Kibyuk providing leadership

Three wins move Tigers into CIAU top ten

by Sandy Smith

With three wins this past week, the Dalhousie hockey Tigers have impressed somebody enough to get a ranking as the ninth best hockey team in the CIAU. John Kibyuk, captain of this year's team here at Dalhousie, has been, according to many, the leader of the Tigers since they first assembled for dry land training in the fall of last year. Yet his leadership was never so apparent as it was this past week. The North Sydney native was the outstanding Tiger of the week, scoring ten points in 7-4 wins over Acadia and Saint Mary's and a 5-3 victory over the Saint F.X. X-men. The wins moved the Tigers from fifth to third place, where they now lie within one point of the second place Saint Mary's Huskies, and into ninth spot in the rankings.

Kibyuk was consistency incarnate in the past three games, not only on the score sheet where he had a goal and two assists in both the Acadia and Saint Mary's games before he scored two times and had another two assists against the X-Men, but in all areas of his play. In all three games he logged great amounts of ice time taking a regular shift, working on most of the powerplays, and killing upwards of a minute and one half of every penalty.

Much of the credit for his good week goes to linemates Brian Gualazzi and Rick McCallum, Kibyuk feels. "I think it's attributed to both of those guys," the soft spoken second year physical education student explained. "I sure enjoy playing with them, those guys create a lot of scoring opportunities for me.

"I think we each contribute a little something to the line—scoring, forechecking, and the like, but the key to the line lately is that the defence is getting the puck up to us better."

The defence has, indeed, done a good job of getting the puck up to the line as Kibyuk, Gualazzi, and McCallum each scored once in Wednesday's win over Acadia at the Forum. Andy Williams, Adrian Facca, Tom O'Dwyer, and Gary 'Quick-draw' Saleski each scored once in the overtime win.

For the second time this year, the Tigers negated what have appeared to be go ahead goals by their opponents. Both times, they have done it by requesting a measurement of the stick used by the player scoring the go ahead goal. Greg Rowe had seemed to put Acadia ahead 5-4 with just over five minutes to play when the Tigers asked for a measurement of the curve in the blade of Rowe's stick. Because the curve exceeded the one-half inch maximum, Rowe was given a two minute penalty and his goal was disallowed. The Tigers caught Darren Pickrem of Saint Mary's on an identical call in a game earlier this year.

Thursday night at Metro Centre, McCallum scored twice and Kibyuk and Gualazzi each scored another as the line continued to dominate, this time in the 7-4 victory over the Saint Mary's Huskies. Paul Leck, Kevin Zimmel, and Saleski all added a goal to the Tiger cause.

In Antigonish, on Sunday afternoon, Gualazzi matched Kibyuk with a pair of goals, while McCallum got the other in the 5-3 win over the X-men. Total output for the line—twelve goals in the past three games.

While it might be easy for some, after having such a tremendous week, to bask in any glory that might be received from it, Kibyuk does not. He is, above all, grateful for the mature attitude displayed by those players who make smaller, but equally vital, contributions to the team. "Guys like John Ready, who recognizes what his role on the team is" have helped set an example that has made the Tigers a very mature club, Kibyuk says. His feelings go out to players like Ready, Andy Williams, Dave MacDonald, and Walter Kontak who don't get the amount of ice time others do, but still have to come through when called upon. He commends them for this maturity that they have displayed, "especially in the first half of the year, before Christmas, when things were so frustrating."

Wiggington/Dal Photo

Kibyuk scores against Saint Mary's last Thursday. He and the rest of the Tigers are "peaking at just the right time."

Things have not been so frustrating lately for Kibyuk and the Tigers. They've compiled nine wins, two losses, and one tie since the start of the New Year, and they haven't even played their best hockey yet, according to their captain. "We're starting to develop everywhere, especially on the defence. They're getting the puck up much quicker.

"We're peaking really well right now; we're peaking at just the right time," he observed. "We're getting leadership from guys like Rick (McCallum), goaltending from Ken (Book) . . . you could go down the list and show just what everyone has done to help the team."

In one of the most interesting analogies made of a hockey team, Kibyuk said, "It's like a snowball. We're all part of it rolling along and getting bigger."

Although the team is peaking at what Kibyuk feels is just the right time, they haven't been able to do it on their own, he says. "We're believing in the coaches. By believing in their systems, we're believing in ourselves. Confidence is the word. All the guys have confidence in themselves now," Kibyuk explained.

The Tigers are, without a doubt, a confident team. Yet the team is a quietly confident one. No team that has only two wins after their first nine games can have an 'Ain't we bad' type of attitude, no matter how well they know in their minds they can play. The fact that every game since the New Year has been one that could not be lost, the team has had to keep its confidence within and prove its ability on the ice. The Tigers have not, importantly, fallen victim to admiring their own spectacular success; they are aware of the magnitude of each game, equally aware that games cannot be won on past performances.

Should the Tigers need it, a game will be played next Tuesday at the Halifax Forum against the Acadia Axemen. The game will be played only if either team will have a chance of making or improving upon a playoff position. Game time will be either two or three p.m.

The games the Tigers are gearing up for right now are a pair of games with the Université de Moncton Blue Eagles. The Tigers are looking ahead first to a 7:30 Friday night match-up at the Forum which they will take care of before eyeing a return game with the Blue Eagles Sunday in Moncton.

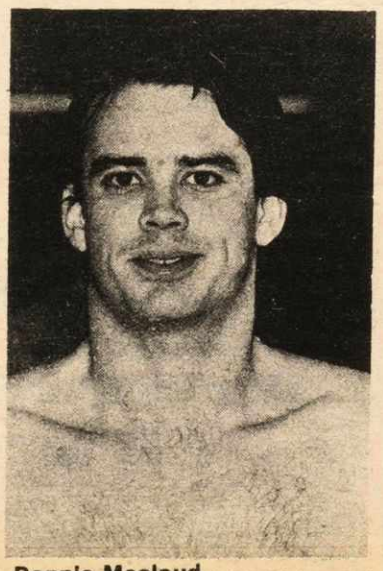
"We've got to come up with a really big effort against Moncton this weekend," Kibyuk said, and really, there is no reason to doubt that the Tigers won't come up with the effort against the Blue Eagles. It just remains to be seen how their efforts match up against those of the powerful Moncton team.

Dal hosting swimming AUAA s

The Dalhousie Tigers men's swim team will be chasing their third successive AUAA championship team title at the Dalplex this weekend. At the same time, the women's team will be seeking their first ever AUAA team title after taking Acadia to the wire last season and claiming the runner-up spot at the CIAU's. Acadia have won the women's title for the past six years whilst UNB were winners 1970-1974 and were the last team to claim both the men's and women's crown in the same year of 1972.

One hundred swimmers and five teams—Acadia, Dalhousie, Memorial, Mount Allison and UNB will be competing. Performances this season indicate that the women's championship will be a two way tussle between Dalhousie and Mount Allison, whilst the men's team trophy will be strongly contended between Acadia, Dalhousie and Memorial.

Heading the Tiger challenge in women's competition will be Louise Deveau, Carol Flynn, Susan Mason, Shelley Platt and Dawn Suto, all of whom are currently ranked in the top ten in their respective events in the latest CIAU listing. Mount Allison swimmers Lea Roberts, Marianne Carlyle and Paula Parris are also well ranked as is Acadia's Kathleen McKervill.



Donnie Macloud

Tiger captain Brian Jessop will lead his team for the last time in home waters before moving on to TUNS in September. Arthur Rennie and Tom Scheilbelhut will be providing major support in competition with top ranked Rob Harris of Acadia and Chris Daly of Memorial.

Six other Tiger swimmers will be competing in home waters for the last time. Lorraine Booth, a CIAU finalist in the 400 IM last year, and Kathy MacDonald, who also had CIAU experience last season, will both be graduating after four excellent years with the team. They will certainly be working hard this weekend to cap their collegiate career as a member of an AUAA championship team.

The male Tigers will be losing the considerable services of Donnie Macloud, Stuart McLennan, Ron Stegen and Peter Webster, all of whom have competed on Dalhousie teams at the CIAU championship level. In common with many of the competitors this weekend, they will be hoping to qualify for the 1981 CIAU Championships to be held at the University of Toronto, March 5-7.

Events get under way at the Dalplex on Friday with heats starting at 11 a.m. each morning and finals at 7:00 p.m. (6 p.m. on Sunday).