

SPORTS

How the East was won: women's soccer alone in first

BY RACHEL JONES

Three games, three wins, nine points and first place in the Eastern Division — the women's soccer Tigers had an awesome weekend, winning back-to-back games against Acadia, UCCB and SMU.

The weekend began with Friday's gratifying 2-0 defeat of the Acadia Axettes.

"After the half, we hadn't scored," relates rookie Mary-Beth Bowie, "but I was pretty confident that the goals would come because we kept with our game plan. We knew that we wanted to get those points back that we had lost at the home field."

The goals came, scored by none other than Bowie herself, who capitalized on what she describes as "a spectacular ball" from teammate Amy Harding and "a beautiful cross" from midfielder Kelly Larkin.

"We came to play, which was really nice to see," said coach Dara Moore. "We knew what to expect from Acadia in that they were going to give one hundred per cent and that we were going to have to earn our points. The players worked hard and played with a lot of heart — I think that had a lot to do with us getting the result."

Saturday's game at Wickwire Field brought equally rewarding

results, as well as demonstrating the Tigers' versatility as five goals were scored by four different players, and not one by Bowie. Andrea Gillespie, Larkin, Stefanie Finateri and, Player of the Game with two goals, Julie Pigozzo stepped up to finish a game that began a little flat. The Tigers eventually exhibited some decent play as they knocked the ball around the Cape Breton end and created some entertaining soccer.

As for St. Mary's, the Huskies are no doubt still licking their wounds after Sunday's Tiger triumph. It was a hard-fought game, with the Tigers playing with somewhat less than their usual

composure to begin with, but a blistering shot from stopper Harding sent the Huskies reeling backwards and they never quite recovered. Fired up from the goal, the Tigers dug in and Bowie's insurance marker in the second half sealed the game — bringing her personal tally to a league-leading total of seven. Special mention goes to Claire Martin who did a tremendous job of frustrating SMU's Marie Rasmusson's perpetual attempts at a 75-yard sprint breakaway down the sideline, and also to keeper Roxanne Murphy who did not concede a single goal in all three games.

So now they're on top, the Tigers have to stay there to secure a place in the playoff finals, taking it one game at a time. As coach Moore admits, "[S]ometimes it's harder to stay on top than to work to get there." However, never one to rest on her laurels, Moore is ready for what the rest of the season brings.

"It's a good challenge to try to stay there," she asserts. "You're only as good as your last game. We need to keep improving on our own performance, and every game you need to improve on the last. That's where we're at and we need to go forward from here."

Men's soccer team inch closer to first place

BY KATHLEEN MATTHEWS

Men's soccer had a successful three-game weekend. They tied Acadia 0-0 on Friday, beat Cape Breton 3-0 on Saturday and Saint Mary's 1-0 on Sunday.

Dal played a good game on Friday but goals didn't materialize.

"Friday was quite good," said coach Ian Kent. "The tempo was very good with an even effort [throughout] the whole game. We just didn't find the net."

Acadia did their job in back.

"We had possession most of the 90 minutes," says Stuart Cochran. "You have to credit Acadia for defending well. Unfortunately we just couldn't put the ball in the back of the net."

"It was a typical AUA game," adds midfielder Mike Ayyash. "It was rough and fast. We got a good result — we played well and we could've won the game."

On Saturday, the Cape Breton Capers challenged Dal at Wickwire field. Cochran, Dave McFarlane, and Ayyash played well and Dal got a break in the 35th minute off a penalty kick when UCCB was called for a take-down in their own box. Cochran put the shot away and followed up with another goal in the last minutes of the half.

Dal opened the second half with a lot of pressure in front of UCCB's net. Several yellow cards were handed out in this half, but Dal kept the pressure on with good shots by Tomas Ernst and Paul English. Cochran got his third goal of the day 28 minutes into the second half.

Though Dal didn't play up to their potential, they won the match thanks to Cochran's hat trick.

"I thought that the first half of the game was a bit sloppy," commented coach Kent. "The bright light was that Stuart Cochran showed hunger upfront... For the second game of a three-game weekend, it was far too sloppy."

"I am happy we got three points and scoring three goals was very nice," says Cochran. "It was a bit of a flat game on both sides, but we ground the result out and got the three points — that's the main thing."

Dal overcame very cold and wet conditions to beat SMU at home 1-

0. Cochran sat out this game after accumulating three yellow cards. The lone goal was scored by newcomer Marco Cesario in the 5th minute. McFarlane, Marc Rainford, and English also played well.

"It was a typical Dal-SMU game," said English. "It was a fast-paced game made faster by the slick surface."

"I thought it was an even game, but SMU going down to ten men helped, though we didn't really use

the extra man well. I think that's a sign that we are a good team — that when we aren't really playing well, we are still getting the points. So when we do play well, we will certainly be more effective."

The cold wet conditions had little effect on Dal's keeper, Grant Spence, who registered three shutouts this weekend.

"I thought the whole team played well," says Spence. "A couple of times we were challenged — they

were coming out hard. I had a lot of help from my defence for sure. It was lucky they didn't put many shots on the ground—it's the skippers you've got to watch out for in these conditions. It's a challenge but that's what I like."

This weekend was important for more reasons than getting the points says Ayyash.

"It was a big weekend this weekend because it resembles what we will have to play in nationals —

three games in three days — which we will have to win," he notes. "It is great to get the games and get the points."

Dal plays St. Francis-Xavier in Antigonish on October 16, and will be without English, who will sit out after accumulating three yellow cards. This game represents Dal's biggest challenge, and will more than likely decide first place in the East division.

Rookies lead swimmers in weekend win

BY SCOTT SANCTON

The Dalhousie men's swimming team started the season opener against the University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds with a 54-52 win Saturday night.

Stuart Kemp played a vital role in the win, also setting two meet records in the 200m freestyle (1:56.86) and in the 400m freestyle (4:14.33). Also playing major roles in the win were rookies Danny French and Mike Murray.

French started the season with one first-place finish in the 200m breaststroke (3:39.63) and a second-place finish in the 200m Individual Medley (2:22.26). Murray had two top-three finishes coming second in the 50m freestyle (25.25) and third in the 200m Backstroke (2:21.10).

"Personally I'm pretty happy with the way [the competition] went," said Murray after the competition. "I think it would be really nice to win double titles at the end of the season, and I think that everyone thinks that it is possible."

He went on to say, "We won, but we had three really good swimmers that weren't eligible and couldn't score points."

Both French and Murray swam for Nova Scotia at the Canada Games. The UNB Varsity Reds men's team won the AUAs last year.

The Varsity Reds Women's team

defeated the Tigers in a hard fought battle 62-44. The Tigers qualified Lindsay Eller for CIAUs in the 100m freestyle with a final time of 1:01.00, also winning the event.

"[The women] had high expectations for this swim meet, and the outcome is a little bit upsetting but not a big deal," commented women's team captain Gail Seipp after the meet. "We have a lot of depth and I think we have a lot more potential; it's just the first meet and we've only really

been training for a month after having the whole summer off."

"I think there is good contribution and depth [from the rookies] and UNB have got a few outstanding swimmers, but so do we," commented head coach Nigel Kemp of the rookies' performance at their first competition. "[A]t the end of the season it is going to be matching talents and trying to get

people in finals."

The Dalhousie Tigers swimming teams' next competition is the AUA Invitational at UNB on October 18th and 19th.

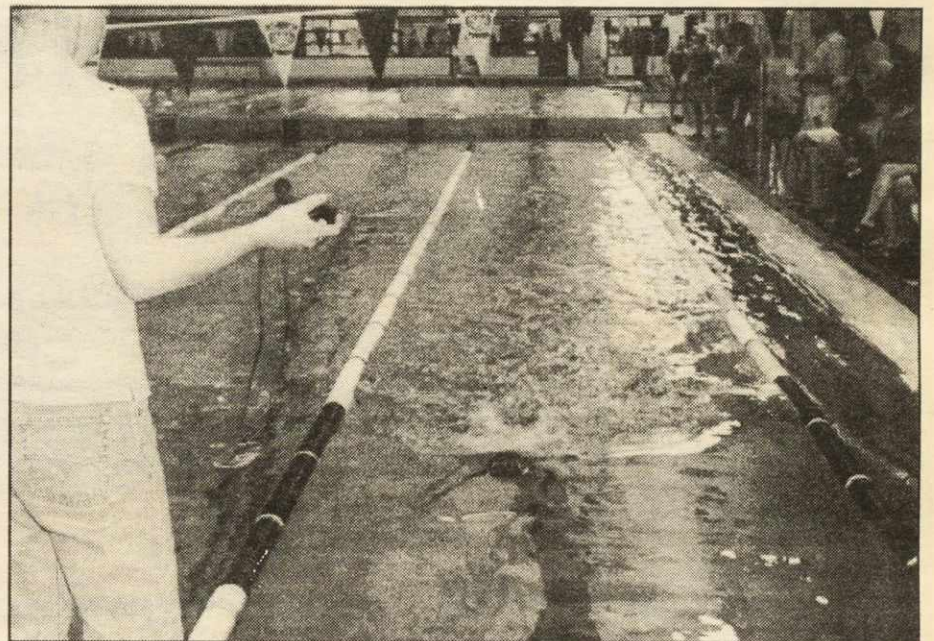


Photo by Jan Adams.

Athletes of the Week



PETRA DEWAARD, WOMEN'S SOCCER

Petra led the Tigers to three consecutive victories over Acadia, UCCB and Saint Mary's from October 3rd to October 5th. Her control of the backfield helped ignite many counter attacks and was critical to holding opponents scoreless for the weekend.

The three wins moved the Tigers to first place, four points ahead of second-place Memorial. Petra is a first-year Science student from Port Colborne, Ontario.

STUART KEMP, SWIMMING

Stuart won three races, including the 200m and 400m freestyle and the 200m butterfly, and led the Tigers to a 54-52 victory in a dual meet versus UNB. Stuart's times of 1:56.86 and 4:14.33 were meet records in the freestyle events. Stuart's swims propelled the Tigers to their first dual meet victory over UNB in a number of years. Stuart is a third-year Arts student from Halifax, Nova Scotia.