

# SPORTS

## Outstanding in their field — Tigers ready for AUAAAs

BY RACHEL JONES

The Dal women's soccer Tigers added three more wins to their already impressive total to finish the season with an outstanding 10-2-1 record and earn overall first place in the AUSA. Not only did the Tigers come out on top with the most points, they also had the best goals for and against record, scoring a remarkable 30 goals in regular season play while conceding only 5.

"We've been able to finish our opportunities in the last few games," said coach Dara Moore of the goals and the Tigers winning streak. "Hopefully we can bring ourselves to peak this weekend."

It was a lone goal by Mary-Beth Bowie in Thursday's match at Wickwire Field that resulted in a 1-0 win over the St. Mary's Huskies in what was a somewhat less enthusiastic display from the Tigers. The Tigers seemed a little flat, with passing somewhat below usual accuracy and transition play a little lagging, while the Huskies, desperate for a playoff spot, turned up the pressure, winning the majority of loose balls and causing more than their share of grief in the Tigers' defensive third. It wasn't until the dying moments of the game when Dalhousie finally showed their true stripes and stepped up to take the game.

On Saturday, despite efforts by UPEI to disrupt the Tigers' passing game by keeping the ball airborne, the game against the Panthers saw a much higher quality of play from the Dal team, as the players enjoyed the luxury of a little more space against the last place Panthers, taking a few more touches and enjoying the opportunity to take the players one-on-one.

"A lot of the girls were eager to score. [UPEI tended to back off a bit in the middle third, so we had a lot more time and we were taking three, four, five touches instead of two or three," noted veteran Amy Dunphy.

In the end, even constant input from coach Lewis Page (who is a SMU alumnus) on the Panthers bench failed to spur the Panthers onto the scoreboard, or prevent the Tigers' seven convincing markers — scored by league-leading scorer Bowie, Player of the Game Stef Finetari (whose sheer persistence won her a second goal not ten minutes after her first, battling her way through several players and into the back of the net), Dunphy, Amy Gillespie and rookie Julie Pigozzo with two.

Play improved yet again for the match against Mt. Allison on Sunday, with the Tigers settling the ball nicely on the turf and working it up the field.

"Today there was a lot more

pressure so we tried to control and play the ball as quick as we can, which is something that we need to work on anyway. Dara [Moore] thought it would be a good idea to try to settle down,

play two or three touch and move the ball around as quick as we can, so we tried to do that today," commented Dunphy, Player of the Game in Sunday's match-up against Mt. A. "We came out and fought today and won the ball when we had to. We won the midfield which was a big thing for us. They played with three forwards and our defense played a great game and tracked all the way."

Often the unsung heroes of the sport of soccer, taking the blame for bad games and none of the glory of the wins, it is great to hear praise for the defenders and acknowledgment that they have

also earned their name in print. Sue Hunter, Amy Harding, Petra deWaard, Claire Martin and Tara MacNeil all deserve recognition.

The end result Sunday was another shut-out for keepers



Julie Pigozzo. Photo by Rachel Jones

Roxanne Murphy and Jody Euloth, and 3 more well-earned goals from Tigers Bowie, Gillespie and Pigozzo.

Heading into the AUAA playoffs after having won their last seven games in a row, the team can't help but be excited and optimistic about the upcoming weekend of play, undaunted by having to travel away to UNB.

"It's always nice to host and play in front of a home crowd, because we always tend to get a lot of fans here," said Dunphy, a member of last year's CIAU host team, "but when you're away, the whole team is together all the time. You're on a routine and things are the same day in and day out, so I think it's actually good for the team to be away."

Not much of a betting person, coach Moore is reluctant to speculate on the team's chances this weekend, but feels that everything seems to be falling into place for the Tigers.

"As long as we're not

complacent, and happy with what we've accomplished," she cautions, "I think we have a very good squad and we are playing really well right now, which is nice. I think what we need to recognize is that all six teams have the same opportunity to win the championship. We've done well to get ourselves in the best situation possible, now it's a matter of which teams put together the performance on the weekend."

Coach Moore plans for the team to take it easier this week, concentrating on functional play and ironing out the final rough spots before travelling to UNB on Friday and watching the quarter-finals.

First place has earned the Tigers a bye into Saturday's AUAA playoff semi-finals, where they will meet the lowest seeded winner of Friday's Memorial (3rd seed) vs. Mt. A. (6th seed), or St. FX (4th seed) vs. Acadia (5th seed) games. Also with a bye, Western Division winner UNB will play in Saturday's other semi-final match-up. The final is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Sunday, the winner earning a spot at the CIAU championships the following weekend in Laval, Quebec.

## Men's soccer looks good for AUAAAs

BY KATHLEEN MATTHEWS

Dal finished off regular season action this past weekend in second place in the Eastern division with an 8-3-2 record and 26 points. The Tigers ended the season with two victories and a loss over the weekend, beating Saint Mary's 5-1 and Mount Allison 1-0, and losing 2-1 to the UPEI Panthers.

The Tigers are ranked seventh in the country and, during playoffs, will join Eastern Division winners St. Francis-Xavier X-Men and Western division winners UPEI, both ranked fifth in the country. Also competing for the AUAA title will be the defending champions Acadia Axemen, Memorial Seahawks and UNB Varsity Reds.

The Tigers will have to play a complete game if they expect to win.

"It is going to take a ninety-minute game," says midfielder Dave McFarlane.

"Our overall play as a team has got to get sharper for playoffs," continues Marc Rainford. "If we start winning balls and playing with a bit more passion, I think we will put it together. I definitely think we are going to have a good playoffs."

Dal will be successful if they continue to create scoring opportunities and play as a team.

"If we keep producing chances some of them will go in eventually — that is all we can ask for," says defender Graeme Allardice

"We have to play as a team, we have to play really hard, and we have to want to win," adds defender Sam Ramsden. "We have to keep the ball and make sure that we use everybody in the game."

"It will take people playing very simple," says coach Ian Kent. "The biggest thing is that we will be playing against teams who really want to win, but we have to want it more."

Things look good as the Tigers only lost a few close games to St. FX, Acadia, and UPEI during the regular season but beat all other teams. All in all, if Dal plays the way they have been the last few games, fans can expect to see some really exciting soccer.

On Thursday, SMU crossed town to play the Tigers at Wickwire Field in very cool temperatures. The Tigers came out flying, getting several good shots off in the first five minutes of the game. Dal went up 1-0 on a goal by Joey Fraelic in the 15th minute.

Within minutes Fraelic struck again, curling a nice shot around the far post and upping Dal's lead to 2-0. Dal kept the pressure on up front with several shots on goal while effectively shutting down the opposition with great defensive plays in back.

In the 32nd minute another shot would cross the SMU goal line; the flag went up but was ignored by the referee. Richie Tobin would respond minutes later with one that

counted.

The Tigers continued to overpower SMU, as Tobin put a nice ball up the wing for Paul English who then scored Dal's fourth goal. Marco Cesario added a fifth goal in the final minutes of the half.

The Tigers opened the second half with several excellent shots by Fraelic who continued to play well up front. The only giveaway was a token goal off a penalty shot, thanks to a questionable call by the referee. Finally, the SMU goalie found his hands and made a nice save off a hard shot.

"I am pleased that we did our offensive duties by putting the ball in the back of the net," says Rainford. "Those are the most goals we have scored all year. We played effectively, we scored [on] a lot of our chances."

UPEI was in town on Saturday to face the Tigers. Again Dal came out strong with lots of pressure in UPEI's end. Several shots on goal were either just wide or over the net. Dal's efforts were finally rewarded in the 30th minute with a goal by Tobin who connected three times before putting it away. Dal continued to hustle as the half ended with a shot by Tobin just inches wide of an open net.

There was balanced play between the two teams to begin the second half. Dal seemed to lose a little momentum as several players who contributed considerably during the first half were taken off.

Twenty minutes into the half, UPEI beat Dal's defense, scoring their first goal and tying it up at 1-1.

Dal battled well for the ball with good efforts by Allardice and Ramsden in back, and McFarlane down the middle. Ten minutes later, UPEI got a gift scoring one in traffic, as Dal goalie Grant Spence got a hand on the ball but just couldn't reach it. Dal tried to get something going, fighting hard for the ball in the dying minutes of the game but to no avail. UPEI took the match 2-1.

"It was a tough loss with two 'iffy' goals," commented McFarlane. "I think we did really well the first half but second half we let up a bit."

"If we had played the same way as we did in the first half, we would have put them away, but we let them back in again and they scored. I am just happy that we settled the ball and played good soccer."

On Sunday, Mount Allison was in town to challenge the Tigers. The first half began with several shots on goal for both sides. English had a great game and put a nice one in the net at the twenty-minute mark as the goalie went down. Dal dominated the rest of the half, getting to the ball first and creating many scoring opportunities.

Mt. A picked up the play during the second half, challenging Dal at every turn with no success thanks to excellent defending by Allardice, Ramsden and Rainford. Tobin and

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