Men did, however, put the wood to Dal's big men, as they out rebounded them 57 to 39.

Coach Yarr, although not overly impressed with the Tigers' performance, felt they played quite solidly overall. "Our defensive rebounding", he said, "is hurting, however everything else is looking pretty good."

So, now the Tigers head into a Tuesday night encounter at Acadia against a young Axeman squad and are back tonite to entertain the Saint Mary's Huskies, in probably their biggest pre-Xmas game. The game gets underway this evening Thursday Dec 5 at 8:00 in the Dal Gym and though SMU is coming off a long string of games, will undoubtedly offer the Tigers their toughest competition to date.

The game should be a real barnstormer and could indicate whether Dal's hopes for an Atlantic play-off berth are justified or not, so why not drop over and offer some LOUD vocal encouragement!

Tickets may be picked up at the Dal Gymnasium beginning Wednesday at 9:00 p.m. until Thursday, December 5, 5:00 p.m.

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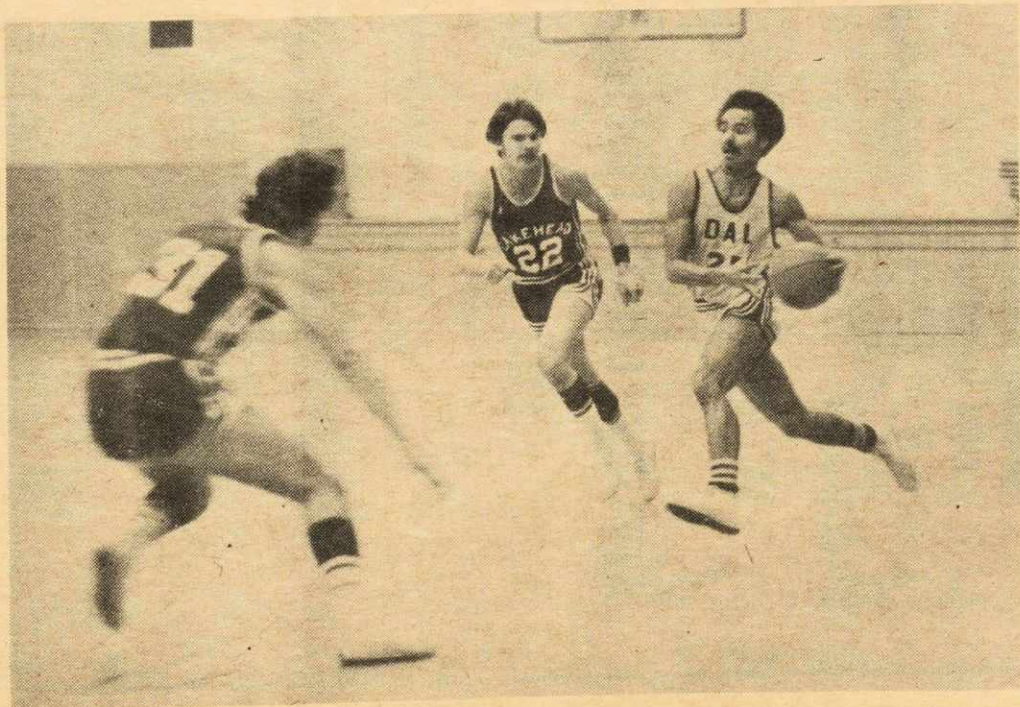
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