



# Tigers out of playoffs

by D. Neary

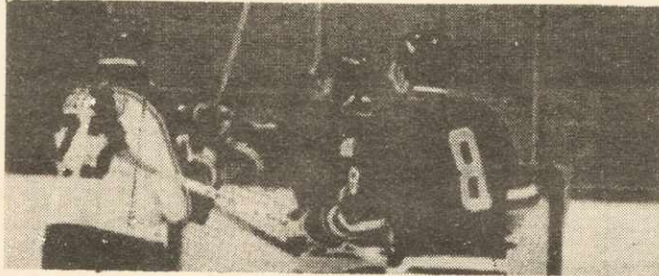
The Acadia Axemen have swept the Dalhousie Tigers out of the Atlantic University Hockey Conference playoffs. The Tigers had defeated Saint Mary's Huskies in two straight games but then bowed out after two games against the top-ranked team in the country.

Acadia finished off the Tigers at Acadia Arena, a place where the Axemen haven't been defeated in well over thirty games. Kevin Knopp scored twice while Colin Gregor and Mark McFarlane chipped in with singles as Acadia blanked Dal 4-0. Axemen netminder Dennis Sproxtton handled the sixteen shots he faced to record the shutout. Acadia will represent the Kelly division in the AUHC finals against the University of New Brunswick Red Devils.

"I think we shot ourselves in the foot again," said Dal coach Darrell Young. "It seems like we do that every time we play Acadia. We had four power plays in the first period -- we had something like six shots... nothing seemed to click. We just didn't play as well as we could play, that's the frustrating part."

On Wednesday, February 24, approximately 3000 people huddled into the Dalhousie Memorial Arena to see the Axemen open the best-of-three series with a 6-2 victory. Greg

Smyth and Derek Switzer scored for the Tigers in a game that was closely contested until early in the third period. Derek Kletzel, Colin Gregor, and Norm Batherson tallied for Acadia, which led 3-2 after two frames. The Axemen opened things up at 1:19 of the third on a Duane Dennis



goal. George Dupont added a pair of markers within the next three minutes to seal the Tigers' fate.

On Friday, February 19, Dal had knocked Saint Mary's out of playoff contention by posting a 5-4 triumph. Peter Robertson notched a couple of third period goals, including the game winner. Keifer House, Kelly Bradley, and Andrew MacVicar also scored for Dal.

The Tigers had won the opening game by a 5-3 count. Joe Suk had a pair of goals, while Scott Milroy, Corey MacIntyre, and George Wilcox accounted for the others.

The second victory over SMU had extended the Tigers' unbeaten streak to twelve games: the highlight of the

season in the eyes of coach Young.

"Before the [Christmas] break we were playing like a .500 hockey club," Young recalled. The Tigers had been riddled with injuries (including the absence of fourth-year centre George Wilcox), had lost goaltender Pat McGarry, and had faced a schedule

that saw them on the road for the majority of their games.

"But some people stood up and the leadership came through and we went on a twelve game unbeaten streak. We faced lots of adversity but we came through," Young said.

Next season the Tigers squad will be without five-year veteran Greg Smyth, and fourth-year wingers Stuart Birnie and Kelly Bradley.

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**Dalhousie Athletes of the Week**

\* CHRISTINE FRAIL \*  
 Women's VB wins AUAA Championship: Christine had 14 kills & 10 digs - chosen as Play-off MVP.  
 Feb. 22 - March 1

\* ERIC VILLENEUVE \*  
 MVB AUAA Champions  
 Play-off MVP: 19 K, 3 st blk, 3 aces

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**Dalhousie Athletes of the Week**

\* KATHERINE DUNN \*  
 WSWIM AUAA Title  
 AUAA Rookie of the Year & Swimmer of the Meet

\* DEAN THIBODEAU \*  
 MBB 1 win: 1 loss  
 Player of the Game: 51 points in 2 games

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