

Tigers slow on rebounds

SMU squeaks into the nationals 61-59

by Tom Barry

It's a feeling that can only be experienced by those involved — win or lose. There is a sense of exhilaration and satisfaction in winning or the feeling of emptiness and despair endured by the defeated. There is no such thing as a tie in basketball — there must be the victors and the vanquished. True athletes would have it no other way.

Such was the situation at Acadia when the Tigers and the SMU Huskies battled for the right to represent the Atlantic Intercollegiate Basketball Conference in the National championships. One basket seems a terribly insignificant margin to decide such an honour yet no other method of decision is possible.

The Black and Gold were never shamed by the Santamarians in the closely contested match. Statistics show the two squads were equally proficient in most departments. Irv Cohen of the Tigers and Bill Thomas of SMU shared scoring honours with 21 apiece. The Tigers scored on 25 of 51 attempts while the Saints hooped 24 of 47 attempts which gave 49% and 51% averages to the cagers respectively. The Bengals however, were poor in one department which was rebounding. Our boardsmen were able to garner only a total of 17 rebounds throughout the contest while the victors managed 33.

The contest was a virtual defensive battle as both clubs employed a tight man-to-man defence. The Tigers trailed for the majority of the first half and

left the court down by a 28-25 margin. However, the second half saw an invigorated club which played impressive basketball — led by Irv Cohen's hot hand. Although they had momentum, a five point lead was the best margin they ever attained. A game crew of SMU cagers were not to be defeated easily and they fought back to regain a one point lead with three minutes remaining. The next two minutes saw the squads trade baskets to give the Huskies a one point lead with a minute remaining. With 26 seconds left in the contest, Cohen scored his 21st point, resulting in a 59-all score. With 15 seconds remaining, John Cassidy stole the ball from SMU's Al Brown and drove for the hoop. However an excellent defence manoeuvre by Mike Chambers of St. Mary's prevented Cass from scoring on the drive and Brown hauled down the rebound. A fast break by Bill Thomas and Dennis Reardon left the former with a fifteen foot jumper which rippled the twines with 8 seconds remaining. Due to the bedlam caused by three thousand screaming fans it was three seconds before a time-out was called by the Tigers. There was just not enough time left and a twenty five foot jumper by Cohen failed to find the mark as the buzzer sounded.

Most spectators have tremendous hindsight, but this does nothing to remedy the situation. The referees did not do the best job we've ever seen but we must remember that SMU was subjected to the same type of poor officiating.

There is no doubt that the Tigers were defeated by a deserving group of lads who play an exciting and admirable brand of basketball. There is little difference between the two clubs as far as actual ability goes, yet one cannot help but be impressed with Les Goodwin's charges. The roly poly mentor from SMU put together a conglomeration of rookies and veterans and moulded them into defensive and offensive power-house. They are a worthy representative of the AIBC and we can only wish them luck in the nationals.

On the other side of the ledger, we can only congratulate the Tigers for a fine effort. It takes a special type of person who can play basketball from 7:00 to 9:00 five nights a week from September through March. There is a certain measure of dedication and plain hard work involved in building a competitive basketball team. We on the sidelines have a tendency to criticize mistakes and ignore the achievements. In defeat as well as in victory they deserve our wholehearted praise.

Dal		SMU	
Archibald	10	Brown	8
Cohen	21	Thomas	21
Cassidy	12	Chambers	14
Flinn	4	Carney	8
Peters	5	Reardon	9
Savage	3	MacPherson	1
Bezanson	4		
Totals	59		61

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COMING EVENTS

Monday, March 9 - Classes resume

Tuesday, March 10 - Dal Art Gallery lunch-hour film

Thursday, March 12 - Dal Film Society... Je T'Aime,
Je T'Aime (France)
- Dal Art Gallery evening film series

Sunday, March 15 - SUB concert series... Atlantic Symphony

Tuesday, March 17 - Dal Art Gallery lunch-hour film

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