

Tigers continue mastery of Acadia!

Dal remains competitive in division

BY TERRY HAWES

Even though the Dalhousie Tigers hockey team are in last place in the Kelly Division, don't tell the Acadia Axemen they are an easy opponent.

The Tigers defeated the Axemen 3-2 last Wednesday in Wolfville for just their third win in 12 matches this season. Two of Dal's three wins have been against Acadia.

With their 6-0 loss to the UNB Varsity Reds on Saturday, the Tigers have a 3-9-2 record heading into their last game before the Christmas Break on December 1 against Saint Mary's.

Dalhousie 3 Acadia 2
(Nov 24)

Rookie netminder Scott Gouthro's effort impressed the crowd in his first start of the season with the victory over Acadia.

Dal head coach, Shane Easter decided to give Neil Savary a night off and it paid dividends as the Tigers put together an all-around effort for the win.

The Axemen led 1-0 after the first period on a goal by Mike O'Leary, but that changed early in the second with goals by Derrick Pyke and Dallas Gray. Acadia levelled the game before the period was over with a marker by Chad

Cavanagh.

Gouthro took over in the final 20 minutes as the Axemen outshot Dal 12-5. Jan Melicherik scored the winner at the 2:40 mark leaving Acadia wondering why it can beat St. FX and St. Mary's, but have to struggle against the Tigers.

Coach Easter praised Gouthro for his strong play.

"He's been working hard in practice and deserved a chance. I felt it might spark our defence and it worked!"

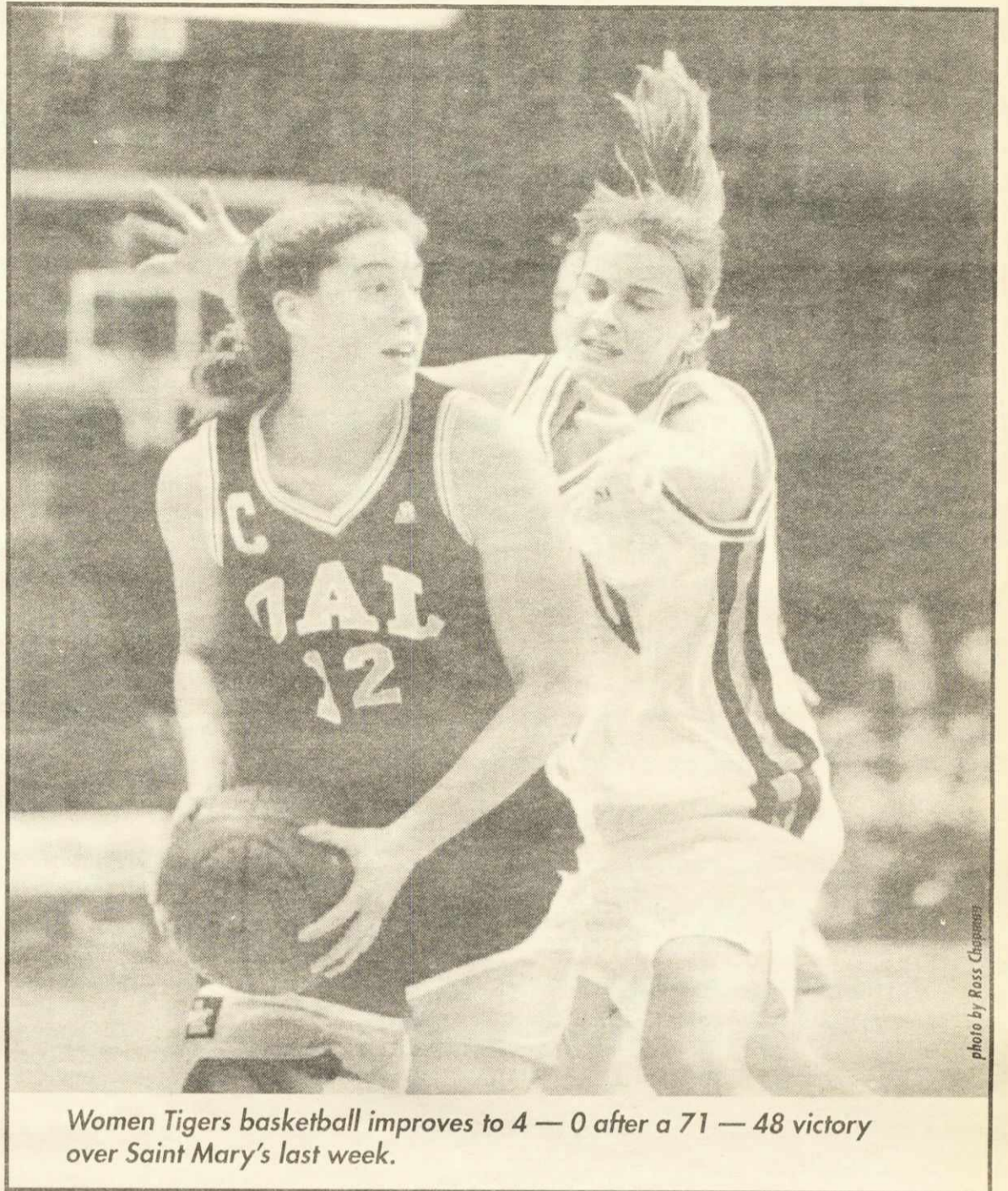
Gouthro was solid in the Dal goal stopping 32 of 34 shots. He didn't look out of place, and playing in a tough atmosphere like Wolfville only enhanced his prospects for future starts.

UNB 6 Dalhousie 0 (Nov 27)

At the Aitken Centre, the Reds scored three times in the first and second periods for an easy victory over the Tigers on Saturday night.

Scoring for UNB were Dave Geris, Jason Doyle, Joe Bouvier, Ryan Walsh, Graham Schlender and Rob Hegberg. Ken Carroll recorded the shutout for the Reds, who are second in the MacAdam Division.

UNB goalie Ken Carroll was tested despite the 6-0 score. He made 39 saves, including 17 in the first period as the Reds took an early lead and never looked back.



Women Tigers basketball improves to 4 — 0 after a 71 — 48 victory over Saint Mary's last week.

St. Mary's not on a Laval playing field

BY BLAIR SANDERSON

For most people, their biggest achievement when they were four years old was learning to talk. But for the Laval Rouge et Or football program, they're already national champions.

Laval, the Ontario-Quebec Intercollegiate Football Conference (OQIFC) champion and Churchill Bowl winner, defeated the St. Mary's Huskies, the Atlantic University Athletic Association (AUAA) champion and Atlantic Bowl winner, 14-10 on Saturday in the Vanier Cup at the SkyDome.

The Vanier Cup win was the first by an OQIFC team since the Queen's Golden Gaels blanked Saint Mary's 31-0 in 1992. And the Laval win is the first by a Quebec-based university since the McGill Redmen routed the British Columbia Thunderbirds 47-11 in 1987 — just the province's second champion in over 30 years.

While the Rouge et Or finished the 1999 season with a 10-2 record, the Huskies were handed just their second loss of the year, finishing 9-2. However, the Vanier Cup loss broke the team's nine-game winning streak. St. Mary's hadn't tasted defeat since their opening contest of the year, a 21-18 road loss to the Acadia Axemen on September 18. The 35th Vanier Cup was atypical of the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union (CIAU) championship game. Both defences dominated the day, with only three combined points — a Huskies' field goal — allowed in the second half.

Laval defensive lineman

Francesco 'Pepe' Esposito was named the game's outstanding defensive player. He forced a fumble that snuffed out the Huskies' last-minute comeback attempt. He also had a fumble recovery earlier in the game and four tackles.

"[Esposito] was a machine, a tackling machine out there," said Rouge et Or defensive lineman Hugues Beauchamp.

The forced fumble came as Saint Mary's quarterback Ryan Jones scrambled out of the pocket across the Laval 40-yard line. As he tried to cut back to the middle of the field, Esposito ran him down from behind and stripped the ball loose towards the sideline.

Linebacker Yves Theriault scooped the ball up and returned it down the sideline to the Huskies' 25-yard line. However, the game's turning point occurred with just over five minutes remaining in the first half and the game tied at seven. The Rouge et Or were pinned deep in their end of the field, at the 10-yard line. After a five-yard penalty and four yards lost on a quarterback sack, Laval faced a second-and-19 situation. Quarterback Mathieu Bertrand then scrambled around his end zone for a few seconds before finding receiver Pascal Robitaille wide open near midfield.

The play covered 51 yards and gave the Rouge et Or some much-needed breathing room. After Bertrand found Robitaille again for 18 yards on the next play, running back Stephane Lefebvre busted loose for a 41-yard touchdown run — his second of the game, earning him the MVP award —. In just three plays, the explosive Laval offence

had moved the ball 100 yards for a touchdown and a 14-7 lead.

The Rouge et Or defence had to come up big in the fourth quarter, as Bertrand left the game after suffering a concussion in the third. Saint Mary's defence was stymied by a Saint Mary's offence that made several clutch plays just as the Huskies appeared poised to score. In the critical last quarter, St. Mary's could only make four first downs and gain 92 yards of offence — including just 34 on the ground. Esposito had plenty of help from his team-mates.

Rouge et Or linebacker Patrick Boies led the team with six tackles. Cornerback Etienne Vanslette was around the ball all day long, picking up five tackles and assisting on three. And linebacker Francis Lariviere was a pain for

Jones, sacking him twice.

"This was a special win for us, not only because it was the Vanier Cup. We knew that Saint Mary's had an excellent offence," said Esposito. "They have a great quarterback, two great running backs, and great receivers."

The Huskies had a balanced offence, but no one star emerged to steal the day. The much-feared running back duo of Luis Perez and Atlantic Bowl MVP Dean Jones could only combine for 118 yards and a touchdown on the ground. Wide receiver Jay Currie, from Toronto, led Saint Mary's with six catches and 79 yards.

In spite of the diminutive score — the lowest for a Vanier Cup since Queen's beat UBC 16-3 in 1978 — both offences racked up

plenty of yards in an evenly played contest. The Huskies had only 12 fewer yards of net offence for the game (397-385). However they paid for committing three turnovers, all fumbles, while the Saint Mary's defence could only force one. Each team missed two field goals, stalling drives deep into opposition territory.

NOTE: Huskies players wore the number seven on the back of their helmets during the game to honour former head coach Larry Uteck. He wore that number while a member of the Toronto Argonauts in the 1970s. Uteck was forced to step down as Saint Mary's head coach two years ago when he was diagnosed with the debilitating Lou Gehrig's disease. His condition has recently begun to worsen.

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