

Sports

Tigers end jinx, beat Blue Eagles

by John Perkyns

One only had to look at Louis Lavoie's face to see what had happened, he stopped the clock by putting a low, hard shot into the U de Moncton Blue Eagles net with one minute left to play, in the Dalhousie-Moncton hockey match-up last Sunday at the Memorial Rink. It has been almost three years coming, but it felt so good. He had not only broken a 5-5 tie to win the game for the Dalhousie Tigers but he had also proved that Dal can out-check, out-shoot and out-score the two-time CIAU champions. The jinx was broken.

There had been times when Moncton pushed hard inside Dal's blue line only to be stopped by a sharp Darren Cossar in goal, but there were more times when Dal sustained pressure for several minutes, creating good scoring opportunities. The game was won by tough forechecking, and solid performances by Neil Megannety and John Cossar throughout the game caused defensive mistakes by Moncton which led to several Dalhousie goals. Even the defense was on top of its game and made one wonder what had happened to Dal's perennial problem with clear-

ing the puck from its zone.

The officiating was as usual, perhaps even better than usual, but still not good. At least the referee noticed Dalhousie's dear friend Boutin (Blue Eagles #24) swinging his stick at people's faces.

Moncton opened the game's scoring when Jean 'Chico' Beliveau walked in alone on Dal goalie Darren Cossar. The Tigers came roaring right back with two goals by Tim Cranston and a single by John Cossar. Moncton closed out the first period's scoring with a goal by Remi Levesque. In the second period Moncton outscored Dal 2-1 with Roch Bois and Jean Boutin tallying for the Blue Eagles while John Kibyuk replied for the Tigers. It seemed as though the dynasty would continue in the 3rd period when Moncton went ahead but Dal tied it up with a goal by Neil Megannety setting up the story book ending.

Dal fans can look forward to the next time the Moncton Blue Eagles are in town, and hope the Tigers are consistent then. Maybe by then the AUSA ethics bounders will have taken coach Peter Esdale off the rack.



Jordan/Dal Photo

AUSA upholds Esdale suspension

by Bruce Galloway

Tiger hockey coach Peter Esdale is still watching his team play from the stands these days following a decision by an AUSA appeal board to uphold his coaching suspension.

Esdale received a seven game suspension (including the AUSA all-star game on Dec. 9) from the AUSA ethics committee following an incident at the University of Maine at Orono when he removed his team from the ice. In Moncton last Thursday, an appeals board consisting of three officials of the AUSA rejected an appeal by Dalhousie University on behalf of Esdale.

The university had appealed the November 17th decision feeling that it was too severe. "We agreed with the decision of the ethics committee to sanction him (Esdale) but not with this level of severity," explained Wayne MacDonald, Dalhousie's co-ordinator of Elite Sports.

For his part, Esdale was extremely disappointed with the decision. "I felt in removing the team from the ice I made a decision which was in the best interests of our program," said Esdale. "It's a question of my integrity."

Esdale had decided to pull his team from the ice in Maine when he says he thought the referee had lost control of the game. Up to that point, with 16 minutes gone in the first period, Dal had been awarded 26 minutes in penalties. Maine had just 8.

Following a brief period in the dressing room, Esdale took his team back on the ice only to find that the referees had gone home and Dal had forfeited the game. Under NCAA rules a team which leaves the ice for more than three

minutes automatically forfeits the match. However, before that ruling can take place, the team which left the ice must be informed by the referee or timekeeper that they must return on the ice within a certain period. "We were never informed of this by any of the officials," noted Esdale.

Another contentious issue in the suspension ruling was what Esdale referred to as the problem of "which rules applied where". There are no provisions under NCAA rules for a coach to be suspended if he removes the team from the ice. However, the AUSA suspended Esdale using a CAHA rule which penalizes a coach with a suspension for removing his team from the ice. "How can I be suspended under rules that weren't even being used in the game?" asked Esdale.

Father Kehoe, chairperson of the AUSA ethics committee, dismissed this by noting that sanctions cut across different rules in the cases of exhibition games. Regarding the severity of the suspension, Kehoe noted that there was some criticism in hockey circles that the ruling was not severe enough. Kehoe would not elaborate on who had made the criticisms.

Kehoe added that he understood Esdale's reaction in the game and called the whole incident "unfortunate".

Esdale will return behind the bench for the Schooner Cup which will be held in Halifax over the Christmas break.

Women's volleyball Tigers split weekend series with UNB

by Andrey Lorimer

The Dalhousie Women's Volleyball team split matches with the UNB Reds in AUSA action

over the weekend. The Tigers lost Friday's match 2 games to 3 but bounced back to take Saturday's match 3-1. For the defending

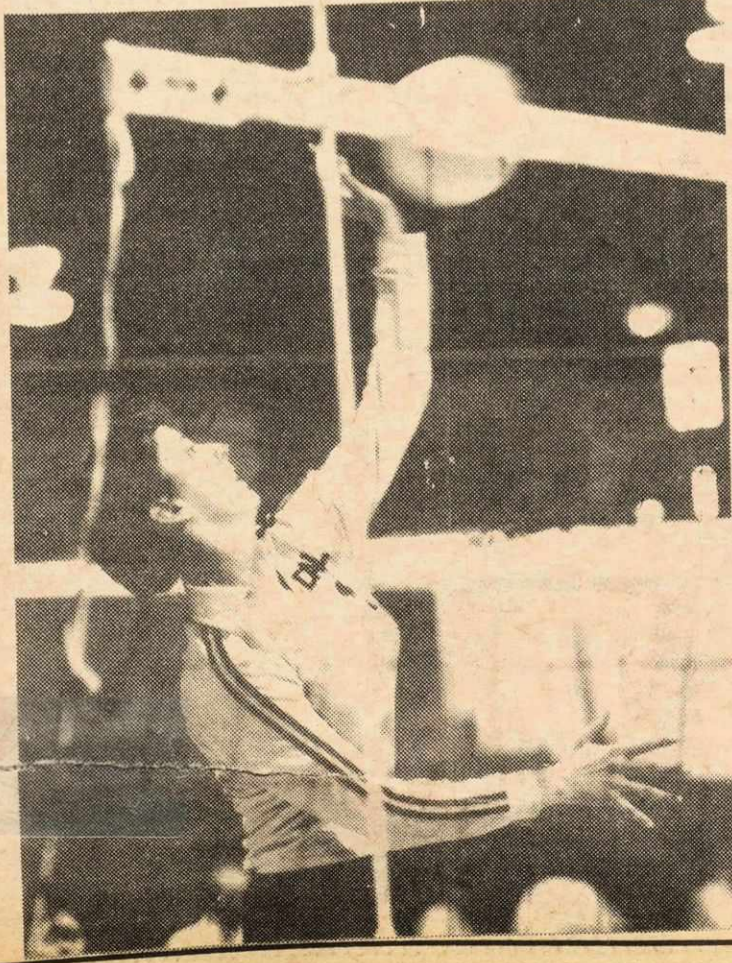
CIAU champions last Friday's match was the second defeat this season. The Tigers are currently 6 and 2.

Friday's match was hot and cold for Dalhousie. They won the 1st and 3rd games 15-12 and 15-9 but lost the remaining 3 games 15-13, 15-9 and 15-11. Leading the Reds attack were Alice Kammermans with 21 kills, and Susan Woods with 18 kills and 7 stuffed blocks. The Tiger's player of the game was rookie middle-blocker Donna Boutlier with 8 kills and 3 aces. Outstanding attackers for Dal were Brenda Turner with 24 kills, and Terry Blanchard with 23 kills.

Saturday's game was more encouraging from the Tigers standpoint. They roared back with winning games of 21-19, 15-11, and 15-10. The UNB squad was again bolstered by Alice Kammermans and Susan Woods while Dalhousie's top players were Terry Blanchard, Brenda Turner and Donna Boutlier.

Lois MacGregor, the coach of the Tigers, was not disappointed with Friday's play. She recognized the Reds as a very powerful team.

For the Tigers this will be the end of league play until they meet the Acadia Axettes in January. They will, however, travel to Moncton this weekend to play in the annual Omnium de Moncton.



Jordan/Dal Photo

