

sports

Dal number one in cross country

by Frank MacEachern

A strong performance Saturday at the Dalhousie Open pushed the women's cross-country team to the top of the nation.

In rankings released Tuesday, Dalhousie jumped from eighth to first. Although pleased with the result, Al Yarr, the coach of the men's and women's teams, doesn't lay too much stress on being number one.

"We're definitely one of the top five in the country. On a given day, if everything works, we can win it all," Yarr said Tuesday.

The rise came after the women grabbed top spot out of five teams at the Open at Point Pleasant Park.

Anne Marie Farnell led the Tigers charge with a first place finish in the 5K with a time of 17:52.

It was a one-two-three finish for the Dalhousie women as Rayleen Hill (18:05) grabbed second with Shari Boyle (18:21) right behind her.

Farnell overcame a fall just 10 metres into the race on her way to the win. Farnell blamed herself for the spill.

"I should have got out a little quicker, I was a little slow at the start line," Farnell explained after the race. "Then I got stuck between two people and as they cut in to run beside each other, I got sort of sandwiched in the middle and I wiped out."



DALPHOTO: TRACY MACLAUGHLIN

Anne Marie Farnell catches her breath just after winning the 5K at the Dal Open last Saturday. The race was at Point Pleasant Park.

Even though she took the lead about 800 metres into the race, Farnell said the fall shook her up.

"It threw off my breathing 'cause I have asthma and when I get a little bit nervous or uptight about something, my breathing gets a little bit panicky."

Boyle, who only resumed serious training two weeks ago because of a knee injury a month ago, said she got more comfortable as the race wore on.

"I didn't go out as hard as I would have liked in the first loop. But I found as the race wore on I got more positive and I relaxed more."

Bonita Sabean (18:46) grabbed fifth overall and Jessica Sabean (19:43) and Margie Jenkins (20:03) rounded out the Dal top six.

Overall Dal finished first with 19 points. The University of Maine at Presque Isle was second with 64 points. The University of New Brunswick (73 points) edged out St. Francis Xavier (77 points) while Acadia was fifth with 123 points.

Paul Smith was the highest Dalhousie male as he finished third with a time of 32:54 among the university

runners. There were a number of independent runners in the Open.

Coming off a knee injury which interrupted his training in the last couple of weeks, Smith is expecting to improve in coming events.

"It was all right. I think it will be better in the next few weeks."

Chris Halfyard (33:25) had the second highest Dal placing as he finished fourth overall. Jason Bacarro (33:55), Gary Newell (33:57) and Paul Riley (33:57) rounded out the Dal top five.

The men, with 37 points, finished second behind the University of New Brunswick which wound up with 26 points. In cross-country the lower the point totals the higher the finish. The University of Maine at Presque Isle were third with 90 points while St. Francis Xavier University were fourth with 103 points and Acadia fifth with 127 points.

The AUAA championships will be held at St. Francis Xavier University on Saturday, October 30. Dalhousie hosts the national championship CIAUs on Saturday, November 6.

Tigers tie Axemen in opener

by Frank MacEachern

When opportunity presented itself Keifer House took it.

House scored twice and added two assists in the Dalhousie Tigers 6-6 regular season opener against the Acadia Axeman Saturday night. The game was played in front of 2,000 fans at the Dalhousie Memorial Arena.

According to coach Darrell Young the goals came at the right time for the third-year player.

"Keifer's a guy who basically knew

his job was on the line," Young said in an interview Monday. "He knew this was a time for him to step up and get some more ice time and contribute. He really contributed for us, he came through when we needed it."

The opportunity to play certainly was there as the Tigers were missing four players due to suspension from a 6-3 exhibition loss against the Axeman on October 12. Missing from Saturday night's line-up were veterans Joe Suk and Ken MacDermid and rookies Mike Polano and Marc Robillard. With the exception of Polano, who has to sit out three games after receiving a match

penalty for kicking, Suk, MacDermid and Robillard were back for Wednesday's game against UPEI. The results of that game weren't known at press time.

A new season has brought stricter penalties for checking from behind minors. A checking from behind minor brings an automatic game ejection. A second minor also results in a game ejection but a third in a season means a two-game suspension. A fourth results in an indefinite suspension.

Saturday night Dal's Brian MacDonald and Acadia's Mark MacFarlane were ejected for the penalty. Young says it will take some time for many of the players to get used to it.

"Anytime there's a change it's hard to accept. You're not going to correct 15 or 16 years of habit overnight. It will take a couple of games, maybe a month or two to work out. If it's better for the game that's great."

House and MacFarlane traded goals in the first. House gave the Tigers a short-lived 2-1 lead with a power play goal 32 seconds into the second period. However, MacFarlane tied it just 43 seconds later.

Acadia jumped out to a 4-2 lead on goals by Greg Clancy and Kevin Knoop. The Tigers used the power play to tie the game as Scott Milroy (11:48) and Mark Myles (15:17) scored.

But Clancy regained the lead for the Axemen with a power play effort at 17:41.

Derek Keltzel gave the visitors a two-goal advantage 3:37 into the third but two quick goals by Brian Keeler (6:23) and Anthony MacAulay (7:18) made it a 6-6 affair.

Netminder Greg Dreveny held Acadia off the rest of the way including a five-minute overtime session.

The Tigers host the University of New Hampshire for a pair of exhibition games this weekend. The games are Friday and Saturday at the Halifax Forum and are both 7:30 pm starts.

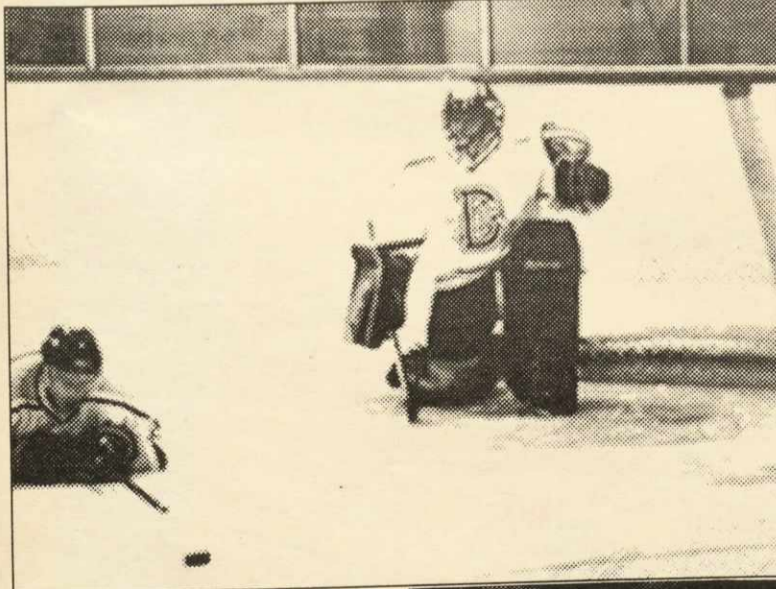
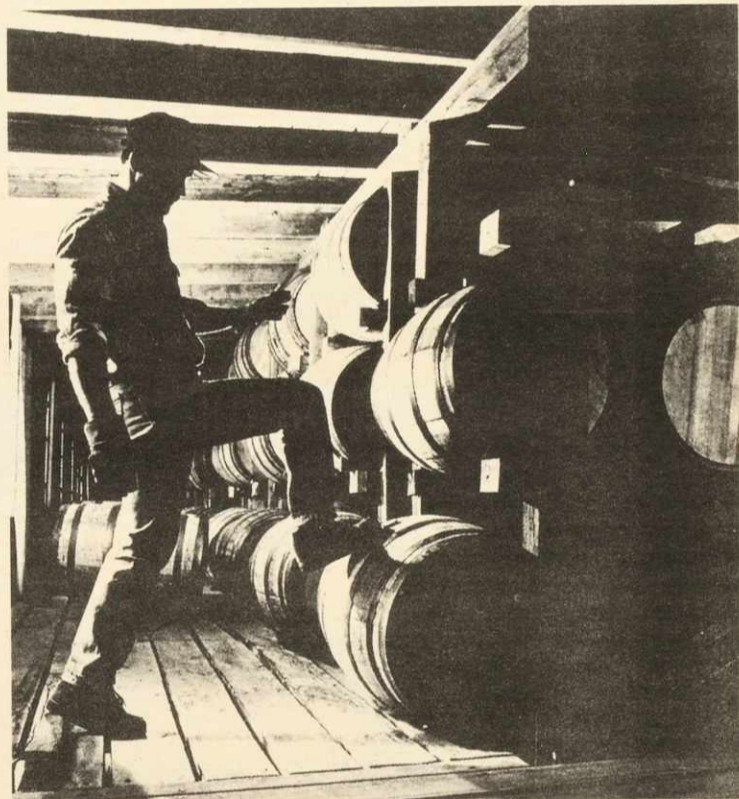
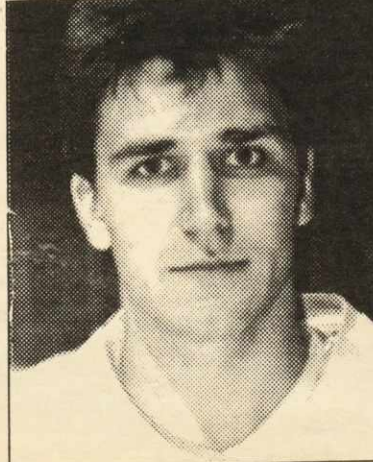


PHOTO: STEVE MILLS

Dalhousie goalie Greg Dreveny watches the puck - and Mark Myles - slide in front of the net during Saturday night's game against the Acadia Axemen. The Tigers scored twice in the third period to salvage a 6-6 tie. At right, is Keifer House who scored twice for the Tigers.



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