

Hockey Tigers lose two on the road ,tie 1

by Greg Zed

This weekend saw the Dalhousie Varsity Hockey Club travel to New Brunswick to play two games, one against Mt. Allison Mounties the other against the University of Moncton Blue Eagles; the outcome wasn't too impressive!!!

On Saturday evening the Tigers were out-shot 42-25 in their match-up with the Mounties and came out on the short end of a 3-1 score. Untracked, disorganized, and

just sloppy play accounted for the loss. Incidentally it was a "must game" for the young squad if they wish to make the play-offs. Earl Theriault scored the lone marker for the Tigers, while the Sackville team had replies from Bill Brennan, Jim Wooder, and Mike Toole.

The game was delayed for forty-five minutes due to a mix-up in times between the referee and two linesmen. The Tigers, who

appeared to be "up for the game" seemed to lose their pre-game momentum and as a result fell behind 2-0 by the end of the first period.

On Sunday afternoon, the Tigers seemed to play the same style of hockey as the night before and before they knew it they trailed 2-0. A fast skating Eagles team dominated the early goings but as the period drew to an end, the Dal squad tied the game. After fighting back, the Halifax club fell into the rut of sloppy play and as a result the tie they worked for began to leave them behind. On several occasions the Moncton club just walked around the Dal defence and by the end of two periods the score was 7-3 for Moncton.

The third frame saw the Tigers play a type of hockey that must be played in future if the spot in the playoffs is to be won. Goalie Jim Palmer was replaced in the middle of the period and back-up Melvin Barlett took command. Jules Boivin scored the seventh goal for Moncton soon after Palmer was replaced, however, the Tigers continued to finish out the game. The rest of the game is history... Led by two goal performances from Al McNaughton and Hal Davidson, Dal began their five goal surge. Other Dal markers were Danny Flynn, John Mallowney, Robert Riopel and Bob Lewicki. Five of the Tigers eight goals were scored within eight minutes and it certainly showed the fans what a team can do with a little pride, desire and guts. Who would ever believe that a team could fight off a 7-3 score to come out with a tie. In fact the Dal squad acquired a 8-7 lead, however the Blue Eagles tied the game with a minute and thirty-seven seconds.

For the Tigers it was a great come back and I would think that this weekend will give the Tigers a bit more confidence and definitely a feeling of pride that makes this group one of a kind. I do not mean to single this club out, however, being closely associated with it for four year makes me look back and suggest that this team has the makings of a team that may surprise many people.

On key player for the Tigers was Melvin Barlett. This Dunn scholar from St. Andrews, New Brunswick was put on the spot when he replaced Jim Palmer in the Dal goal. Having only worn a Dal sweater on two occasions he certainly provided the turning point

in the game. When asked about his entry into the game, he replied:

"Yes I was nervous. This was the first appearance for me and I knew I had to play well." When asked about the three goalie system presently being used, he showed total agreement. "When you have three goalies, the pressure is always there. In fact you know that when you are called upon you must be hot. It definitely keep you on your toes." Hot wasn't the word used too often during the early stages of the Moncton game but Bartlett certainly kept the Tigers in the game during the latter part of the third period. As coach Page put it:

"We needed strong goal tending if we were to come back and he (Bartlett) was there."

Although the Tigers were unable to pick up a win, the weekend games saw several impressive changes in the play of the team; Rick Hooke certainly played a "gutsy" game in Moncton as did team leader Jim Shatford. In fact Shatford played his strongest games in two years and has certainly provide evidence of a true leader. Tom Coolen, fresh from the grid iron battles has returned to bolster the left wing and he collected two assists over the weekend. All in all it wasn't a productive weekend, in that the club collected only one point out of four but the games certainly were great experience for the club, and the road trip can only be considered a small step in the right direction. The team has shown signs of ability that will undoubtedly match even the tops in the conference.

On Friday, November 21 at 8:00, the Tigers will meet Acadia Axemen. The last time these teams "locked horns" they played to a three all tie. This is their first encounter in league action. Acadia will be led by Geoff Saunders Dave Oxford and Greg Thiel. Their biggest asset will be in goal with Al Hume. If the Tigers can play sixty minutes of "all-out" they should have no problem with the stumbling Wolfville team. Either way the game will be a great one to watch. Why not drop into the Dal Rink and lend some support.???

Please note: Friday, November 21st. (Dal Rink)

Dal Tigers vs. Acadia Axemen
Sunday, November 23rd.

(Antigonish Rink)
Dal Tigers vs. St. Francis Xavier X-Men

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Melvin Barlett provided a turning point in the game. Dave Grandy / Dal Photo