

X edges hockey Tigers 3-2

by Greg Zed

Twelve Hundred fans packed in to the Dalhousie Memorial Rink on South Street Saturday evening to see third ranked St. Francis Xavier X-men edge the host Dalhousie Tigers 3-2. It was the most exciting Intercollegiate game played in four years but, if the Tigers wish to make the playoffs, the entertainment should continue.

Prior to the Christmas break, the Dal Tigers faced a fired-up SMU Huskies squad minus Bob Boucher, but the Tigers were ready to stand their ground. In fact they lost by a 3-2 margin.

Ken Bickerton, the soft-spoken native of Sydney has certainly been in the background for most of the season. To top it off Bickerton doesn't stand much of a chance to win the goaltenders award this season but one thing for certain is Bickerton has kept the Tigers hanging on. He has been nothing short of sensational in goal for the Dal squad. He appeared in both the SMU and St. F.X. contests as well as the two Exhibition games Dalhousie played in Quebec over the Christmas break. McGill edged the Tigers in the first game by a score of 5-3 as did Trois Rivieres.

At 6:08 of the opening frame Halifax native Kick Gaetz picked up a loose puck in X's end and went in to beat Fred Cuvelier in the X-men's goal. The one goal lead was ended at the 13:06 mark of the first period, when Dwight Houser eluded Bickerton after taking a pass from Barry Wolbaum. The X-Men ended the period by out-shooting the host Dal squad by a margin of 20-11 but rookie Ken Bickerton withstood the firing range.

In the middle frame the Tigers came out smoking but this time Fred Cuvelier stymied the Dal Machine on all seventeen shots. St. F.X. scored an unanswered goal at 18:10 mark when Brian Flaman beat Bickerton on the stick side after taking a pass from Wolbaum and captain Peter MacKenzie. The second period of the barn-burner ended with X leading 2-1. The shots on goal at the end of the period were 34-28 for the visiting Antigonish club.

Pierre Page's South Street pucksters came out roaring in the third period but Cuvelier was equal to the test...he was unbeatable except on one account when defenceman Eric



The second goal of the game was fired by Eric Eisenhouer.

Eisenhouer took a pass from Hal Davidson and eluded Cuvelier on a shot from twenty feet out. This tied the contest.

The period was marked with end to end rushes but both clubs got solid goal-tending to add to the mounting excitement...overtime was hanging over the clubs but Dal got a break at 15:47 mark of the period when X was given a bench minor for having too many players on the ice. The power play was stymied by a solid penalty performance of the Wayne Synished coached X-Men. Then with less than three minutes to play, team captain John Mullowney was charged with high sticking. The questionable call was certainly a low blow for Dal especially with the score at 2-2...a close call like that was out of context. With Mullowney in the "sin-bin" X's Greg Keating wrapped home. Bob Stephenson's rebound after Bickerton blocked a drive from Stephenson.

Coach Page pulled the Dal puckster in favor of a sixth attacker

DALHOUSIE ICE RINK RECREATIONAL SKATING SCHEDULE

Mondays	11:30 - 12:30 p.m. Faculty & Staff Hockey 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. Free Skating (no pucks) 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. Open Student Skating*
Tuesdays	10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Open Student Skating* 11:30 - 12:30 p.m. Faculty & Staff Hockey 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. Open Student Skating* 8:30 - 10:00 p.m. DAL STUDENT SKATING SESSION
Wednesdays	11:30 - 12:30 p.m. Faculty & Staff Hockey 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. Free Skating (no pucks) 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Open Student Skating*
Thursdays	10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Open Student Skating* 11:30 - 12:30 p.m. Faculty & Staff Hockey 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. Open Student Skating* 8:30 - 10:00 p.m. PUBLIC SKATING SESSION
Fridays	11:30 - 12:30 p.m. Faculty & Staff Hockey 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Open Student Skating*
Saturdays	2:30 - 4:30 p.m. PUBLIC SKATING SESSION
Sundays	10:30 - 12:30 a.m. Faculty & Staff Family Skating

* Open Student Skating times allows sticks and pucks

in the dying minute but the bid was unsuccessful and the Tigers lost their eight game in ten starts...a most frustrating experience. In fact the twelve hundred fans who cheered the Tigers on from opening to closing gave the club a standing ovation. It was truly a heart breaker for Dal but it showed one thing...the second half of the season will provide a goal for Dal that is not out of reach. In 1973 the Dalhousie squad faced the same circumstances but they rallied back to make the playoffs...this year the Tigers will repeat that task!!!

This season the Tigers play home on seven more accounts while playing on the road on three occasions.

Here is the remaining schedule of the hockey Tigers. Plan to follow the Tigers to the playoffs:

January	15 Dal at Mt. Allison
	16 Dal at U.P.E.I.
	22 Acadia at Dal
	26 Dal at SMU
	27 Dal vs. Halifax Centenials (Exhibition)
February	2 SMU vs. Dal (WINTER CARNIVAL)
	5 Dal vs. Acadia
	6 St. F. X-Men vs. /s.
	11 U.de M vs. Dal
	12 U.N.B. vs. Dal



Ken Bickerton's performance was out-standing. Dal Photo / Douma



Head Coach Pierre Page was extremely pleased with the recent St. F.X. contest.

Dal Photo / Douma

"Come weez me to zee Grawood"

**every Saturday afternoon
12:00 ~ 3:00
for the HAPPY HOUR
& JAM SESSION**

starts January 15