

SPORTS

Dalhousie topples defending Kelly Division champs

BY GREG WHITE

One game into the '97-'98 hockey season and the Dalhousie Tigers have already sent a message. 1500 fans packed Dalhousie Memorial Arena on October 15 to witness the season opener between the Tigers and the Acadia Axemen. Losing to Acadia has almost become expected from the hockey Tigers but, as the lights went out and showtime took over to start the new season, fans were "Thunderstruck" by the new-look Tigers.

At last it was Dal who was bullying the smaller and slower Axemen. The superstar names of the past — Skoryna, Clancy, and Weaver — have given way to those of Pittman, Kalmakoff, and Naylor.

Following a 3-0 exhibition loss to the Axemen in Wolfville the week before, the Tigers bounced

back to beat Acadia in a convincing 7-4 win.

Acadia opened the scoring in the first period on a goal from Jeff

Mercer, but Chad Kalmakoff responded just 38 seconds later for the Tigers. Acadia added another in the first and took a 2-1

lead into the first intermission.

Head coach Darrell Young had the Tigers flying to start the second frame as the Tigers scored four times in the second period, including two shorthanded goals, to gain the lead and take a 5-4 advantage into the third.

Chad Kalmakoff scored his third of the night with about four minutes left in the game and captain David Haynes iced the game with an empty net goal in the final minute of play.

This year's Tigers have an abundance of offensive potential.

The tandem of Kalmakoff and Derrick Pyke combined for seven points, popping the twine four times between them. Rookie centre Chris Pittman seemed to skate through the Acadia defense at will, despite some difficulty solving the Acadia netminder.

Defensively, the Tigers had a couple of miscues that resulted in easy goals for the defending Kelly Division champions but, as the team continues to gel, the Tigers will be tough from top to bottom. Dal's Neil Savary got the start between the pipes and denied the Axemen 31 times.

After only one game, it is way too early to start thinking about playoffs and dethroning Acadia, but one thing is clear — the Tigers looked solid in the season opener. If the first game of the year sets the tone for the rest of the season, then the Tigers are off on the right foot.



St.FX holds Dal to second place after weekend tie

BY KATHLEEN MATTHEWS

Dalhousie remains in second place in the East after a 0-0 draw against first-place St. Francis-Xavier. Dal went into Antigonish last Thursday fighting to move up in the standings and for an opportunity to host the AUAs in November. With only three games remaining in regular season play and St.FX still winning, that prospect seems unlikely now.

"Lack of intensity has been our biggest problem all year — you can see it," says co-captain Marc Rainford. "We have a team that should dominate."

"Overall, we need a lot of improvements," adds Richie Tobin. "We definitely didn't play as well as we should have. We came out with a lacklustre effort and I think we were lucky enough to get away with a tie."

"[During the] first half, the team was flat and they weren't as hungry as you would expect for a game of that magnitude" commented coach Ian Kent. "[During the] second half, they picked it up a fair bit. We had strong games from [Grant] Spence and [Marc] Rainford. In the last fifteen minutes we created a lot of good scoring opportunities. We learned some things from that and we hope to build on it."

"Some players say 'We are satisfied by just being Dal soccer players because these guys [more experienced players] will take us to the next level,'" continues Rainford. "This attitude is starting to show. It is too much work for the guys who are expected to carry us through."

"Some of the young players see themselves as apprentices. They come along for the ride and take their time developing, and next year they will step in and fill the roles."

A big effort is going to be needed if Dal expects to beat St.FX in the AUAs.

"I think it is going to take a one

hundred per cent effort from every team member," says Tobin. "We had a good effort from Marc Rainford and Marco Cesario [this week], but other than that everyone else was kind of sub-par."

"It will take complete sacrifice by the sixteen players who dress," adds Rainford. "Intensity isn't something you can motivate out of somebody,

either you have it or you don't. It takes something extreme.

"No player that is at Dal right now will ever have the chance to play in the Nationals at home again... so it still boggles my mind that we are playing the way we are."

Right now the toughest competition doesn't seem to be St.FX, but the Tigers themselves.

One can only hope the Tigers will be able to pick up the pace in time for the playoffs which are just two weeks away.

"We really have to re-evaluate where we want to be at the end of the season, where we can be," says Tobin. "We will have to take it from there."

"I don't know if it is a question of

whether we can or can't; we have to," says Rainford. "If we don't have it, we won't win. Playoffs are not about skill, it's about who wants to win more and if we want to win we have to get it."

Dal has another big weekend coming up with three games at home, so get out there and cheer on your Tigers.

The turf is always greener... Dal remains atop East

BY RACHEL JONES

Once again, Amy Harding has scored a key goal for the women's soccer Tigers. The team defeated St. FX 1-0 last Thursday afternoon, earning their seventh win of the season, and maintaining their position atop the Eastern Division with only three games left to play in the regular season.

Harding's goal came early in the second half of what was described

as a very physical game. St. FX, once tied for first in this extremely competitive division, has now dropped to third, and Acadia, also tied for first mid-way through the season, now have more losses than wins and replace the SMU Huskies at the very bottom of the East.

Unlike Dal's men's soccer team, who failed to seize the opportunity to host, the women never had a chance. The playoffs will be hosted by the winner of the Western Division — in

all likelihood, at UNB whose stats look very impressive and are comparable to those of Dalhousie. UNB is ranked seventh, one place above Dal, by the CIAU. The only problem with the statistics is that they do not reflect the inequalities inherent in the East/West Divisions as they now stand.

The teams in the Eastern Division (Acadia, Dalhousie, Memorial, St. FX and SMU) have historically been the stronger teams in the conference, while the Western Division teams (Cape

Breton, Moncton, Mount Allison, New Brunswick and UPEI) have failed to dominate. This historical trend is clearly reflected in the current standings by the 11-point spread between the first and last place teams in the East, compared to the 19-point spread in the West.

Also underlying the statistics is the fact that UNB played the teams in their own division twice for a possible 6 points, while only playing the Eastern Division teams once. The Eastern teams, on the other side of the fence, can only pick up a possible 3 points from games against Western Division teams while fighting the stronger teams in their own division for 6 points, resulting in points being much more evenly spread throughout.

UNB has not done so badly and this year they are a fairly strong team. They tied Dalhousie in their only match-up. Yet, as winner of the West, they would have made playoffs regardless of their record against Eastern teams, and one can only speculate whether they would be among the top four in the conference, or ranked above Dalhousie nationally, if they had to fight the same fight.

No doubt the teams ending up in fourth and fifth places in the Eastern Division, and shutout of the playoffs will have plenty to say on the subject, as will the men's Eastern Division teams when playoff hosting flips to the Western Division for the men next year. The turf may be perpetually green on Wickwire field, but sometimes the grass is greener... We haven't heard the end of this debate yet.

Good swims outweigh losses

BY SCOTT SANCTON

The Dalhousie Tigers swimming teams were defeated by the UNB Varsity Reds in Fredericton Sunday.

Memorial (MUN), Mount Allison (MTA), UNB and Dal all competed at the two-day James Burrowes Memorial AUAA Invitational. The men's team lost to UNB by a score of 147-182. MUN came third with 42 points and MTA came in last place with 37.

Despite the loss, the Tigers kept the pressure on UNB throughout the meet with several rookies having good finishes. Chris Swift came third in the 200m breaststroke (2:45.00) on Sunday night. Danny French surprised the field by winning the 400m Individual Medley (5:07.71). Chris "Foo Man" Stewart won the

50m breaststroke (32.36).

Senior Stuart Kemp once again led the Tigers in a number of first-place finishes. He achieved the top placings in the 200m freestyle (1:59.54), 400m freestyle (4:11.30), and the 1500m freestyle (17:08.56).

The men were also short-handed, with four seniors swimming exhibition. Even though these swimmers could not swim finals and score points, their presence was felt in the pre-lims.

The UNB women's team defeated the Tigers 202-145. MTA came third with 57 points and MUN followed with 23. Sarah Woodworth swam five finals, coming first in the 200m Individual Medley (2:30.35) and in the 800m freestyle (9:38.09). Sister Amy Woodworth also had two top finishes in the 400m freestyle (4:46.42) and in the 400m

Individual Medley (5:22.44).

Lindsay Eller put out a good showing with a first place finish in the 200m freestyle (2:13.74). Third-year swimmer Megan Hannam placed third in the 200m butterfly, with a personal best of 1:09.83. Rookie Kelly Zwicker was a finalist in the 200m and 50m breaststroke. She is new to the Tigers after competing in a summer swimming program.

Women's team captain Gail Seipp described the meet as a chance for all swimmers to try a variety of events. She commented that the focus was not necessarily on winning the Invitational, but to build experience. Seipp believes that the Tigers will be a threat in the future.

Out of a total of 36 events, UNB won 24, Dal won 10 and MTA won 2 events.