

# Hockey bombs X

## 8-3 playoff win

BY EUGENIA BAYADA AND GREG WHITE.

The 2000 plus fans at the Dalhousie Memorial Arena on Tuesday were witness to some of the most electrifying and exciting aspects of sport. Playoff time is upon us and, for all intents and purposes, the regular season has been erased. It's now time to put up or shut up.

Finishing in third position in the regular season, the Tigers have drawn the second-place St. Francis Xavier X-Men in semi-final Kelly Division action. Forget that the Dalhousie Hockey Tigers tallied just one win in their last eight starts. Forget that St. F.X. has been the best team in the country since the Christmas break, and are currently seventh in CIAU rankings. Forget the suspensions and injuries. Forget everything that's happened up to this point. In the best 2-out-of-3 format of the Kelly Division playoffs, now is the time to make it count.

The St. F.X. team that showed up on Tuesday were without Team Canada, Spengler Cup and all-star goaltender Shawn Silver who has been sidelined with an untimely bout of mononucleosis. With back-up goalie Jamie Shea getting the start still recovering from a shoulder injury, Dal needed to come out for the series opener firing on all cylinders. Just 3:32 into the contest, Dalhousie forwards Ted and Luke Naylor connected to open up a 1-0 Dal lead. Shortly after the Naylor goal, St. F.X. all-star and leading scorer Jarret Reid crashed into the Tiger net and left the game with torn

knee ligaments. The X-Men are still a solid and deep team without Reid and Silver, but the pendulum of momentum had certainly swung in favor of the Tigers.

Last year's playoff MVP Tim Hill found the mark at 6:17 of the first, and rookie Jan Melicherik made it 3-0 before X narrowed the gap to 3-1 after one period.

The second frame belonged to Tiger goalie Neil Savary who turned away the X-Men with some big stops. Savary also kept his temper in check when St. F.X. forwards tried to rattle the emotional goalie with some physical play around the Tiger net.

Taking a 5-2 lead into the second intermission, the Tigers were not content with the three goal buffer. Jeff Letourneau extended the lead 7 seconds into the final period before X ran Savary and scored on the wide open net to make the score 6-3 halfway through the third. Marc Warner and Ted Naylor would each add another goal as a response to the chippy and unsportsmanlike play of the X-Men.

"I thought we played well but we gave them too many chances," noted blue-liner Letourneau. "It's one for the bank but we've still got to win one more game."

X-Men coach Danny Flynn and Dalhousie boss Darrell Young spent much of the third period exchanging words across the ice. The conflict escalated after the two coaches exchanged obligatory handshakes and then continued

to bark at one another all the way to the dressing rooms. Flynn accused Young of purposely running up the score when Young iced his number one power play unit during a two-man advantage late in the third. Young took the time during the walk down the tunnel to express his feelings about cheap and dangerous penalties by the X-Men when the game was out of reach.

Dal takes a 1-0 series lead to Antigonish where they will play game two on Friday night, and if necessary game three on Saturday.

In the country's toughest conference, any one team can beat another on any given night. The Tigers showed that they were capable of winning earlier in the season, and showed it again on Tuesday night. Dal needs to continue to play that way to advance in this year's playoffs. Certainly, the momentum is with the Tigers as they head to Antigonish to try to finish off the ailing X-Men.

Young was satisfied with the Tigers' performance.

"Tonight we went to the net and hustled for those pucks," he said. "We were proactive before the whistle and we were disciplined. We have to follow the same pattern to be successful down in St. F.X."

"It's playoff hockey and we're taking it one day at a time," added Warner.

"X will come out with a lot of momentum on Friday and we have to be ready for them."



2,000 fans packed Memorial Arena to see Dal demolish the St. FX X-Men 8-3 in game one of their best of three playoff series. Games two and three are Antigonish this weekend.

# Mitch ditched

BY TRACEY MAJOR

Stanleigh Mitchell is off the Dalhousie men's basketball team.

"He is no longer with the team, and he won't be for the rest of the year," explained coach Tim McGarrigle.

The situation was handled behind closed doors and has been chalked up to irreconcilable differences. Mitchell had no comment to make about the situation, and the subject is taboo to most of the players; everything seems to be on the hush-hush.

He played well in his last game, against Acadia, and with this being so close to the AUAA championships, will the Tigers successfully make up for the loss? Mitchell was among the AUAA scoring leaders with 15.7 points per game.

Despite not having Mitchell in the line-up, the Tigers reversed their recent slump, beating the UCCB Capers, 107-99 over the weekend.

Tremayne Howe had an excel-

lent game, making 13 of 16 shots from the field. He ended the night with 30 points and his first Player of the Game award.

"The gelling of the team allowed me to do well on the court," he elaborates. "We had good offense and execution, we just need to work on our defense."

Brian Parker also played well, making 4 of his 5 three-point attempts and ending the night with 27 points and 12 assists.

The rest of the starting five contributed solid performances: Ray Fountain and Sean Plancke both made 16 points and cleaned up the boards with 10 and 11 rebounds respectively; Darryl Baptiste scored 12 points and got 4 steals.

Mitchell's confidence and many talents on the court will be missed by crowd and teammates alike.

"It is unfortunate that he is not on the team," admits Howe, "but that will push us to work even harder in the upcoming games."

The next home game for the



Dalhousie came back from a halftime deficit to overcome the UCCB Capers in AUAA league action. Dal pulled it together in the second half and triumphed 107-99.

Dalhousie men is on February 25th at 8 p.m. against the St. Mary's Huskies.

## this week's games:

### Friday, February 21

Hockey AUAA Playoffs @ St. FX, 7:30 p.m. @ Antigonish Arena (Game 2 of best of 3 series)  
Volleyball(w) AUAA @ UdeM (until Sunday)  
Volleyball(m) AUAA League Tournament @ UNB (until Sunday)

### Saturday, February 22

Hockey AUAA Playoffs @ St. FX, 7:30 p.m. @ Antigonish Arena (Game 3, if needed)

### Sunday, February 23

Basketball(w) @ Acadia, 1 p.m.  
Basketball(m) @ Acadia, 3 p.m.

### Tuesday, February 25

Basketball(w) vs. SMU, 6 p.m. @ Dalplex  
Basketball(m) vs. SMU, 8 p.m. @ Dalplex

### Friday, February 28

Swimming CIAUs @ Brock University (until Sunday)  
Track & Field AUAA @ UdeM (until Saturday)

### Saturday, March 1

Basketball(w) vs. MUN, 6 p.m. @ Dalplex  
Basketball(m) vs. MUN, 8 p.m. @ Dalplex

### Sunday, March 2

Basketball(w) vs. MUN, 1 p.m. @ Dalplex  
Basketball(m) vs. MUN, 3 p.m. @ Dalplex

### Friday, March 7

Basketball(m) vs. St. FX, 8 p.m. @ Dalplex

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