

Soccer Tigers – Atlantic champs

Kevin Mayo scoring second and winning goal.

Photo by Tom Stanley

PERSISTENCE, DEDICATION, CONFIDENCE, TEAM-WORK, and faith in their own game all played intricate parts in Dal's Soccer team's journey from game one to the climatic capture of the Atlantic Crown. The journey wasn't an easy one; in fact the battle isn't over. It would be fruitless at this stage to discuss the apathy that persists at our university. To make the matter even worse, the soccer Tigers have been superior at their game for a number of years. It has often been said that if the Dal teams could support a winning team, then, and only then, would fans come to the games. This philosophy is crap!!! Here is a case and point. The soccer club has went to the Nationals on two accounts and still the stands are far from over-crowded.

Kevin Mayo could not receive enough praise for his persistent play and continued leadership throughout the season. Mayo's two goal performance sparked the club to a 2-1 victory over Memorial University. A small but verbal crowd was on hand to witness the match.

Although the score appeared to be rather close, the Dal squad had a commanding control of the game and on several occasions pressed the Newfoundland club and forced them to play the Tigers game.

After the game many of the players felt that the match was perhaps the most demanding of the entire schedule which saw the Tigers finish undefeated in twelve outings. On one account they dropped a 4-2 decision to Concordia University in exhibition play.

With due credit to the fantastic team play that was so obvious in the play of the club, much of the success has to be directed towards the fine coaching staff. It is not enough to say that they have done a great job, however, some circles around the campus appear to do just this. It is not enough to say: "Great job team, we are proud of you". If we could examine the bureaucratic structure of the Athletic Department, it is very obvious that for many winning teams, including the Women Sports, little support is genuinely given. How is support gained around this place? If one takes this a step further and asks what do students want to see in sports at the college level the response would be simply a verbal diarrhea of what should take place at the personal level. So, this suggests that an individual must firstly play for the intricate value of the sport and that's it. The writer of this article will buy this idea, but students and faculty alike should not complain when supremacy is not attained. It all boils down to money!!! Does the school want "winning teams"? If so why no come to grips with the realities of life. If football, hockey, basketball soccer or any other sport is going to win in the true sense, it needs support. Hence, in a realistic way why not take up the battle for competitiveness and sell it to the students. If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen!!!

Granted, much time has been spent on the underlying issue that if facing the soccer team in that fans, staff, and faculty alike will not support the team so it is very clear to me that self-esteem and self-fulfillment are the goals, but isn't that selfish--one can hardly think so.



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