

The inelligible player — Coach Terry McDonald's views

As most Dalhousie students are already aware, the 1980 men's soccer Tigers have been eliminated from the playoffs because of the use of an ineligible player. The player played in four games for the Tigers. Three of those games were victories for Dal, the other a tie. As a result, seven points were forfeited by Dalhousie, thereby eliminating the Tigers from post season play. *Sandy Smith* of the *Gazette* talked with coach Terry McDonald to gain further insight into the situation.

Gazette: I guess the first and most obvious question . . . is, can you tell me who the player who was academically ineligible is?

McDonald: Well, I certainly could . . . but perhaps it's better not to release his name.

Gazette: Can you tell me why you feel it's better not to release his name?

McDonald: Yes, I think that he's feeling a little bit of pressure, you know, perhaps he's felt enough pressure already, certainly everybody on the team knows who he is, but nobody else knows who he is, as far as I know anyway. But you can never tell, it could be all over the university by now. But, you know, it could have happened to anybody.

Gazette: Why was it that it wasn't found out, when he was on the team, that he didn't meet the qualifications for the AUAA?

McDonald: Well, he was a late addition to the team, even though he had played last year and the year before, and everybody filled out their eligibility forms and got their lectures on eligibility and so on, at the beginning of the season. Because he was a late addition to the team, he wasn't there at that time and, when he came he didn't receive the same lecture as everybody else and may not have been aware, made aware, of the regulations in the same way as everybody else had.

Gazette: Can you tell me just exactly what the regulation is?

McDonald: Yeah, the regulation has to do with the students academic performance in the previous year. He has to have had three credits, at least three credits, and this was the item that was fouled up in this particular instance.

"One can say that it is a typical Dalhousie stunt to screw up in a major sport . . ."

Gazette: Is this a CIAU (Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Association) rule?

McDonald: No, this is an AUAA (Atlantic University Athletic Association) rule, and that was part of the problem in that we have the students fill out a CIAU eligibility form, and they have to read something like ten items, and no where in those ten items is this particular one of the three credits mentioned.

Gazette: Was it you who told the AUAA that you would be defaulting the four past games that you had played?

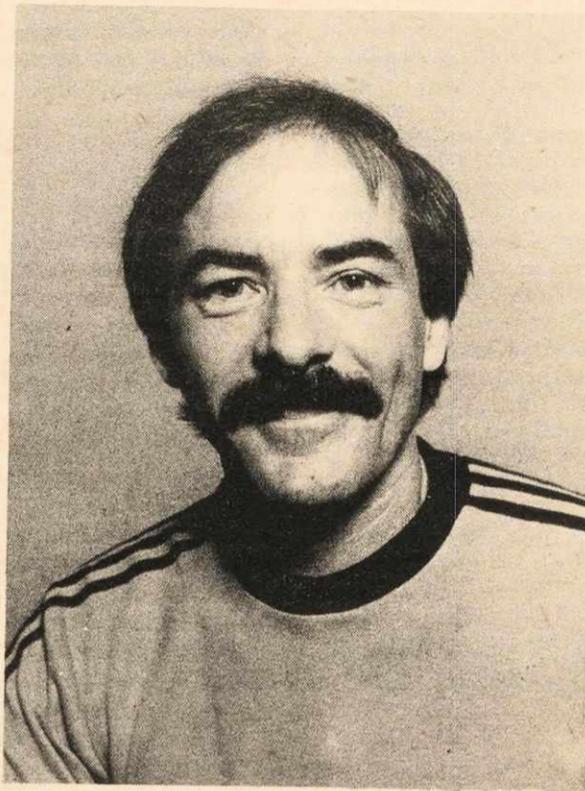
McDonald: No, it wasn't me, it was Ken Bellemare. (Director of Athletics at Dalhousie)

Gazette: And did he consult you before he made this decision?

McDonald: Oh certainly, we talked about it, yes.

Gazette: And you were in complete agreement?

McDonald: In complete agreement because, you know, the case is open and shut. The fact is that we played an ineligible player. One can say that it is a well, a typical Dalhousie stunt to screw up in a major sport . . . this wouldn't have happened at Saint Mary's, this wouldn't have happened at "X" and so on and so on . . . but the fact is that we used an ineligible player and it had to be reported. And we've, unfortunately taken severe consequences as a result.



Terry McDonald — still smiling despite recent events

Gazette: I see, did the registrar check on his record, or was there any way of finding out . . . could this incident have been avoided?

McDonald: It's . . . I would, I would think that the incident could have been avoided. There's a question of time. From the time a player fills out his eligibility forms until the time it gets processed by various people and then finally arrives back to me, or to the Atlantic Director. There's a certain amount of inertia in every system and in this case it was unfortunate that it took a day longer than it might have otherwise.

Gazette: Well, the whole incident seems unfortunate. Did the player figure in a major way in the past four games? Was he a key player?

McDonald: Well, this is the thing. This is a classic case of an honest mistake. If you can't put it that way. The player figured in the four games, in that he played. But, we could just have easy got along without him, and there is no doubt in my mind that we would have ended up with the same record whether he had played or not. I have twenty players on the team and I've been trying to keep all of them active because you never know when you're going to get an injury and this player is one of twenty. I say we could have just as easy managed with nineteen. I think that the really unfortunate thing is what's happened. . . Well, it's unfortunate for him, he feels very unhappy about what has happened, but the other players too. They put so much into the season. Some of them have made greater sacrifices than others. We have the captain Dave Riddell, broke his foot, should have been in a cast for three or four weeks, and instead he was only in for ten days. He's been out since then, training hard and putting up with an awful lot of pain, and bang goes the season and it's tragic. From the point of view of the players, it's very tragic.

Athletic awards in Manitoba next year

WINNIPEG (CUP)—Athletic Awards for University of Manitoba athletes will be available as early as next year.

The proposed policy would allow outside donors to provide financial support for University of Manitoba athletes, provided these student-athletes have attained a certain level of academic proficiency.

The basic proficiency level has yet to be determined, and the financial aid will be extended initially to only first-year students.

The policy proposal awaits approval from the Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union (CIAU) who regulate inter-school athletic competition. It has been their policy in the past not to allow schools to compete if they offer athletic scholarships to students.

The policy at the University of Manitoba included specific instructions that they be called 'awards' and not scholarships. The distinction was deemed appropriate since academic standing will also be taken into account when the awards are distributed.

Physical education director Henry Janzen cited the inability to compete with American colleges for many top-flight Manitoba athletes as a problem which could be solved through the use of athletic awards.

According to Janzen, as many as thirty-eight hockey and football players have left Manitoba to pursue collegiate athletic careers south of the border.

A critic of the policy in Senate, professor M.E. Feld, said the athletic awards would only lead to disaster and eventually to national ridicule for the University of Manitoba.

Other opposition reminded the Senate of wrongdoing in the American universities. The fudging of records and invitations for corrupt behavior on behalf of the university administration were considered to be real dangers of the proposed policy.

"Best game of the Year" not good enough for field hockey Tigers

FIELD HOCKEY — Although the women played what coach Nancy Tokaryk felt to be "the best game of hockey all year," the effort was not good enough as the Tigers lost to UNB in the final of the AUAA field hockey championship, 2-0.

Tokaryk said, "We played very well, it could have gone either way. We just missed the net, but UNB is also an excellent team."

Asked if any players other

than athlete of the week Jane Vincent were deserving of mention Tokaryk again said, "The whole team played fantastic. We played so well that it's hard to pick an individual star, as such."

The Tigers reached the final by virtue of their 2-0 win over the Universit e de Moncton. Lauri Ann Moore and Sharon Andrews scored the Dal goals in the semi-final win.

VOLLEYBALL — The men's

team swept all four of their qualifying matches this past weekend, putting them in the upper division of this year's new two tier system. Dal defeated Memorial 15-7, 15-8; Acadia went down to the Tigers 15-6, 15-10; UNB failed to get into the double digits, losing 15-8, 15-9, and last year's toughest opponents, the Blue Eagles from the Universit e de Moncton, lost 15-5, 15-10 to the Tigers.

Jan Prsala and Phil Perrin

were outstanding for the Tigers. Prsala made good on 28 of 40 spike attempts and had four blocks, while Perrin was good on twenty-four of thirty-two spikes and had five blocks. Bernie Derrible, Jamie Naugler, and Rod Walsh also compiled impressive statistics for Dalhousie.

The Tigers play their first two AUAA games this weekend in Saint John's against Memorial.

The women were not quite as successful as the men, but still qualified to compete in Section 1 of the AUAA. The women were able to defeat UNB, Acadia, and UPEI but lost to Memorial in the final 13-15, 5-15, team manager Sandra Foley reports.

The team hopes to play an exhibition game at home this weekend before leaving for the University of Manitoba Invitational on next Thursday.