

Injuries, surprises end regular season

BY SHANNON MORRISON

Dalhousie's women's soccer team enters the AUSA championships this weekend looking to take the first step in reaching the national championships for the third consecutive year.

Though Dal finished the regular season tied with the Acadia Axettes for first place in the conference, Acadia won the right to host the finals because of the goal differential in their head-to-head battles. Earlier in the year, the Tigers were shut out by the Axettes 2-0, while the result was (almost) Dalhousie on Wickwire field when Dalhousie squeezed out a 1-0 victory.

In the team's final tune-up, prior to the playoffs, the Tigers used their depth to fill in positions left vacant because of injuries. Dalhousie split their weekend matches against the University of New Brunswick (UNB) and the Université de Moncton (UdeM).

Injuries continued to cause the coaching staff to make adjustments to the starting lineup. Sue Hunter was unable to dress for the New Brunswick roadtrip with her recovery not expected until the CIAUs, at the earliest, if the Tigers advance past this weekend's playoff round. Eva Al-Khoury, who has been hampered by a hip flexor problem, stepped in to take Hunter's sweeping position in the backfield.

"She played through it," noted head coach Neil Turnbull. "There are some things she can do and some things she can't."

Dal's starting keeper, Leahanne Turner, has encountered back problems and her status is day-to-day. Candy Keillor replaced Turner and made her second start in nets for the Tigers during a 3-1 loss to UNB on Saturday.

The string of injuries continued as Keillor sustained ligament damage in her foot after colliding with a UNB front player in the first half. Rookie midfielder Tara MacNeil was called on to play in goal and thus began her unexpected goaltending career for Dalhousie.

MacNeil only trained as a keeper for a few minutes here and there during practice but fared well during her stint between the posts.

"She wasn't tested that much," commented Turnbull. "But when she was, she was up to the test."

UNB outplayed the Tigers with Dalhousie's Maureen Riley being the lone goal-scorer for the visiting squad. Dalhousie rebounded with a solid performance on Sunday against UdeM.

Dalhousie shut down the Blue Eagles, 2-0, as MacNeil recorded her first career AUSA shutout. Kate Gillespie connected on both goals for the Tigers.

The team is now preparing to defend their conference title in a league that is extremely competitive.

"It is going to be the team that gets it right on that day, bears down and decides they have the character to play," said Turnbull.



Rookie midfielder Tara MacNeil was called on to play in goal following goalee injuries.

"We have to put away the chances we're given, the scoring opportunities," noted co-captain Karen Hood. "If we only have two chances (in the game), then we have to put them away."

Despite the injuries and the disappointment of narrowly missing the chance to host the

AUSA championships, the team has to regroup and focus on the task ahead.

"At the end of the day, the game has to be played on the field, between two teams," said Turnbull.

On a squad laden with young players, who are lacking AUSA playoff experience, the team is confident they can pull together and face the pressure as a unit.

"We're going to have to communicate as a team," commented Hood, who emphasized that this was crucial especially with players playing in new positions.

"Although we have a lot of first and second-year players, they are not first and second year-players to the sport of soccer. They have the experience to play in the AUSA championships."

The Tigers begin their playoffs on Saturday morning at 10 a.m. against the highest seed who survives Friday's matchups. The championship is scheduled for Sunday.

Tigers to host AUSA championships

BY DAVID FINLAYSON

This weekend the Dalhousie Tigers clinched home field advantage on the strength of a 1-1 tie with the University of New Brunswick (UNB) and a 4-1 victory over a spirited Université de Moncton (UdeM) side.

On a wet pitch, the first-place Tigers took on the second-place UNB Varsity Reds, who were led by Cole Harbour striker, Gray Zurheide. It was Zurheide who struck first in the 43rd minute to give the Reds a 1-0 lead.

Trevor Chisholm got the start in the Tigers net and played "extremely well," said assistant coach Jamie Sawler, a former defender for the Tigers.

The game was well-fought by both teams, with the season in the balance. It was filled with chances, and again the Tigers squandered some good scoring opportunities.

The game was marred by the loss of captain Mark Rainford to a knee injury. The extent of the injury is not yet known, although Rainford also missed Sunday's game. Ante Jaczic, who usually starts in the midfield, filled in for Rainford as the sweeper when the Tigers faced UdeM. This could lead to an interesting lineup on the weekend.

In the second half, Paul English got the equalizer in the 61st minute. It was a game in which the Tigers had lots of quality chances but couldn't find the net for the go-ahead goal. Still, the result was good enough to ensure that a win Sunday would give Dal the league title.

The game at Moncton was played knowing that "we needed a result to win the league," said Sawler.

The first half ended in a 0-0 tie, with UdeM hoping to play

the spoiler as they were already eliminated from the playoffs. In the second half, the floodgates opened and the Tigers scored four goals to clinch first.

English scored his second goal of the weekend while Jeff Hibberts tied for the league scoring lead with his seventh marker of the season. Mark Ellis and Eric Pinfold also scored for the Tigers. Pinfold started because of the injury to Rainford. Mike Hudson got the victory in the Dal net.

"We totally destroyed Moncton in the second half," said Tigers striker Mark Ellis, with a wry smile on his face. "The midfield was playing well but I missed some good opportunities."

When asked if the Tigers would be in the CIAU's in two weeks, he responded, "The boys battled hard this weekend. If we keep playing our football (soccer) then we should win (AUSA's) next weekend."

Sawler and Keith Souchereau agreed that Moncton showed a lot of heart for a team that was already out of AUSA's, but they felt the Tigers worked hard all weekend, and deserved to be where they are now. Dalhousie finished the season undefeated, with a 8-0-3 record.

On Saturday, the Tigers play at 2 p.m. on Wickwire field against the lowest seed that wins on Friday. The other teams that made the playoffs are UNB, Acadia, St. Francis Xavier, University of Prince Edward Island, and Saint Mary's.

The Tigers emphasized the need for good fan support. With some exciting soccer on the way, everyone should get out to support the team. Dress warmly, cheer loudly, and hopefully the Tigers will be going to the Nationals in two weeks.

Hockey Tigers continue winning ways

BY SCOTT HEPDITCH

For the second time in three weeks, the hockey Tigers took on their crosstown rivals from St. Mary's University (SMU) this past Wednesday night at Memorial Arena. This was the only AUSA action in the team's schedule during this past week as after Wednesday's game the team packed their suitcases again and headed to Yale and Dartmouth for two more exhibition games.

The Tigers started very quickly against SMU as Keifer House backhanded a rebound past Huskies goalie Rod Dykeman, 22 seconds into the first period. House's goal was assisted by David Haynes and Corey MacIntyre. This early goal seemed to wake the Huskies as they controlled most of the play over the next ten minutes, although they were unable to create many quality scoring opportunities.

Dal seemed to be taking a lot of penalties in the first period and SMU was able to capitalize on one of them with a pretty three-way passing play that saw SMU captain Rob McCormick one-time a pass from the top of the circle to beat Tigers goalie Greg Dreveny.

After SMU's tying goal, Dalhousie seemed to control most of the attack using their slick passing to break through the Huskies defence. After several opportunities, Dal's Gord Dickie took a pass on the right side and showed a lot of patience as he went around the net and feathered a beautiful pass to Steve Maltby, who put it home to give the Tigers a 2-1 lead.

It seemed that this was going to be the score at the end of the period, but with about 10 seconds left, a bad giveaway by Martin Lapointe sent SMU's Redmond in on a break. Fortunately, Dreveny was there to turn the SMU chance away.

The second period was not as exciting as the first because of a lot of clutching and grabbing that slowed the game down. Dal did not have a lot of opportunities to score in this period but they capitalized on the chances that they did get.

The first of two Dal goals in the period was a little lucky as Maltby's point shot slipped through the goalie's legs and

landed right on the stick of the everpresent House, who put it in the net for his second of the game. The Tigers' second goal of the period was scored by captain MacIntyre on a one-timer from the top of the right face-off circle. The goal was set up by a nice cross-ice pass from Maltby. Both goals were on the powerplay.

The highlight of the second period, just like the first, was the solid goaltending from Dal's Dreveny, who was called on to make three outstanding saves to keep SMU off of the scoreboard.

St. Mary's opened the scoring in the third period to cut the deficit to two goals. Even though the Huskies did cut into the lead, Dal quickly got their three-goal cushion back on the powerplay as rookie David Haynes beautifully tipped in a point shot from Martin Lapointe. The penalty that led to the Dal goal was a close call and this enraged the few SMU fans at the game as well as head coach Paul Boutlier.

Although SMU trailed by three goals, they did have opportunities to get back in the game during a four minute powerplay with five-and-a-half minutes to play, as well as a five-on-three advantage with about three minutes to go. Dal's strong defensive play held off SMU's attack.

The victory was sealed for the Tigers with just over a minute left as Haynes netted his second of the night into the open net and the Tigers improved to a 3-0-0 record in the young season.

All in all, a good performance from the Tigers was highlighted by the strong performance of Dreveny, who had his best game of the season Wednesday night, and according to some people, his best game in two years.

Although the win was good news for the team, there was some upsetting news for Dalhousie on Wednesday as second-year forward Marc Warner left the team, so he could focus more attention on his academics.

The Tigers will be back in action on Saturday night as they host the University of New Brunswick in what should be a very entertaining game. The Tigers also play on Sunday at 2 p.m., when Mt. Allison comes to town. Both games are at Memorial Arena, and we hope to see you there.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

October 23 to 29



Paul English, Soccer

- Paul scored one goal each game this weekend as Dal tied UNB 1-1, and beat Moncton 4-2.
- The men will host the AUSA Championships this weekend.

Lesley Smith, Swimming

- Lesley won the 100m and 200m backstroke events at the UNB Invitational. She qualified for CIAU's in the 100m event.

Follow the Tigers