Dal loses to Acadia

by Angel Figueroa

It never fails — whenever there's a men's soccer match against Acadia, the number one thing this writer has to worry about is the correct spelling of a certain name:

Jeff Fahrquar (sp?). This name belongs not to a Dalhousie player; rather, its the number-one thing every Dal player is up against: the Acadia netminder. This guy is good, and easily the most important asset of the Axemensquad. Case in point was his instrumental role in the 1-0 loss that Dal suffered on its visit to Wolfville on Sunday, Sept. 20.

"He played an incredible game," reflected Trevor Chisolm, keeper of the Dal side. "My hats go off to him. I think if he wasn't playing it could have been a different story. He's very quick and can come off the line very fast. We knew we were going to have to get a lot of shots on him because he's so hard to score on."

Incidentally, that's just what they did: after 90 minutes of play, Dal had 13 shots on goal for Acadia's five. Possession of the ball was almost always on Dal's feet, and much of the action occurred exclusively in Acadia's end. However, repeated waves of Dal attacks failed in finding the promised land, as Fahrquar put on a spectacle, snuffing-out some fine performances by a number of Dal players. These included strikers Colin Audain and Colin March, halfbacks Hieu Quack and Morten Mooers and, as always, Adrian Ibbetson, who played in the midfield for a unique change.

"The frustrating thing is that things were going so well," said assistant coach Matt Townsend. "We just sat on the sideline saying its going to come, it's going to come. Like, how can we not get a goal? The play was always down on their end. We were all over them. We had a lot of territorial advantage but we still weren't able to control the game's result the way we would have wanted to — it was really frustrating."

"We controlled the play and had it in there most of the game," agreed veteran defender Jamie Sawler. "Fahrquar just came up with a lot of good saves. Every once in a while they countered, and we got caught on one of them. It wasn't anyone's fault, except

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that we didn't have the right shape in the backfield at the time."

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But when it came in the 66th minute of play, it sent a shock wave through the Dal machine, like a spark plug in a hay stack. What resulted was a blitz counter-attack that created the only play which would beat Fahrquar, as Audain nailed a shot into the net within seconds of the Acadia goal. Controversy erupted, however, when the goal was called back by the linesman, much to the chagrin of many Dal players, whose comments about the call will remain off the record. (The disputable point is whether the ball had fully crossed the end-line before being passed back into play for Audain to shoot from within the six yard box).

Despite the setback, Dal pressed on with a vengeance but, again, Fahrquar played the decisive role, robbing Audain and Chris Devlin in two separate, spectacular saves in the 75th and 82nd minutes. Coupled with a defensive strategy that included crowding everyone into the penalty box, whacking the ball downfield at every chance,

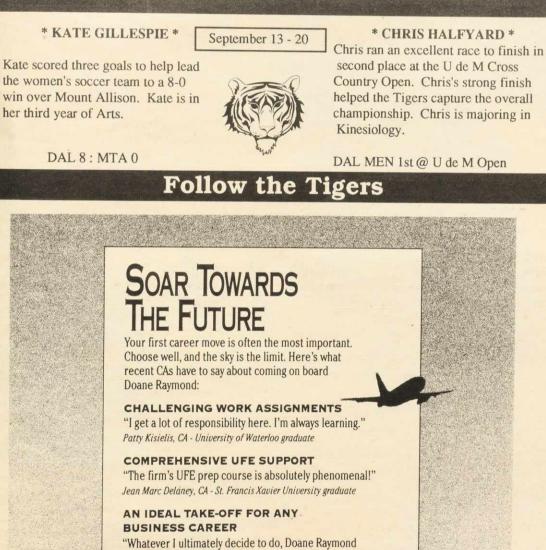
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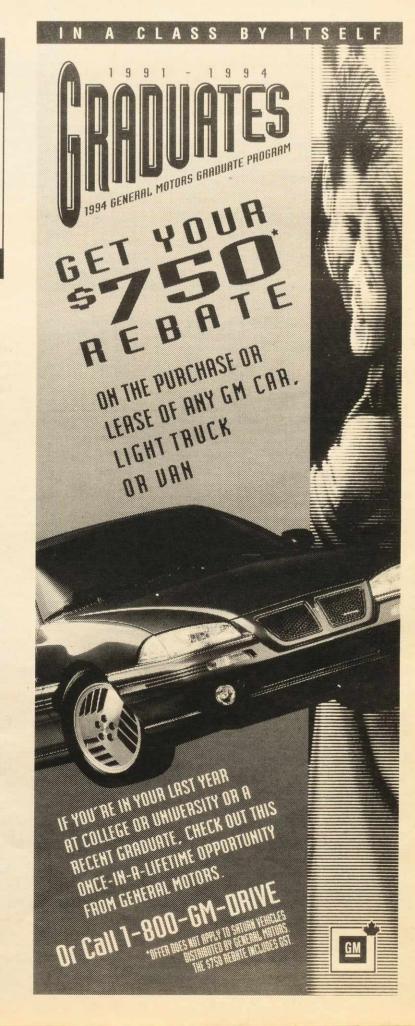


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