

# Hockey Tigers gearing up for playoffs

BY EUGENIA BAYADA

After suffering a 4-7 loss to the St.FX X-Men on Wednesday, the hockey Tigers travelled to New Brunswick over the weekend to face off against the Université de Moncton Aigles Bleus on Saturday and the St. Thomas Tommies on Sunday. Dal beat Moncton 5-1 and tied St. Thomas at 7-7.

"We got three out of four points on the weekend," said head coach Darrell Young. "We played well — we got a strong performance from the guys."

"We finally came out strong," echoed defenceman Richard Ujvary. "There's no doubt that if we're going to play this way, we're going to stay successful."

"I think we've got our lines set and we're peaking just in time for playoffs and it's going to be exciting to see what happens," said blueliner Craig Whynot. "Our team is starting to gel together now. Our forwards are getting the puck on net and our goaltending is outstanding — [Neil] Savary stood on his head the last few games."

"All our new lines seem to be clicking — we scored 12 goals on the weekend which is good to see," added senior forward Trevor Doyle. "We're just trying to build going into the playoffs."

Saturday's game saw a fast fore-checking start from the Aigles Bleus yet the first period remained scoreless in a relatively penalty-free game. Jody Shelley opened the scoring at 2:39 of the second as he went top shelf with the rebound following a shot by Tiger captain Dave Haynes. Derrick Pyke tested Moncton goaltender Claude Fernet just over a minute later and Chad Kalmakoff hit the post on the rebound. That did not deter the Dal team who kept the puck in deep, creating many scoring opportunities and thoroughly shaking up the home team's defence.

Moncton had a chance to score at the halfway mark as Sébastien Lessard and Dominic Beaudin broke away short-handed and went in together on Tiger goaltender Savary but were denied. Haynes put the puck past Fernet on the power play at 10:24. Starting forward Jeremy Caissie finally put Moncton on the board with just under five minutes left in the frame.

The Tigers sealed their victory with three goals in the last six minutes of the third. A defensive mistake by Moncton left Luke Naylor unmarked in front of the net, while Shelley and Haynes combined for the Tigers' fourth goal. Jan Melicherik skated through the slot and potted a bouncing puck through the five hole to put the Aigles Bleus out of their misery at 17:50.

"We played well on Saturday night against Moncton — we probably pulled a win out in the last five minutes," Doyle said.

Shelley took Player of the Game honours for his two goals and one assist, while Savary earned the win between the pipes, stopping 39 shots.

The Tommies proved to be more of a challenge for Dal than the last meeting between the two teams. Tim

Hill skated past blueliner D'Arcy Hutchinson to put the Tigers on the board first at 4:04. Later, Kalmakoff took a shot from the slot and St. Thomas goaltender Scott Hay got a piece of it before it found the top of the net. Dustin Virag countered for the Tommies at the halfway point on

The Tommies found themselves up 7-5 early in the third but the game was far from over.

"In the past when we got those chances, we didn't compete. Tonight we competed," said Young, adding, "That's a good sign going into playoffs."

winning goal. The puck was just over the line yet conflicting ideas between referee Chuck McTague, the linesmen and the goal judge disallowed the goal.

The overtime period solved nothing. Edmundson put the puck in the net for the Tommies but McTague once again called a no-goal, citing a player in the crease.

"I think that we played very well on the weekend," said Haynes. "Savary played well, [and] our defense played well as a unit."

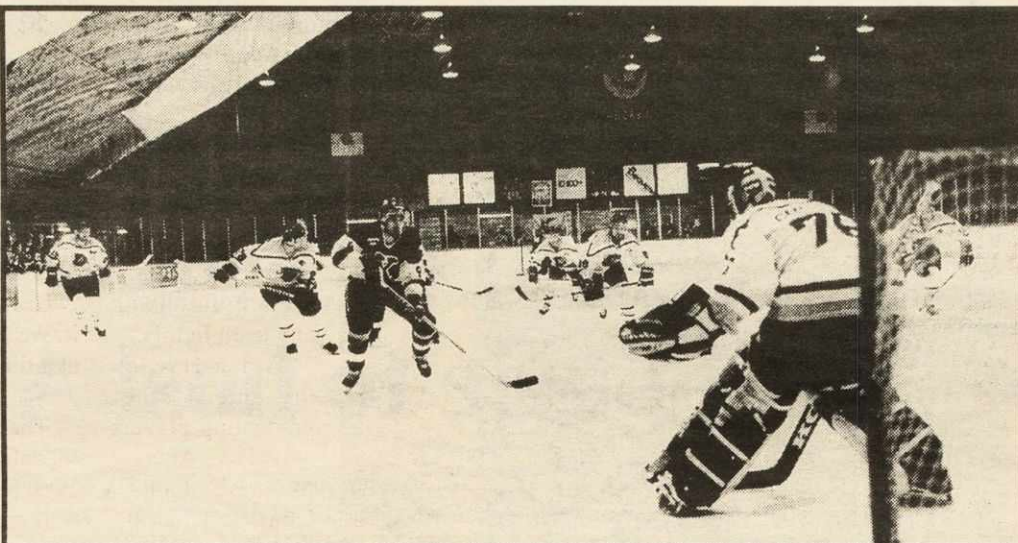
"Whynot and Ujvary were probably our best two defencemen in the past four games," Young said, adding that Doyle also played well for the team and was a key factor in penalty killing units.

"Our long-term objective is to stay successful before playoffs," says Ujvary. "If we're going to play well,

we can certainly prepare ourselves to advance in playoffs as far as we can go.

"We can beat anybody in this league and we have proved it on many occasions. Hopefully the timing is getting right to get the ball rolling. If we stay consistent, then we can stay competitive and advance."

"We've lost to Acadia the last few years and we owe St.FX so we're shooting for them as well," concludes Whynot. "I think this is the year to go to CIAUs and we've got the team to do it but it's going to take everybody going at the same time to achieve our goal."



Fred Corkum in net for the Tigers Feb. 11 at Memorial Arena. (Photo by Lisa Verge)

a deflection from the slot before Hill added another for the Tigers. Dal dominated the first period until Dave Gilmore managed to put the puck past Savary on the short side at 17:09. Virag and Mark Edmundson scored to put the home team up 4-3 going into the second period.

Virag scored a hat trick early on before textbook passing left Dal's Chris Pittman with the puck, who put it through the five hole. Hill also scored his third goal of the game to tie it up for Dal at 12:10 before Matt Hogan put St. Thomas up again before the end of the frame.

Melicherik scored from the face off circle on the short side at 6:34 and picked up an assist on the same shift as he passed the rebound from his own attempt to Whynot who had no trouble tying the teams at 7-7.

Melicherik was down on the ice a short while later as Hogan attempted to bat the puck in the air and stuck him in the face instead. Hogan received a five-minute major and a game misconduct for high sticking yet the Tigers failed to capitalize on the advantage. Melicherik was back on the ice before the end of the period and, technically speaking, scored the Tigers'

usually competes at 57kg had to drop 8kg for the Friday evening weigh in, and was not to be denied. In his first match, Ward pinned the competitor from Memorial.

## Wrestling poised for nationals

BY KATHLEEN MATTHEWS

Dal wrestling far exceeded expectations at the Atlantic University Championships held this past weekend in Fredericton, with two first, two second and a third-place finish, taking third overall as a team. They challenged the University of New Brunswick (UNB) and Memorial University of Newfoundland in AUAA action.

This year, Dal qualified four athletes for the National Championship which will be held at Brock University. By comparison, the team only qualified one athlete in 1997.

Scott Aldridge, in his fifth year on the squad, won his fourth AUAA title at 90kg. In his first match, Aldridge pinned Jeremy Delaney from Memorial to take the win.

"I was up 3-0, but the guy was fighting me all the way. Then I pinned him," said head coach Aldridge.

In his second match, Aldridge met Mike MacDonald of UNB who was last year's AUAA champion at 82kg. MacDonald set the tone for the match with a head butt at the outset, but Aldridge thumped him 10-0 to take the AUAA title at 90kg.

Logan Ward was successful taking first at 52kg. This was definitely a challenge as Ward who

usually competes at 57kg had to drop 8kg for the Friday evening weigh in, and was not to be denied. In his first match, Ward pinned the competitor from Memorial.

"The guy threw him right away," said Aldridge. "Logan countered it and pinned him."

In his second match, Ward

win. "He picked him up and slammed him a couple of times," said Aldridge.

Tweedie lost to UNB in his second match but still qualified for Nationals.

"Gavin really had a lot of faith and it pulled him through for second place," said Aldridge.

Rookie Andrew Moebus competed at 68kg losing two 'nail biters' to Memorial and UNB. He lost 5-0 in his first match but nearly came from behind to even the score in his second, losing 4-3 and finishing third overall.

Dal wrestling is definitely poised to show at CIAUs March 5-7. Aldridge is happy with his team's performance as four of five guys move on to Nationals to compete against guys from the Canada West and Ontario conferences.

"Our goal is to finish higher than UNB overall as a team," he says. "I think the guys also have the potential to finish top five individually."

Aldridge also has high expectations for himself, in this his last year of eligibility.

"This my last year and my last chance to snag a CIAU medal. I won't be happy with anything less."

We can expect that Dal wrestling will again make their presence felt at CIAUs and, regardless of the final tally, they are sure to have taken Tiger pride into new territory.



(l-r) Scott Malcolm, Gavin Tweedie, Andrew Moebus, Logan Ward, Scott Aldridge. (Photo by Ryan Lash)

thumped UNB's Gary Gaudette, the '97 AUAA champ, 10-0 to take first at 52kg and qualified for next month's CIAUs.

Scott Malcolm came in second at 82kg in his first year on the team and also qualified for Nationals. In his first match, Malcolm beat the competitor from Memorial 7-1. Aldridge was pleased with his performance.

"I was really nervous but he wrestled well and won," he said.

In his second match, Malcolm was not as successful, losing to UNB but still taking second overall.

Gavin Tweedie competed at 72kg, taking second overall in his third year on the squad. In his first match, Tweedie slammed his opponent from Memorial to take a whopping 10-0

## Upcoming events

**MEN'S BASKETBALL**  
**Feb.19 ACA@Dal 8pm**  
**Feb.22 SMU@Dal 8pm**  
**Feb.27 Dal@UNB 8:30pm**  
**Mar.1 UCCB@Dal 3pm**  
**Mar.5 Dal@ACA 8pm**  
**Mar.8 SFX@Dal 1pm**  
 (@Metro Centre)

**Mar.13 AUAAs@Metro Centre**  
**Mar.14 AUAAs@Metro Centre**  
**Mar.15 AUAAs@Metro Centre**  
**Mar.20 CIAUs@Metro Centre**  
**Mar.21 CIAUs@Metro Centre**  
**Mar.22 CIAUs@Metro Centre**

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**  
**Feb.19 ACA@Dal 6pm**  
**Feb.24 SMU@Dal 6pm**  
**Feb.27 Dal@UNB 6:30pm**  
**Mar.1 UCCB@Dal 1pm**

**Mar.6 AUAAs@UPEI**  
**Mar.7 AUAAs@UPEI**  
**Mar.8 AUAAs@UPEI**  
**Mar.13 CIAUs@Thunder Bay**  
**Mar.14 CIAUs@Thunder Bay**  
**Mar.15 CIAUs@Thunder Bay**

**HOCKEY**  
**Feb.22 ACA@Dal 7pm**

**Feb.27 Quarter Finals**  
**Feb.28 Quarter Finals**  
**Mar.1 Quarter Finals**  
**Mar.7 Semi Finals**  
**Mar.8 Semi Finals**  
**Mar.9 Semi Finals**  
**Mar.13 AUAAs**  
**Mar.14 AUAAs**  
**Mar.15 AUAAs**  
**Mar.26 CIAUs@Saskatoon**  
**Mar.27 CIAUs@Saskatoon**  
**Mar.28 CIAUs@Saskatoon**  
**Mar.29 CIAUs@Saskatoon**

**SWIMMING**  
**Feb.20 CIAUs@Sherbrooke**  
**Feb.21 CIAUs@Sherbrooke**  
**Feb.22 CIAUs@Sherbrooke**

**TRACK & FIELD**  
**Mar.6 AUAAs@UdeM**  
**Mar.7 AUAAs@UdeM**  
**Mar.8 AUAAs@UdeM**

**MEN'S VOLLEYBALL**  
**Feb.20 AUAA Championships UNB@Dal 8pm**  
**Feb.21 AUAA Championships UNB@Dal 8pm**  
**Feb.22 AUAA Championships UNB@Dal 3pm**  
 (if necessary)

**Feb.27 CIAUs@Calgary**  
**Feb.28 CIAUs@Calgary**  
**Mar.1 CIAUs@Calgary**

**WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL**  
**Feb.20 AUAAs@Dal**  
**Feb.21 AUAAs@Dal**  
**Feb.22 AUAAs@Dal**  
**Mar.5 CIAUs@Alberta**  
**Mar.6 CIAUs@Alberta**  
**Mar.7 CIAUs@Alberta**



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