

Overtime

Playing the game

By LISA TIMPF

"Do you still know how to play?

At first I thought it was an absurd question. Absurd, but predictable considering the source—a friend who was supervising a philosophy of sport tutorial later that afternoon.

Then I thought some more and the question didn't seem so silly.

"Define play," another friend countered. I applauded the challenge. It gave me time to think.

The philosopher who had posed the problem initially contemplated for a moment, then responded that play was a "spontaneous, free, voluntary form of self-expression." Or something to that effect.

So, do I still play? Or more crucially, do I still allow myself to play?

I would have to answer yes—in certain contexts.

There are those moments in sport when, in a practise or a game, the movement flows naturally and freely and you feel yourself transcending strategy and technique and just *being*. Getting a charge out of scoring a goal or making the perfect pass and laughing because it seemed so simple and because the times that it seems difficult are often the times when it's impossible. Letting oneself go to *enjoy* the activity in a scrimmage or game, that's play.

Unfortunately, the ability to play is something many lose as they grow into adulthood. At times, I'm guilty of this as anybody. Perhaps more so.

The question, "Do you still play?" made me think of the times I don't let myself play. Of times people in general don't let themselves play.

While kinesiology and physiology have enabled us to produce better and more efficient athletes, at times the preoccupation with pro-

duction crowds out the reason man was drawn to sport in the first place—to play.

The philosopher told us of a funny experience at a field hockey tournament that past weekend. Before the final game, the team she coached was tired, almost ready to pack it in. The ghetto blaster went on, and the team started the warmup.

"It was more like dancing than warming up," she reflected. "I honestly think they were playing. They sure were having a good time, at any rate."

Although many coaches at this point would have admonished the team to smarten up and get serious, this one didn't. The team went on to win the game and the tournament.

"Playing the game still means you do the best you can," said an anonymous Dal field hockey player when we were talking about play the other day. "But when you *play*, it doesn't matter what the context is, each game is as meaningful as the next. You can get the same charge out of a league game as out of playing the Netherlands."

To truly *play* means to remain open to the spontaneous nature of the game and of one's inner potential. Feelings of performance or outcome anxiety, or of the need to prove oneself by imposing one's physical superiority upon the opponent, hampers one's ability to be open to play.

A play attitude is not necessarily appropriate in all situations at all times. But play *is* an attitude rather than a context. A child "playing" with building blocks may be quite serious and work-like. An athlete in a world championship game may be "playing." It's all in the mind.

Those who, reinforced in part by a results-and-production-oriented society, do not leave themselves open to the play aspect of sport, or think they have outgrown it, are missing half the fun. □



Although Dal often controlled the ball, Memorial prevailed 3-1 in the Tigers' final season game.

Photo: Dave MacMillan, Dal Photo

Soccer Tigers lose final game

By MARK ALBERSTAT

Under forboding skies the men's soccer team finished off their season on a disappointing note. Unfortunately, it was a low note. Saturday afternoon Memorial defeated Dal 3-1 leaving Dal's record at two wins, five losses and four ties.

Dal came out of the blocks fast taking several shots on the Memorial goal in the first few minutes of play. Dal's first and only goal of the game came off the foot of Mark Moffatt.

Eight minutes later Memorial had their first solid attempt for a goal only to be foiled by Tiger

goalie Steven Cooley.

About ten minutes later Memorial finally scored their first goal. The ball came several feet in front of and to the right of the goal. Cooley moved well out of the general goal area to challenge the opposition and get the ball. However, the ball passed to the left and was neatly kicked into the net by Stockwood of MUN, with neither the Tiger goalie or a Dal player being near the ball.

The score at half time remained one all.

The second half was completely dominated by the visitors, both in shots on goal and in general possession of the ball.

Memorial's second goal of the

game came with 20 minutes left in the game.

The last goal and certainly the most depressing of the game came when the ball was in front of the Tiger net with the netminder off to the right. Dal's Shawn Sweeny tried to head the ball out to the net only to miscalculate and put the ball in his own net.

"The game's result was reflective of the overall attitude of the team," commented Tiger head coach Eric McIntyre. He added, "Without the attitude to win you won't win."

McIntyre also said that next year's team can only be better and that there are five or six players who definitely won't be back next season. □

Hockey Tigers open home season October 27

The Dalhousie Tigers Men's Hockey Team will open the 1984-85 AUAA regular season this weekend when they host the Acadia Axemen on Friday (Oct. 26) and UPEI on Saturday (Oct. 27). Both games are slated for 7:30 p.m. with Friday's contest being designated as Howe Hall Night.

Each resident of Howe Hall who shows his meal card will receive free admission to the game as well as a chance to win a clock from Coca Cola.

In addition, Friday's game will signal the beginning of the Pro-Honda/Coca Cola Shootout, where someone in attendance will have the opportunity to win a

chance at a Honda Scooter from Pro-Honda.

The Tigers are currently 3-1 in exhibition play, having defeated Acadia 5-2 in the last exhibition game on Oct. 17th.

TRIVIA CONTEST: Friday's contest is also a Tony's Tigers Trivia night where the winner will be awarded a free pizza from Tony's Donairs, Pizza & Subs on Robie Street. Answers to this week's question can be placed in the drum at the entrance to the game or at the Dalplex Information Desk.

This week's question: Since 1965, what AUAA team does the Tigers Hockey team have the best winning percentage against? □

VANCOUVER (CUP)—Some sports teams at three B.C. post-secondary institutions are disbanding because they are no longer receiving enough funds.

The Okanagan College administration has eliminated the entire intercollegiate athletics program, while Simon Fraser University and the University of B.C. cut funding for select varsity teams.

At the same time as Okanagan cut the competitive teams from its budget last June, it fired athletics director Eldon Worobieff, who held the position since 1974. Worobieff said he was worried that "an institute of higher learning is not providing extra-curricular activities as well as an effective intramural program."

At Simon Fraser, both men's and women's swim teams are being disbanded. SFU's athletics and recreation budget suffered a \$250,000 cut this year and swimming received the brunt of the cut

because the teams had the second largest operating budget in the athletics department, about \$80,000 a year.

The cut shocked SFU swimming coach Paul Savage and team spokesperson Peggi Peacock. "It must have been a big blow to him," Peacock said. "You spend 20 years of your life in the program and you get this?"

A 10 per cent budget cut in athletics at UBC has forced 13 varsity teams to disband. The remaining teams have begun to specialize and athletics director Bob Hindmarch said the result is "garbage".

But James Forbes, men's athletic committee faculty member, disagrees. "Our athletics programs have been underfunded for 10 years. We can starve everybody or let some exist."

Women's athletics director Marilyn Pomfret said she is distressed that women's and men's teams were axed almost evenly.

"Historically, sport opportunity for women has been very limited," she said, adding that now the proportion of women's teams will be even smaller.

Athletes affected by the cuts, however, are fighting back. Non-funded teams at UBC are searching for outside sponsors to continue their programs and swim teams at SFU have contacted alumni to help raise funds.

But athletes at Okanagan College are not as lucky. Although the college board said it would endorse any team that independently organized and funded itself, athletes have not been able to set up a single team. Okanagan needs three to compete in the inter-collegiate league.

The administration is also placing further hurdles in the athletes' way. Former athletics director Worobieff, who is on salary until January, has been forbidden to associate himself with any of the athletes. □