

B-Ball Tigers Win 1 - Lose 1

by Keith Johnston

In a game which, from a Dal point of view, took a long time to get going, and which took even longer to finish up, the Tigers picked up their second win in Atlantic Conference action once again, at the expense of the St. Francis Xavier X-men. The game was the first part of the big double-header held last Tuesday night at the Halifax Forum.

The Tigers started the game unmercifully slowly, and seemed to be having a tough time adjusting to the larger court and getting their offensive game together. The X-men on the other hand, who had just come off an uplifting weekend win over the defending Canadian college champs from Guelph, came out smoking in the first half hitting on 20 of 27 shots from the floor. Led by forwards Ed Bialek, Paul McGrath, and Sean Pritchard, who ended up with 22, 26, and 17 respectively, the X-men threatened to bury Al Yarr and company and virtually stamp out any chances for post-season play.

Unfortunately, the X-men get very little consideration or co-operation from Tiger center, Mike Donaldson who put together the best game of his college career, finishing with 23 points and 12 rebounds. One of the most impressive features about Donaldson, who has been very steady all season

long for the Tigers, has been his versatility - able to hit effectively from the inside, the corners, and the foul line. He was accompanied in the scoring parade by teammates Bob Blount, Bob Fagan, and Kevin Kelly, who all tallied 14 apiece.

The contest which ended up 81-79 in Dal's favour, and only after some last-minute, regulation-time heroics, along with a five minute overtime period, was somewhat representative of Dal-X games over the past three years, especially in Halifax. Although St. F.X. has taken on the role of the "down-trodden cousin", among Nova Scotia colleges of late, they have possessed "potentially" great talent and oddly enough, it seems that they put their stuff together best when they play Dal. In Coach Yarr's words, it is the X-Men's curious fate "that they could conceivably be ranked in the nation's top ten schools, and yet never win a game in their conference!"

At Saint Mary's on Friday Night the Tigers played reasonably well for 35 minutes, before the roof completely collapsed upon them, leaving the nasty residue of a 90-66 loss and a league record of 2-4 to their credit.

Saint Mary's University is a rather odd place, you know. Where else in

Canada, or perhaps the world, would one find a college basketball game played in the basement of a Church? Where else would one find a band of cheerleaders whose repertoire sounds like it was stolen from a Frankie Avalon movie sound-track. Where else would one find bass drummers who regularly display an "artichoke mentality" and whose professed mission in life is to search out and destroy any eardrums within a 50 foot radius? Only at S.M.U., you say!?

Both teams came out a bit shaky, and for the entire half, neither seemed to gain fluidity or a sense of motion in their offense. Bob Blount, who came through with another fine defensive game, checked the S.M.U. "Mad Bomber", Mickey Fox and held him to 4 points in the half and a mere 15, overall. However, a combination of poor shooting by the Tigers 28% for the 1st half) and strong performances by Lee Thomas and John Dye allowed S.M.U. to go to the dressing room with a 40-31 lead.

In the second half, Dal seemed to be plagued with much of the same problems. Obviously missing the presence of Bruce Cassidy, who was hampered with yet another injury earlier in the week, the Tigers just couldn't seem to

get anything going. The crunch came at the 5:51 mark when Bob Fagan fouled out, on a questionable call, and at which point, Coach Yarr, was assessed a technical foul after a somewhat heated debate with the officials. The Huskies hit on the bonus foul shots, the Technical, and converted the inbounds pass, stretching their lead to 16. From that point on, they never looked back. For the Huskies five players hit double figures with Thomas and Dye hitting for 22 and 19, Fox collecting 15, and Follette and Redding 10 apiece. For the Tigers, it

was Mike Donaldson leaving the way once again with 17, while Kevin Kelly and Dave Iverson netted 15 each, and Bob Fagan following up with 10.

From here on in, it's going to be a rough and rocky road to the playoffs for the "black and gold". With 2 games remaining with St. F.X. and 3 with Acadia, the Tigers have got to win them all, and although that's tough, it's not an impossible assignment. It doesn't appear that anyone can catch the Huskies now for the number one spot, however, the second place position is still very much up for grabs.

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