

Moncton dominates Lobster Pot

By MARK ALBERSTAT

UNIVERSITE DE MONCTON BLUE Eagles spread their wings and showed how it is done in this past weekend's Lobster Pot hockey tournament at the Dal rink. The Blue Eagles defeated the Saint Thomas Tommies 6-3 in the championship game Sunday afternoon.

To reach the final game Moncton defeated St. Francis Xavier X-Men 5-4 Friday and dropped Dalhousie Tigers 7-2 Saturday.

In the first period of the championship game, neither of the two teams dominated play, although St. Thomas had a total of nine penalties through the opening frame compared to Moncton's six.

St. Thomas obviously knew what they were up against and came out fast with Scott MacKenzie scoring 34 seconds into the game. About nine minutes later, the two teams faced off near the blue line. Moncton won the faceoff, and Moncton's Francois Sills took the puck up the right side and scored to tie the game.

The second period was totally dominated by Moncton, as is illustrated in the score at the end of the frame, which showed Moncton up 5-1. Scoring for the Blue Eagles was Claude Gosselin, with two tallies, and Henri Macous and Claus Becebeau with one apiece.

In the final period, Moncton cooled off and St. Thomas heated up, but it was a case of too little too late and the Blue Eagles easily won the title game.

In the consolation match at 11 a.m. Sunday York Yeomen defeated Acadia Axemen by a 5-2 count.



St. Thomas and Moncton faced off several times through Sunday's championship game of the Lobster Pot tournament with Moncton winning the game 6-3. Photo by Deepak Seth, Dal Photo.

Dalhousie's rookie goaltender Peter Abric saw heavy action in both of Dalhousie's games over the weekend. Abric was named player of the game against York. Photo by Sean Forbes, Dal Photo.

The first goal was a blistering shot from the blueline by Moncton's Claude Gosselin. Abric was partly screened on the play and the puck got by him and into the net in the upper left corner at the 1:42 mark.

Moncton's second goal came barely two minutes later as Francois Sills scored. The third goal came when defenseman Stephen Salter found the lower right corner of the net at 10:08.

Dal did score in the opening frame as Jefferson put the puck in the net at the 14:30 mark, was assisted by Joel Brown and McDonald.

"If you were to take away those first ten minutes it would have been a 4-2 hockey game, and they barely beat us in the second and third periods," said Young.

"It's the little things we have to work on, the proper way to back-check, picking up the man, making sure there's no one trailing coming in, and just really getting our offense going more," explained Young.

The second period had Moncton widen their lead to 5-1 with goals from Eric Cormier and Claude Smith. The third period was much like its predecessor except for the fact that Moncton scored twice and Dalhousie once. The Tigers' second goal of the game was off the stick of Megannety at 11:51. He was assisted by Richard Serafin.

Young sees the Moncton match as just one of those games which doesn't quite come together.

"We had chances but we didn't score. Some nights you're going to score and some nights you're not, and this was just one of those nights."

Dal tops CIAU champs

Dalhousie's hockey team had the minimum outing of two games at the weekend's event, as they first played the defending CIAU Champions York Yeomen on Friday night, then faced the Universite de Moncton Blue Eagles on Saturday evening.

Anyone seeing the schedule pitting Dalhousie against York in the Tigers' opening game would not have guessed that the tournament was hosted by the Tigers because only some type of suicidal team would pit themselves against such opposition in their first game. However, the other side of the coin fell and Dalhousie scored an upset nail-biting 5-4 victory over the Yeomen.

Throughout the first period of Friday night's game, the shots on goal were almost identical as Dal had 13 and York 12. However, the scoreboard does not count shots on goal but shots in the goal, and Dal led at the end of the period, 3-0.

The Tigers' first goal of the opening period came 5 minutes 38 seconds into the game, when York goalie Scott Mosey was down on his knees and Tiger rookie sensation Jamie Jefferson popped the puck in above Mosey's left shoulder for the goal. Jefferson was assisted by Kevin Reynolds and Brian McDonald.

About six minutes later, Dalhousie left winger Greg Royce found the net from the right side to give Dal a 2-0 lead. Royce was assisted by Jefferson.

Dalhousie continued their onslaught

with captain Neal Megannety scoring their third goal of the period at the 14:31 mark, assisted by Chris Venno and Phil Priddle.

Through this period a total of 18 penalties were handed out. The officials saw fit to dish out equal amounts to both sides. Dalhousie's Royce Rosspies collected three of the Tigers' nine misdemeanors.

The second frame had York coming out of the chute gunning and severely outshooting Dalhousie 14-5. However, once again shots on goal did not add up to points on the scoreboard, and the score remained 3-0, much to the credit of Tiger goalie Peter Abric, who picked up player of the game honours.

The third period, much like the second, was dominated by the defending CIAU champions. The Yeomen scored three times within the first ten and a half minutes, tying the game and thus sending it into an overtime shootout. Scoring for the visitors were Rick Morocco from directly in front of the net, Doug Archie (unassisted) and Brian Gray (unassisted) on a one-on-one with Abric.

In the shootout York's Morocco was the first to score. Jerry Scott of the Tigers then

evened it up. Gray of the Yeomen then had his shot blocked, which sent Dalhousie veteran Paul Herron out with the puck. Herron scored the winning goal for the Tigers.

DALHOUSIE LOSES TO MONCTON

The Tigers' second and final game of the tournament had them facing the eventual champions, Moncton Blue Eagles, a team they will have to face several times through the regular AUAA schedule. Moncton easily won the game with a 7-2 score.

Darrell Young, Dalhousie head coach, said it was difficult to play York one night and Moncton the next.

"It is so mentally draining to play the national champions and beat them like we did and then play a team like Moncton the next night. It is a physical factor was well as a mental one. Right now you're playing such a physical game and you're not in the best of shape because it's just the start of the season so it drains the team."

What killed Dalhousie in the Moncton game was the first ten minutes. It was in these opening plays that Moncton scored three times.

Tigers gain valuable experience

TIGERS GAIN VALUABLE EXPERIENCE

This year's version of the Dalhousie hockey team carries an incredibly high amount of rookies, with 14 of their 25-player complement seeing the league for the first time this season. Young said the weekend's action gave the team some much-needed experience and exposure.

"I think that people realized after we beat York the type of serious hockey we do have. The new guys got a good look at how good our league really is."

"I played here for awhile and I know what the league is like, but we have 14 new faces on the ice and this was their first exposure to our league," said Young.

OTHER LOBSTER POT ACTION

The Lobster Pot Tournament started Thursday, Oct. 10, with Saint Mary's Huskies taking on the Acadia Axemen. Acadia won the game 8-5.

Friday's action started at 2 p.m., with St. Thomas Tommies destroying the Huskies 13-0. At 5 p.m., Moncton got by St. F.X. 5-3 and in the 8 p.m. contest, Dalhousie edged York 5-4.

Saturday's games started at 12 noon with St. Thomas downing Acadia 6-4, York defeating St. F.X. 3-1, and Moncton dropping Dal 7-2.