

# Clash of the titans produces 0-0 stalemate

BY DAVID FINLAYSON

This contest had the flavour of an English Derby match as the crosstown rivalry between the Dalhousie Tigers and the Saint Mary's (SMU) Huskies continued.

It was a defensive struggle from the opening whistle in a game that resulted in a 0-0 draw during AUSA men's soccer action Wednesday, September 27 at Huskies' stadium.

The game was wrought with

hard fouls and physical intimidation as Dalhousie battled an aggressive SMU team and seemingly questionable calls from the referee.

The Tigers' centre midfielder, Mark Ellis, was forced to sit out

this game with an injury, and was missed greatly. Ante Jazic, who transferred from SMU at the last minute, was sidelined after ten minutes due to a hard foul in front of the Dalhousie bench that wasn't called. Eric Pinfold subbed in and played solidly.

For the Tigers, Geraint Morris almost capitalized on a defensive error early in the half, but missed over the crossbar. Dal's defence was solid throughout and second-year Tiger Steve Cormier was impressive marking George Kyreakakos, the Halifax King of Donair and SMU scoring star.

Late in the first half, a dubious foul was called on Dalhousie, but the Tigers' keeper, Mike Hudson, did well to tip the drive over the bar. Rookie Jeff Hibberts subbed in for Morris with a couple minutes left in the half and created three good opportunities. Dal registered only four or five shots in total.

SMU had the best chances in the second half, which became even more physical, and the referee started giving out cautions like candy. The Huskies seemed to escape the referee's wrath until late in the game.

The half swung back and forth and Hibberts was denied by SMU keeper Brian Demone on a great strike from ten yards. Hudson, in the Tigers net, saved the game for Dal with ten minutes left when he stoned a blistering drive from ten yards. He then quickly got up to deny the SMU striker from six yards, when it looked like a certain goal.

The story of the game was the Dalhousie defence which smothered almost every attack, and did

well to stop Kyreakakos, Idris Mert, and Des Lambert, the core of the SMU team.

The Dal midfield did not perform up to their capabilities. English and Morris up front did not get the service they need. Also, Chad Thorpe being ejected with twenty minutes left did not help the Dal cause.

"It was a hard fought game, we knew it would be physical so we really got up for the game...I think that in the end we will be the better team," said Hibberts after the game.

"Today we played cautiously. It seemed to be the exact same game as last year minus some key players. We felt that we could take them on the counterattack. You could see that none of our attacks started with the defence, moved through the midfield and to the forwards. They were all counterattacks, or taking advantage of defensive errors," added the Tigers' Mark Rainford.

On the weekend prior to Dalhousie's encounter with the Huskies, the Tigers played Acadia and came away with a 3-0 win.

Player of the game, Dave MacFarlane, found the net on a bending free kick, and scored off a half-cleared corner. Chad Thorpe also added a marker with Trevor Chisholm getting the shutout for Dalhousie.

The Tigers were happy to play on a flat grass field where they seemed to pass much better, and create better opportunities.

"The players wanted to pass the ball. We defended well for twenty minutes until they were tired, and then we passed the ball better," said Rainford.

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**Oasis Bar - Spring Garden Road**  
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**ROW - Spring Garden Road**  
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