

# Hockey home-opener hoopla

BY JIM STROWBRIDGE

This past week of Dalhousie hockey gave us the last of exhibition play and brought us a blazing start to the new season.

Tuesday evening, at Acadia were simply outplayed, the Tigers in losing their final pre-season game by a score of 8-5.

This disappointment, however, was short-lived as the team rolled over the new season's first two opponents.

First, there was a 10-4 pounding of the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) Panthers on Saturday evening. This was followed by an equally impressive display of offensive skills against Saint Mary's University (SMU) the following afternoon in an 8-6 win.

Dalhousie forward Marc Warner told us that this year he knew his "abilities, and when and where to use them.

It seems that Warner thought the home opener against the Panthers was the best place to begin.

Warner opened the 1995-96 AUSA hockey season in fine fashion with two goals, the first of which came just two minutes and 13 seconds into the opening period. Warner showed impressive hustle and handily beat the UPEI defenceman before sliding one past a sprawling Panthers goaltender.

His second goal came on a great play, which was set up by speedy rookie Gord Dickie. The pass gave Warner the short-side on a sweet one-timer.

Warner came to this game with enforcement on his mind and that

is what he did to the best of his ability.

The play was kept in tight check, under the NHL's new ruling on stick usage, causing every attempt to impede skaters resulting in two minutes in the penalty box.

This, however, made for some of the fastest, high-scoring hockey to be seen in a long time. The second period closed out with the Panthers, fighting only for pride, looking for anything to excite the troops.

A UPEI player tangled with rookie defenceman Shane Gibbs. In a short-lived wrestling match, Gibbs was welcomed to the ranks of university hockey. Both players were sent to the showers for fighting and handed a game misconduct for their troubles. This was the setting for a game made up of mostly specialty teams play.

Those veterans like James Bugden, Stephen Maltby, Corey MacIntyre, and Kiefer House created a powerplay that was inspiring to watch. This quartet combined for thirteen points on seven goals.

House showed that he came to play once again this year with two goals. The first was the finale to a beautiful tic-tac-toe passing demonstration put on during the power-play. House added a couple of assists which started the all-star off in the right direction.

MacIntyre also had two goals, both on the powerplay, and a lone assist.

Maltby shone, as usual, with one goal and a helper, but he deserves special mention for his

work killing. He and the rest of the squad seemed to be able to pin the Panthers down, never allowing them to threaten offensively.

Bugden showed size is of no fear after labeling Panthers with his brand of blueline jaw-jugglers. He also used his speed to add three assists to the game sheet.

The barrage of shots proved to be too much for Panthers goalie David Mitchell, leaving UPEI no choice but to pull him from the game. Replacement Craig Johnson took over the undaunting task at 6:28 of the second period and allowed four goals on 19 shots.

Lone markers were added by Tigers' returner Jeff Letourneau and rookie Kevin Miller's second effort resulted in a goal. Penalty-plagued freshman David Haynes' first, ironically, came while shorthanded.

Sunday's action provided fans with a match-up with Dal's cross-town rivals from St. Mary's.

Two of St. Mary's rookies, Marty King and Casey Walsh, were dealt a special welcoming after they headed to SMU only weeks before the Tigers training camp this year. An unknown Tiger needed some cooling off, as the Huskies player received a shot of water from the Dal bench.

The game saw Dalhousie out-shoot the opposition 50 to 29 which is a testament to just how well SMU's Rob Dykeman patrolled his crease.

Once again the referee strictly enforced the new interference

penalty, giving fast-skating forwards room to move. This high number will come down as players become more aware and more importantly, disciplined enough to control their sticks.

This new-found freedom was the perfect setting once again for the men with the wheels. Corey MacIntyre, the man with the taped on 'C' until Coach Young picks a captain, had two in the red light district. The first came just 2:21 into the first period with a pretty short-handed goal to open the scoring. The second proved to be the game winner at 18:18 of the third.

Kiefer House had three goals, including his 100th point as a Dalhousie Tiger, followed by an empty net goal late in the third. MacIntyre also lent a hand on each.

High-scoring Stephen Maltby added one more as he continues to fill the nets in the new season. Rookie Gord Dickie hit the mark with a slick skating style and great hands that has SMU goalie Rob Dykeman still down at the arena looking for his pants.

Assists were added by hard-working Dan Holmes, Gord Dickie and bruiser David Haynes.

The team, new and old, put on a clinic with their fine passing all weekend. The players are moving the puck with grace that is guar-

anteed to impress. They have seemed to gel well and are playing at the level expected of them.

Special mention to returnee Martin Lapointe. Lapointe returned from Team Canada try-outs injured but with a new-found confidence which has given him the time he needs to see the ice and set up some great plays. Skills, learned or improved upon, proved to be what the doctor ordered to put a seven in the assists column for the sophomore defenceman.

Greg Dreveny and Steve Pottie turned in strong performances on the weekend.

On Saturday, Dreveny showed UPEI what they had to contend with by making some beautiful stops early. On Sunday, Pottie faced 29 strong shots, turning away 23. Dalhousie needs these men to play well and consistently to go all the way.

Holes in the defence seemed to pop-up everywhere, forcing the goaltenders to perform miracles. This begs the question, "Why is all-star defenceman Brian King playing left wing?" He is a presence and a big hitter in the offensive zone, but anyone can see that he is out of his element. On Sunday, he did return for a time to hold back SMU's offensive attack. Maybe coach Young has seen the need for big 'BK' on our end of the ice.

## Dal remains unbeaten

*Streak stays alive with weekend wins*

BY SHANNON MORRISON

Dalhousie used homefield advantage and the team's high fitness level to keep their unbeaten streak alive.

The Tigers narrowly defeated Acadia 2-1 during men's soccer action on Wickwire field Saturday afternoon in front of more than 120 spectators.

The home side jumped out to an early lead when Acadia failed to clear a cross and rookie forward Jeff Hibberts found the net to give Dalhousie a 1-0 advantage midway into the first half.

Acadia replied with pressure of their own, resulting in a dangerous free kick. Tigers goalkeeper, Trevor Chisholm, knocked the ball away before an Axemen attacker could convert the scoring opportunity.

Only minutes later, Dal's Mark Ellis was sent in on the Acadia keeper with a defender on his back. Ellis was called for interfering during the rush and play was sent in the other direction.

The Axemen tied the game when a cornerkick wasn't booted out of the Tigers' 18-yard box. Dal's Chisholm made a great save on Acadia's first attempt from close range before an opposing attacker jumped on the loose ball to score the equalizer.

Dalhousie wouldn't settle for



a tie as their offence went to work to regain the lead. Midfielder Chris Devlin sent a ball out wide to teammate Paul English who controlled the pass and drove past the Acadia defenders along the goal line. Then he drove a shot past the Axemen goalie into the far corner of the net.

The first half provided all of the scoring as the Tigers won their fourth game of the season. Dalhousie controlled play during the second half and limited the opposition's scoring chances.

"The team is quite fit and that showed today," commented Tigers' head coach Ian Kent. "Acadia looked more tired (in the second half)."

Kent said most fields in the Atlantic Conference are 110 yards

X 70 yards while Wickwire Field is 120 yds. X 70 yds. The Tigers are used to playing on the wide field but visiting team aren't familiar with the new surroundings.

Dal used the space to their advantage, especially during the second half when Acadia was beginning to tire.

"We got the ball wide well but we kept it there too long," said Kent. "We need to cross it into the box quicker."

The Tigers' offence had a chance to hone their skills the following day when the team travelled to Antigonish to meet the St. Francis Xavier X-Men.

Dalhousie improved their record to five wins and two ties and first place in the league with a 2-0 victory.

Hibberts and Devlin supplied goals for the Tigers with Chisholm getting the shutout.

As the Tigers head into the last half of their season, coach Kent is focussing on team chemistry.

"We have a lot of work to do with supporting team play, intensity and hunger," noted Kent. "They're starting to get together and that's the biggest challenge."

Dalhousie returns to action with their final home games of the season. The Tigers face St. Francis on Saturday at 1 p.m. and Memorial University on Sunday at 12 noon.

## ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

October 2 to 8



Cindi Toner, Cross Country

- Cindi placed fourth at the Moncton Invitational.
- Cindi is a third year runner at Dal

Dan Hennigar, Cross Country

- Dan won the first two AUSA races of the year.
- Dan is from South Maitland, NS, studying English at Dal.

October 9 to 15

Jeff Hibberts, Men's Soccer

- Jeff scored one goal each game, in Dal's wins over Acadia and St. FX. Jeff is a first year athlete with the Tigers, playing striker.



Kelly Larkin, Women's Soccer

- Kelly, a rookie with the Tigers, scored game winning goals in this weekend's victories over Memorial and Acadia.



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