

Rookie Ellis clinches AUAA victory

BY DAVID FINLAYSON

"Brilliant," yelled Mike Hudson, after the Tigers won their first AUAA championship in years.

In between songs of jubilation from the team, the euphoria of winning started to set in for the Tigers. After two consecutive years of losing in the AUAA finals by a goal, Dalhousie's men's soccer team finally managed to finish off their Atlantic opposition.

The Tigers squeaked out a 1-0 victory over the University of New Brunswick (UNB) on Wickwire field Sunday afternoon in front of 400 spectators.

A dramatic 87th minute goal by rookie striker Mark Ellis finished off a game that was marked by close misses and quality goalkeeping. Ellis collected the ball after fellow rookie Eric Pinfold won a ball in the midfield. Ellis then ran 60 yards down the field, deked the sweeper, and calmly chipped a shot past the approaching goalkeeper.

"All season I have been getting stick for chipping instead of taking a hard shot. I thought since it was on my right foot, that I might as well chip the ball," said an ecstatic Ellis, who later commented that he had never in his life scored such an important goal.

The final saw a couple of changes for the Tigers. Mike Hudson started the game in goal in lieu of Trevor Chisholm, who got the shutout on Saturday. Graham Allardice moved into Matt Serieys' position at stopper, and was solid in marking dangerous UNB striker, Gray Zurheide. The game also pitted ex-Tiger Morten Mooers against his old team.

It was an inauspicious start for the Tigers, who had Chad Thorpe head the ball just by his own goalpost at the two minute mark. However, Dal recovered quickly and third-year midfielder Dave McFarlane just missed deflecting a ball in after some good work by Jeff Hibberts. After five minutes, the ball again ran through UNB's 6-yard box, but they escaped unscathed. The game picked up momentum as both teams came close to scoring.

Captain Paul English, McFarlane, and Hibberts combined well in a play which saw the ball again go through the box untouched. Again the Tigers seemed reluctant to shoot, but this will probably be worked out in practice.

Chris Devlin, Steve Cormier, and Chad Thorpe were solid at the back, with regulars Serieys and Mark Rainford out of the lineup.

Twenty minutes into the game, Hudson was fooled by a Mooers kick, but managed to deflect the ball out of harm's way. The Varsity Reds shot on sight, although Hudson was rarely in danger.

At the other end, AUAA all-star keeper Mike Green was tested frequently. He stopped many corner kicks and numerous close range shots. Devlin came close to scoring with his head on at least two occasions. McFarlane had a thirty yard drive blocked by the keeper. Two minutes later, Reds' striker Zurheide stopped the hearts of the Dalhousie faithful with a shot that screamed by the post.

Towards the end of the half the tempo slowed, but that seemed to allow Dal better opportunities, and midfielder Ante Jaczic started

to come into the game. Thorpe and English came close to scoring in the last three minutes.

The game was refereed by FIFA ref, José Farias, who kept the game well under control to the delight of the fans who spent half of Saturday's game (against UPEI) berating the referee.

In the second half, the Tigers looked more confident, displaying some flowing moves that the first half was lacking.

"The last couple weeks, the coaches have been emphasizing patience and waiting for the goals to come. We knew we could win if we played like we had the last three weekends," said Steve Cormier, who was soaking up the win in the locker room.

The midfield came into the game more, and that led to some great passing, in particular through English and McFarlane. Dal hit a post off of a corner, and then on the ensuing play, Pinfold nearly slotted the ball home for the Tigers.

Dal was dominating by this point, and the stage was set for the dramatic goal by Ellis.

"This win feels so sweet after three years. Two years in a row of losing and Matt (Serieys) and I thought we would never get to nationals," exclaimed McFarlane.

Fourth-year man Devlin, who had an excellent game at sweeper, added, "We are aiming as high as we can. It feels so good. They had no good chances in the second half. We came out and played hard, and now we are the champs."

In Saturday's game against UPEI, which had produced a 1-1 draw earlier this year, the Tigers couldn't find the net in the first half, but opened it up in the second half to win the game 4-0.

"We were searching for the key to the floodgates, and Mark Ellis found it," said Mark Rainford.

After 19 minutes, UPEI had the chance to take the lead, and produce their second upset (after beating Acadia), but the chance was squandered. Later, Devlin did well to stop a three-on-one, and then Dal turned on the class. They started winning the midfield battles, and the tide of the game started to flow their way.

"Playoffs aren't about touch and control, they are about heart. Battles have to be won decisively, so that they will be easier next time," said Rainford on the bench.

The second half started with a bang. After a corner was missed by Dal, Pinfold collected it on the other side and chipped it by the unsuspecting keeper to an anxiously awaiting Mark Ellis, who headed it into the back of the net.

The second goal came when Jaczic was hauled down outside the box, and Thorpe played a delightful chip to the far post and Devlin crashed the ball home. Jaczic started to find his range and the keeper did well to keep him off the scoresheet. Chris Devlin almost scored from half on a free kick that the keeper misplayed. It skimmed over his head, and he just managed to tip it wide.

The referee did nothing to protect the Tigers as they were hauled down time after time. After the third goal, coach Kent started subbing his starters off just to protect them.

The third goal was started on an incisive run by Jaczic who

played a short pass to Ellis at the top of the box. He controlled, turned and fired the ball into the top corner of the net.

The final tally of the rout was a well-executed free kick by McFarlane, who chipped the ball over the wall and into the top of the net. It was a great end to a great day.

The Tigers said that they would like to thank their fans who braved the cold weather to come and

watch the matches. There were at least 400 spectators at the final.

With the Tigers' present performance level, they have a good chance to win CIAUs. The status of several players might affect that, including Matt Serieys who injured his leg on Saturday and missed Sunday's game. But with such a deep squad including Graham Allardice, Gregor MacKaskill, Chad Denny, and Jeff Hyles, one would think that one

injury won't cause their whole gameplan to collapse.

It was rookie midfielder Mike Ayyash who was dreaming of a banner at CIAUs next week.

"I would really love to see another banner up on the wall, except this time a CIAU championship. It would be like a dream come true."

Well, the same goes for all of us Mike, and we wish the Tigers the best of luck in Québec.

Tigers take aim at CIAU title defense

BY SHANNON MORRISON

The Tigers' trail of success has led them to the CIAU championships.

Dalhousie's women's soccer team captured their third straight AUAA title Sunday afternoon with a narrow 1-0 victory over the Acadia Axettes in Wolfville. In reaching the final, the Tigers needed penalty shots and superb goaltending from Leahanne Turner to defeat St. Francis Xavier (St. FX) in dramatic fashion.

The team persevered through miserable weather conditions and faced a determined St. FX squad in Saturday's semi-final action.

"It was cold, windy, and rainy," said Tigers head coach Neil Turnbull. "It didn't do justice to either team."

Through 90 minutes of play, the score remained 0-0. Even two 15-minute overtime periods failed to break the deadlock.

"It was a battle of survival for both teams. It wasn't really soccer," said Turnbull.

The defending national champions were then faced with a situation that was all too familiar. Penalty shots have become routine for the Tigers, who faced this situation during last year's AUAA championship and the previous two CIAU finals.

Dalhousie's fourth-year keeper, Turner, sees penalty kicks as a personal challenge and uses that to increase her motivation.

"I make it into a one vs. one game," explained Turner. "It's my territory, my net, and I don't want anything to get past me."

"The ultimate challenge is to stop a penalty shot and the worst



Karen Hood

thing is picking the ball out of the back of the net."

The Tigers' keeper, who has been plagued with back problems during the season, never experienced the need to retrieve a ball because she refused to concede a goal to the opposition. Her strong mental outlook combined with her physical capabilities destroyed St. FX's chances of upsetting Dalhousie.

Turner dove to stop the first two penalty shots headed for the low right corner of the goal while the third she cut off on the opposite side.

"I was ecstatic after the second shot because it was two in a row and then after the third I was in shock," exclaimed the all-star keeper.

At the other end of the field, the St. FX goalie wasn't nearly as successful. Dal's Kate Gillespie, Kelly Larkin, and Tara MacNeil converted their penalty shot opportunities to put the game away for the Tigers.

Dalhousie advanced to the fi-

nal where they battled the host squad from Acadia for the third consecutive year. History repeated itself as the Tigers snatched the title from Acadia's grasp.

Twenty-seven minutes into the first half, Karen Hood put her team on the scoreboard after converting a cross from Gillespie. The goal was the deciding factor in the game with the Axettes failing to capitalize on a glorious opportunity midway into the second half.

There was a scramble in front of Dalhousie's net and a reflex reaction resulted in a hand ball in the penalty area. The Axettes were awarded a penalty kick with the Tigers' Carolyn Campbell being issued a red card for the incident.

Turner remained perfect in nets as the shot ricocheted off the post and the Tigers escaped unscathed. For the remaining 25 minutes of the game, Dal battled it out with only 10 players on the field, due to the hand ball infraction. The defending champions played well defensively to earn a spot in the national championships this week in Ottawa, Ontario.

"They played with a lot of character and heart," said Turnbull. "Overall, during the weekend several players made the responsible and conscious decision to lift their game. It was required to be successful."

"If we are to be successful this coming weekend, then those players have to at least maintain that level and other players have to lift their games too. It is not outside their ability."

After the conference finals, Gillespie and Turner were named to the AUAA all-star team. Larkin was a close second in the running for rookie of the year honours.

Dalhousie returns to the CIAU championships after capturing the gold and silver medals during the past two years and will be ranked first for this weekend's tournament.

The Tigers face McGill on Thursday and finish round-robin play on Friday against Queens. The championship game is scheduled for Sunday.

"I feel great (about this weekend). The team has a lot of heart and desire," said Turner. "In the AUAA's we were missing a lot of players from last year's team but the older players are great leaders. I think we got the message across that it takes a lot, a lot of hard work."

"They (the team) got a taste of the CIAU's at the AUAA's and they're getting hungry. I think they want more."



Alicia MacFarlane

former national team member, eligibility.

The next day, Dal trounced the Sea-Hawks 15-8, 15-1, and 15-3. Sophomore Michelle Aucoin paced the Tigers with 33 assists and three services aces, while teammate Alicia MacFarlane had five digs.

Dalhousie's first AUAA home game will be against Acadia on Wednesday, October 29 at 7 p.m.

Tigers "rock" MUN

BY CARMEN TAM

The Dalhousie Tigers started their AUAA season strongly with convincing victories over the Memorial (MUN) Sea-Hawks in Newfoundland.

The Tigers defeated MUN Saturday by scores of 15-6, 15-11, and 15-3. Player of the game honours went to Dalhousie's Christine Frail, a

who is in her fifth year of

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