

# St. FX drops Tiger basketball

BY ANDREW COOKE

Led by their balanced and steady attack, the St. FX X-Men won at the Dalplex for the first time in over two years. With nine players seeing double digit minutes, the Xavier frontcourt simply wore down a depleted Dalhousie frontline.

Clearly fresh, 5th year senior Michael Clarke's baseline jumper with 22 seconds remaining gave the X-Men a 76-75 lead. Two Jeff Piers free throws would seal the win.

The story of the game was St. FX's depth, shot selection and inside power. With both Dallas Shannon and Mike Sabol out due to injury, the Tigers simply lacked the physical presence inside to combat the size and depth of the Xavier frontline. Shot selection became critical down the stretch after Dalhousie erased a 10 point deficit with just under 3 minutes remaining. While Xavier patiently worked the ball into the hands of Clarke, Dalhousie's Stan Mitchell went himself on whatever he considered to be a "good" shot. Mitchell took an embarrassing 26 shots, making only 11.

Also significant was the lack of production from a normally solid home team bench. Making only 2 of 13 shots, the normally reliable Tiger reserves were simply outplayed by a Xavier bench that dropped 28 points and recorded 12 rebounds.

St. FX Freshman Fred Perry, a former standout for Halifax West High School, was outstanding in his homecoming, scoring team highs of 16 points and 10 rebounds despite playing with an injured wrist. Backcourt mate Isaac King was the only other X-Men to mark double figures. King had 13 points to go along with his game high 10 assists.

For Dalhousie, Shawn Plancke reminded Tiger fans of days of old as he dazzled the home town crowd making 10 of his 12 shots, including a thunderous dunk, en route to 22 points. Plancke also strengthened his grip on the AUSA rebounding title by snatching 13 boards. Guards Stan Mitchell and Brian Parker each hit double digits, with 23 and 10 respectively, while forward Ray Fountain nearly recorded a double double of his own with 16 points and 8 rebounds.

With the win, St. FX (8-1) moves into a 2nd place tie in the AUSA with Dalhousie (8-2) at 22 points. The win also figures to have a significant impact in the national coaches poll as Dal and X will likely flip flop positions.

The Tigers now must refocus and prepare to defend their home court against hated rival UNB. The Varsity Reds are the surprise of the league at 6-5. Motivation will be easy to come by as this group looks to rebound from their first loss at Dalplex in league play since 1995.



With the AUSA playoffs fast approaching, Acadia's still holding on to first place.

DANIELLE BOUDREAU

# Hansons bless Dal-SMU

BY GREG WHITE

You could hear the ghosts of the Hanson Brothers clapping with sound approval during the third period of the recent Dalhousie-SMU hockey matchup.

The Hansons, the most popular fictional goon squad in hockey history, coined the phrase "Old Time Hockey" — a phrase which was heard being passed around in the third period at the Dalhousie Memorial Arena on January 26.

Saint Mary's was looking for

their first win in seventeen starts, but were up against a Tiger squad that's only lost once in 1997.

SMU took a 2-1 lead into the first intermission with goals from Shawn Redmond and Matt Cardwell, while Shane Gibbs netted the lone Dalhousie marker.

Dal rookie and ex-Moosehead Jan Melichercik scored twice in the tight-checking second period to give the Tigers a 3-2 lead going into the third.

Tommy Hunter netted the insurance marker for Dalhousie at 14:22 of the last period, his first of the season.

As SMU players started venting their frustration, tempers on both sides flared. The bodies started to fly and the sticks started to come up. Referee Bob Best had called just one penalty in fifty-seven minutes of the game, but would have his hands full in the final three minutes.

Following a turnover in the SMU zone, Ted Naylor and Jan Melichercik broke in alone and embarrassed goalie Mike Weatherbie with some pretty passing. Saint Mary's captain Rod MacCormick exacted a measure of revenge on Naylor, "running" the much smaller Dal sniper after his goal. In the ensuing melee, both team captains were sent to the dressing room to feel shame. Less than a minute later, both team captains had plenty of company in their respective dressing rooms with the ejection of four more players. The end result was a 5-2 Tiger victory and promises of a lively rematch.

Dal has games coming up against SMU, St. FX and Acadia, in a weekend that will go a long way in deciding who'll have home-ice advantage in the likely first round playoff match between the Tigers and X-Men.

# Women muscle into dogfight

BY AARON BLEASDALE

"If you did that kind of stuff on the street you'd be charged," exclaims Dal women's basketball coach Carolyn Savoy.

St. FX brought its own unique brand of basketball to the Dalplex last Tuesday night, desperate to avoid a third straight loss, but the Tigers weathered the storm, winning 65-46.

The X-Women have a reputation for rough play. They've been charged with intentional and/or technical fouls in every one of their last seven games against Dal.

"It's been difficult to play against St. FX for all teams in the league," continues Savoy. "Players from Acadia, SMU, and UNB have been hurt — two handed and pushed into a wall for example — while playing against them. It's not part of the game to hip check and throw people on the ground."

Fans at the game were heckling the officials, calling them by name, but Savoy believes they did the best job they could under the circumstances.

"If players are trying to intimidate other athletes and do things outside the rules, then it's not so much the officiating as the coaching and the players themselves," she says.

Savoy is frustrated because all the player ejections and technical fouls that have been levied on the X-Women hasn't changed their style of play.

Fans went to the wrestling

match last Tuesday and a basketball game broke out.

The game saw the return of St. FX's league leading scorer Theresa MacCuish. Her injury didn't seem to be slowing her down but Sara Henneberry and the Dal defense most certainly did.

Henneberry hounded MacCuish all over the court and helped hold her to just 11 points and a miserable 4-13 from the field. MacCuish was so frustrated that she even threatened to re-break Henneberry's nose, which she had broken earlier in the season.

"She was really rough, I have lots of bruises," recounts Henneberry of MacCuish. She adds with a quiet satisfaction, "But I'm sure she does, too."

All the Tigers' recent work on defensive fundamentals really paid off. Dal owned the defensive paint.

The game's co-MVPs, Carolyn Wares and Sue Parkes, combined for thirty rebounds, outdoing the entire St. FX squad put together (23).

This strong inside play forced the X-Women to take the outside shot, which was something they apparently weren't comfortable doing. St. FX shot an abysmal 28.1 per cent from the field.

"We made them take shots that they're not accustomed to taking," explains Savoy. "They play a transition game, so they shoot a lot on the run, and in the paint. But last night, we made them shoot outside."

Perhaps one of the biggest factors in the nineteen-point win was Dal's excellent free throw shooting. Dal shot 80 per cent from the line, which perhaps is understandable considering how much opportunity they had to practise against the X-Women.

With St. FX's recent skid, the race for first in the AUSA has become somewhat of a dogfight. With four teams within two points of each other, the women's basketball league promises some intense action before the AUSA playoffs. Keep an eye on what's perhaps the most exciting league in the AUSA right now.

# Hockey X-men hold second

BY EUGENIA BAYADA

The Tigers were hoping to take two points from St. FX on Friday night but the X-Men held firmly on their home ice, forcing the Tigers to a 1-1 tie.

The small ice surface of the Antigonish arena was certainly a contributing factor to the outcome of the game.

"I think X has a strong team physically, and any time in their rink is a battle against them as well as the rink," noted Tiger captain David Haynes.

"We're a small, fast hockey club and it's difficult to utilize our

superior skills and speed in such a confined arena."

Dal started off the game exhibiting strong defence. The Tigers were taking no chances and it was well into the first period before either team started playing a physical game. St. FX forwards tested the Tigers repeatedly but great goaltending from Neil Savary prevented the X-Men from scoring.

Both teams remained scoreless until the third period when Dal took the lead. Blue-liner Shane Gibbs took a slapshot from the face-off circle which Ted Naylor tipped in behind

goalie Shawn Silver.

The X-Men were quick to respond on the power play while Haynes was serving a holding minor. Jarret Reid deflected the puck from the slot on a pass from Rob Massa.

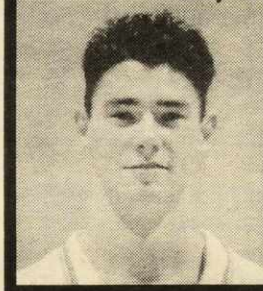
The game went into sudden-death overtime where St. FX outshot the Tigers 4-2.

Both goalies played well throughout the game. Savary stopped 32 shots for the Tigers, while Silver was tested 23 times.

"We're not satisfied with the tie," stated Haynes matter-of-factly, "but hey, we'll take it."

## athlete of the week

Terry Martin, Men's Volleyball



Terry helped the Tigers to a second place finish at the Dalhousie Digs Volleyball tournament this past weekend at Dalplex. For his efforts, he was awarded an all-star selection for the tournament. He managed 119 kills, 44 blocks, 11 aces and 32 digs. Terry's a third year Science student from Burlington, Ontario. He's 21 years of age, stands 6'8", and weighs-in at 200lbs.

Jan. 30 - Feb. 5