

# English recruits spark win, tie

BY DAVID FINLAYSON

Barely two minutes into their first game of the season, the Dalhousie Tigers very nearly got off on the wrong foot.

A back pass to keeper Mike Hudson almost resulted in soccer tragedy as Hudson's kick was intercepted by a Mount Allison attacker. The Mountie got the shot away, but missed the net, Dalhousie responded to the early scare by picking their game up a couple of notches and taking a one to nil lead after six minutes. English import Marc Ellis was the finisher of a good build-up

through the midfield.

Dalhousie struck again at the forty-three minute mark when Chris Devlin converted a header off a cross, beating the advancing Mountie keeper.

The second half became more physical as Mount A looked to get back in the match. However, it was Dal who opened the scoring in the second frame. The Tigers' third goal came when sub Chad Denny's goal work in the corner was converted in front by Paul English.

Barely a minute later, Mount A broke the shutout when there was a communication break-

down in the Dal defence. However, that was all the offence the Mounties could muster as Dalhousie hung in for a 3-1 victory.

Despite the one lapse, the defence did have a strong game. They dominated Mount A in the air, with third-year defender Matt Serieys very capably containing a player who stood over six inches taller.

Marc Ellis and his fellow Englishmen, Paul English and Geradnt Morris (all of whom are rookies), had very strong games. The fans were treated to a great display of speed from English as

he showed the promise of things to come. Also, Chris Devlin had an excellent game at center middle, and was challenging as hard as ever. Graham Allardice was a surprise starter for Dal at right middle, and looked in much better shape than last year. Young striker Jeff Hibberts came on in the second half and did well, creating two good scoring opportunities.

Chuck Dean in the Mount A net was tested many times and responded well, with spectacular saves from numerous Dal headers. At the other end, Hudson did not have too much work to do, but he did look good on a couple of midrange shots. Most notably, he made two good saves near the end to preserve the Dal victory.

On Sunday against the University of Prince Edward Island Panthers (UPEI), Dalhousie's finish around the net vanished, although they scored twice in a 2-2 draw. They outshot their opponents vastly, registering over forty shots. Despite that impressive statistic, this game illustrated that Dalhousie was not yet in top form.

It was a midfield battle with UPEI drawing first blood. Devlin tied the game at the half, with his second goal in as many days. The game was physical and UPEI took the lead again early in the second half.

With fifteen minutes left, Dave MacFarlane was moved out of

left half and into his more normal central position. Dal's passing seemed to improve as MacFarlane and new recruit Ante Jarlic shined the defence with deft backheels and slick moves. After a great save by Trevor Chisholm in the Dal goal, the ball moved down to the other end and a brilliant cross by Chad Thorpe on the left was converted by English, who glanced a header from eight yards out into the far bottom corner of the goal. The UPEI goal was under constant pressure, and the keeper awed the crowd with some spectacular diving saves.

Dal played with great urgency in the last fifteen minutes, and were unlucky not to take the lead when MacFarlane and Jazcic both had good chances. Coach Ian Kent told his men that they showed that they were a mediocre side in the tie, but that the last fifteen minutes showed great promise.

Atlantic Universities Athletic Association (AUAA) all-star keeper Trevor Chisholm said, "...we had a lot of chance but we couldn't capitalize. I had no-one to blame but myself on the goals; I just couldn't get to them."

Chisholm also said that though a tie was not the result they wanted, they "...still haven't lost, and that is key."

We will see if the trend continues in their next match.

## Women's soccer team

BY SHANNON MORRISON

Defending a national championship is a difficult task but the young Dalhousie women's soccer team is taking it one step at a time.

The Tigers were back in action this weekend at Tremont field in Rockingham to begin their season. Dalhousie edged Mount Allison 1-0 in Saturday's opener and returned to the field on Sunday to put away the University of Prince Edward Island's (UPEI) Lady Panthers 5-1.

With 15 first or second-year players on the squad and only one exhibition game under their belts, Dalhousie relied on control and quickness to propel them to victory. Whether they were rookies or veterans, each player knew what was expected of them.

"You have to focus on your job and what you learned in training camp," said first-year player Amy Dunphy.

"The AUAA is very tough. You have to have a good work ethic and go hard all of the time."

The Tigers jumped on Mount Allison from the first whistle, pressuring the Mounties in their end of the field. Dalhousie challenged for every ball and their controlled play created chances in the 18-yard box.

Kate Gillespie, a fifth-year veteran and second team all-Canadian last season, was the key on the front line. Her aggressive play and ball-handling ability created chances for the Tigers.

"The players rely on her. In the first game you go to the player with experience," explained head coach Neil Turnbull. "As the year goes on, I hope we'll also find other ways to attack."

Dalhousie was able to capitalize on an opportunity engineered by Gillespie midway through the first half. The Dal striker eluded the defenders and drove a low shot into the arms of the Mounties' goalie from the right side of the 18-yard box. The keeper mishandled the ball and Dunphy was quick to jump on the loose ball and put it into the back of the net.

Mount Allison came out half-time but the Tigers refused to give the Mounties a chance to tie the game.

The Tigers held a one-goal lead until the final whistle signalled their first win of the season.

"It is the result we wanted, but we definitely have a lot of work to do," noted Turnbull. "We need to insure we get our shape and get more balls forward. We also need balls wide and be more composed."

The team took their coach's words to heart when they faced UPEI on Sunday morning. The



Women's soccer team member Kate Gillespie wins the ball, dodging between two Mount Allison players on Saturday.

Tigers began to convert their scoring opportunities and play the whole field.

"We were more successful in getting balls forward and getting people in supporting those forward balls," said Turnbull. "We were sharper and attacking a bit better. Yesterday we did a good job in that third of the field and today we started doing something in there."

Gillespie and rookie Carolyn Fairbairn worked hard up front creating space to work offensively, added Turnbull.

Kelly Larkin found the net twice for the Tigers while Fairbairn, Gillespie and Karen Hood added one apiece.

Turner lost her bid for a second shutout when the Lady Panthers scored on a penalty shot with three minutes left in the game.

The Tigers built on their first game experience and Turnbull hopes it continues throughout the year.

"We work on one or two things each game and hopefully it comes together by the end of the season," he said.

As for repeating as Canadian champions, only time will tell.

"Right now, we're building on the basic fundamentals," said Turnbull. "Until November 11 we are defending champions. If we're there that's great, but it's a long season and anything can happen."

GAZETTE PHOTO BY SHANNON MORRISON

## Men's soccer preview

BY DAVID FINLAYSON

"I expect more of what I saw in the last ten minutes."

So says men's soccer coach Ian Kent of his expectations for the year, after witnessing an impressive finish by his squad in a 2-2 draw with the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) Panthers.

"I expect that we have the character to work with the urgency that we displayed in the last ten minutes of this game."

Dalhousie claimed five points out a possible eight this weekend with a win over the Mount Allison Mounties and the tie with UPEI. Coach Kent notes that there is a lot of work to do, but with the young talent on the team, feels that nothing is out of reach.

With new recruits like the English trio of Paul English, Mark Ellis, and Geradnt Morris, the Tigers have a new look, and a totally revamped team. This weekend, Morris and English started up front. English has the kind of speed that other teams dread, and hopefully this will be used more effectively than it was this past weekend. With a midfield that includes Dave MacFarlane, Chris Devlin, newcomer Ante Jarlic, and Ellis, things still look solid for the Tigers. Graham Allardice started this weekend and played solidly at right half. The defence is solid with Rainford, Serieys, and Cormier across the back. And of course, having two of the best keepers (Trevor Chisholm and Mike Hudson) in the Atlantic

Universities Athletic Association (AUAA) doesn't hurt the team, either.

"Allardice had a great training camp. We had injuries and sickness in training camp that influenced team selection this weekend. Dave MacFarlane is at left half which is not his natural position, but he is a talented player and we want him in there, so that is his place now," said Kent.

When asked about the potential for winning the AUAA's, Kent replied, "I don't even think about that weekend until that weekend comes. We are just focusing on things that we have to improve. So if we are improving every day, the AUAA's will take care of itself."

He feels that if the youth on the team can be properly guided by the coaching staff, there is great potential for this year and next.

"We have a younger team which is very exciting. We have some very talented players and as coaches we just have to find the right buttons to push. For the last ten minutes (of the UPEI game) they pushed their own buttons."

One change this year that might affect the team selection strategically is the inclusion of two more teams in the playoffs. This could cause teams to sit players at crucial times in the season. Keeper Trevor Chisholm said "...the league will not be as intense as last year."

Hopefully this will not be the case, as we look forward to a good season of Tiger soccer.