

Men's soccer need only one more win...

Tigers on top of standings

by Angel Figueroa

With authority.

That's how the men's soccer team ended their schedule over the weekend—by going undefeated against 3 of the best teams in the Atlantic Conference. Dal now sits atop their division in the overall standings with just one game left to play in the regular season.

First on the itinerary was Acadia, on October 16. As both teams warmed up prior to kick-off, the atmosphere of tension was billing the game as one of the most crucial of the year. Their last meeting had ended in a 1-0 defeat for Dal. Since the loss, Acadia had retained top position in the standings, even

though Dal simultaneously went undefeated.

Four weeks later, it was not a question of revenge, but survival. There were only two playoff berths available, and with the ferocity of St. Mary's there was no room for fooling around.

But the game began in shock. With no more than 12 seconds of play underway, Acadia blitzed a goal right from the starting kick-off.

Overcoming the setback, Dal rebounded quickly with the equalizer when John Richmond went down centrefield and put a shot through the keeper's legs in the 7th minute.

What followed was 85 minutes

of hair raising soccer. The pace was frantic as both teams showed great one-touch passing and ball control. Neither team was able to score, and it seemed a game of attrition where the winner would likely be the most fit.

DAL 2 ACA 1

Here Dal was at a disadvantage, as they were playing their third game in four days while Acadia had played none over the weekend.

But great fitness paid off. In the 51st minute, Dal took the ball down the left wing and forced a corner.

A scramble right after the kick enabled Trent Morris to pass to Ian Clark, who deflected the shot into the net for the deciding goal.

After the game, coach Tony Richards took the victory modestly. "This win over Acadia represents a turning point for us. We've slowly improved over the season and we've found the formula that's now going to show a lot of power," he said.

Next up was Mt. Allison for the homecoming game on October 19. About 250 face-painted crazies showed up, complete with flags and a mascot. There was even a spontaneous, somewhat demented halftime show. Mt. Allison was the best team in the East division, and they proved to be formidable opponents.

DAL 3 MTA 1

Once again it was a fast-paced game with neither team dominating the other. Mt. Allison had some strong strikers, but what they lacked was comparable halfback support. This Dal took advantage of.

After just 5 minutes of play, fullback Bob Hathaway made a stunning goal by heading it in from 30 feet out after a well-placed cross by Jamie Sawler.

When Mt. Allison retaliated, they became the first team ever to consistently break the Dal defense, which was considered one of the best in the conference.

Their tenacity paid off with the

equalizer in 59th minute. This was quickly followed by a scramble outside the penalty box when Richmond scored for Dal to go up 2-1. Tim Hall, who had a great but goalless game against Acadia, headed a shot which rebounded off the post in the 74th minute. Shortly after, he picked up a loose ball at centrefield. Going around a defender, he blasted a left-footed shot into the net for the final goal of the game.

DAL 1 UNB 1

The next matchup was against New Brunswick, and it proved to be a disappointment. Dal's playing was of a different brand of soccer compared with their previous two games. With New Brunswick being the least powerful of the three opponents, perhaps it was overconfidence that denied an otherwise easy victory.

New Brunswick scored first in the 10th minute by capitalising on defensive errors at midfield and by the Dal keeper.

The game was on its way to becoming an upset, but finally Dal came alive with the equalizer in the 75th minute after Richmond headed the ball in from a set play by Hathaway and John Amis.

Their third draw of the season ended an otherwise outstanding week of play, and they couldn't be better prepared as they head into the final game of the season against St. Mary's on October 27 (2 pm at SMU).



Dal photo: Kevin Peters

Mount Allison keeper had a rough day against Dal.

Easy strokes lead to first victory

by Kevin Barrett

The Dalhousie Tigers mens and women's swim teams opened their season by soundly defeating the University of New Brunswick and Mt. Allison University in a dual swim meet held at Dalplex on Friday evening.

Dal swimmers won 18 of the 22 races in the inaugural event of the A.U.A.A. swimming calendar. The Dal women won all 11 of their races as they destroyed Mt. A. 82-10 and U.N.B. 82-11. The men won seven of their events and defeated U.N.B. 59-36. (Mt. A. does not have a men's swim team).

In this sport, which focuses on the individual times of the competitors, the overall team standings were on the minds of most of Dal's team members.

"Definitely a goal for us this year is to win the A.U.A.A.'s", said fourth year physiotherapy student Kellie Andrews. "Last year U.N.B. had two swimmers who gained most of their points and that's why they defeated us. This year they are gone and I feel our chances are very good. The depth on our team is un-

believable. We have good swimmers in all events and I think we have a great chance to win it all."

As for her own performance, the free style sprinter stated that she wants to qualify for the C.I.A.U. championships, which are being held at Dalplex in March.

On the men's side, the Tigers had a bit more difficulty with U.N.B.

before eventually defeating them by 23 points. Again, team results were most important for the males.

"We want to win the A.U.A.A.'s and regain the championship," said sophomores Ron Harway, Dave Murray and freshman Kermit deGrooyer. "There has been a lot of turnover from last season and tonight was good for the team to

find out how it was doing. So far it looks good," said the trio as they prepared for the final event of the evening.

Most swimmers indicated that their times were satisfactory for this time of the year, but that they would improve as they developed into a routine of swimming every day. "I am pleased considering I did not

swim that much all summer," said De Grooyer while Andrews stated simply, "Not bad for two weeks of training."

After Friday evening, it appears the only thing the Tigers have to work on is getting the starting pistol to work. It had a number of malfunctions during the evening causing a few minor delays.

Women's soccer on the brink

by Kevin Barrett

The nationally ranked Dalhousie women's soccer team split their two games last week but still remain very much alive in the battle for post season spots in the A.U.A.A.'s women's Soccer Conference.

Last Wednesday, the Tigers gained a measure of revenge on the St. F.X. X-Ettes by posting an easy 3-0 win before being nipped by the Mt. Allison Mounties 1-0 in Sackville on Friday. The results leave Dal with a 7-3-1 record, good enough for second place in

the conference as the team enters its final week of regular season action.

Against X, Belinda Campbell scored two goals while Stephanie Johnson added a single and Hillary Wells posted the shutout in a match Dal dominated. With the exception of a brief flurry by the X-ettes at the beginning of the second half, Dal held the upper hand, something which pleased Assistant coach Neil Sedewyck.

"This is a good result for us, especially since they (St. F.X.) had tied us 1-1 last weekend. We have

been experimenting with the lineup, trying to find the proper position for each of the players. By improving our overall team shape, we feel we can make a real good run in the playoffs", said Sedewyck.

It appears as though Dal will make post season action but where they will finish is uncertain.

What is certain is if they want to win the title they will have to defeat the nation's top team, Acadia, in the conference playoffs.

When asked if Dalhousie could beat the Axettes in the playoff round, Sedewyck expressed a high

degree of optimism. "In our last game against them, they took advantage of their chances and we didn't. We had the ball in front of their net more than they had it in front of ours, but we could not score. Even though they won, our team is confident we can beat them if we meet in the playoffs."

Before that final round of four starts, the Tigers have an important match with Saint Marys at Huskies Stadium Friday at 4:00 p.m. This is the final regular season game, and will be very important in determining the final standings in the league.