

Hockey Tigers find togetherness

by Greg Zed

This past weekend saw the Dalhousie Tigers finish up their exhibition schedule and what a way to wind up. In fact both Coaches Pierre Page and his more than able assistant Bill Shannon were asked to comment on what they figured was accomplished from the exhibition series. "The team has finally begun to play together and it took this road trip to get togetherness established" replied Shannon, "We have a well balanced club that has a lot of drive and we're going places" added Page.

Dal ended up with a 1-4-1 record, nothing certainly impressive but certainly one must be able to bear in mind that the Tigers faced the national ranked clubs in their early goings and this writer was definitely impressed with the premiere performances.

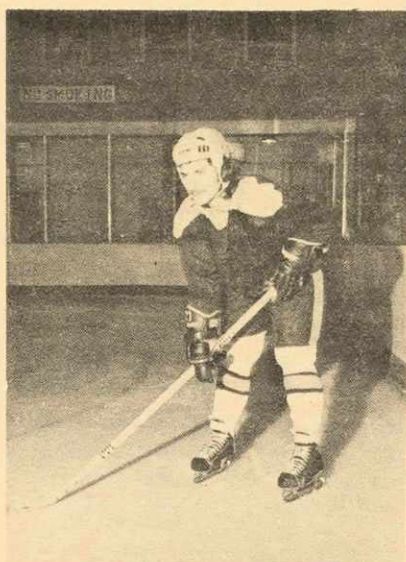
It all happened when the Dal squad invaded the Charlottetown Forum where the University of Prince Edward Island was hosting a hockey tournament as part of its Home Coming celebrations. Stuck in "the dirtiest dressing room a team could even be expected to dress in", the Dal squad wasn't hampered at all. In fact, the obvious deterrent served as a "second class motive to play the game wholeheartedly". The rink itself was very impressive at first glance but the ice was worse than a fishing pond in the winter after a rain storm. As for the officiating several "hometown calls" were prevalent but this again was considered all part of a trip to the Island. As for hospitality it appeared to me that it was left at the hotel because "the service" at the rink was incredibly bad - certainly a rather amateur operation of a tournament. Nothing less than bush!!

Saturday evening saw the Tigers trip the Mt. Allison Mounties 4-2 in a rather sloppy game. Certainly the fact that none of the pucks were frozen prior to game time along with the fact that the ice was decrepit accounted for the style of play.

In the first period Dan Flynn left all alone in front of the Mt. A. goal re-directed a pass from Bob Lewicki at the 18:14 mark to give the Tigers a first period lead. It came on a power-play with Greg Clark for Mt. A. serving an interference penalty.

The second period saw the Tigers squad continue to dominate the play. This was probably done best when the Dal defence forced the play at centre and the wingers patrolled their lanes coming back to help out and pick up the trailer. Captain Jim Shatford scored his first goal from a tip in blast by John Mallowney. Dan Flynn set up the play in the Mt. A. end and after drawing the right defenceman into the right hand corner Flynn used the inevitable "point-man" to set up "the tip - in goal". This took place at 4:58 of the middle frame. With Dal's Tom Mann and Ron DelPino both in the penalty box along with UPEI's Allan Lead and Bill Kelly the Tigers pumped in another goal - this time Rick Roemer blasted his "renown" drive through a maze of players past a screened Steve Dowbiggan in the Mt. A. goal. John Mallowney set up the play as he led a rush up the middle and then a quiet pass to Lewicki set the stage for the drive. Lewicki merely rediverted the puck back to the point and the point-man did his job again.

In the first period, coach Bill Drover of Mt. Allison switched goal tenders to put his stumbling club on track. Dowbiggan who couldn't be faulted for any of the Tiger's goals was replaced by Real Sampson. Sampson who undoubtedly looked impressive during his short stay



Tom Mann - outstanding rookie

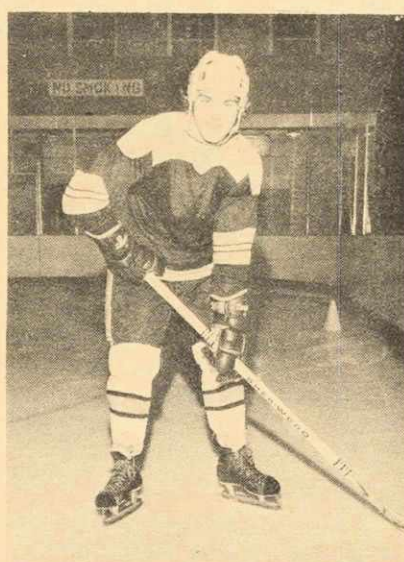
stopping two break aways, however, he was injured when a Dalhousie blast hit him above the goal pad on the knee. It may appear funny to hear of such an injury but it was apparent that Sampson's pads were too short. The injury didn't destroy Mt. A's persistence, in fact they replied to the tune of two quick goals. Rick Pryde scored on a scramble in front of a helpless Jim Palmer. Assisting on the play were Scott Giffen and Dan Simon. Later in the period Gary Baldwin found the target on a shot along the glove side of Palmer to narrow the Dal lead to one goal. With less than a minute to go and Dal leading 3-2 many thoughts went through the player's mind. In fact the Tigers "blew" situations like this before. Well the six o'clock morning practice became a flash-back in the Tiger's mind and collectively coupled with their control allowed team leader Jim Shatford to fire the puck the length of the ice for the added marker. Defenceman Ron DelPino showed great control in the clutch situation of six attackers as he forwarded the puck to Bob Lewicki who passed off to Shatford for the shot that would have won the jackpot at any "Score Contest". The game ended 4-2 and the triumph set the stage for the finals.

The Panthers favored to win the tournament came out hustling in the first period however, the visiting Tigers were not to be denied. Although ice conditions (soft ice) hampered the quick hustle on both clubs the teams skated at a faster pace than the previous day.

Danny Murphy opening the scoring for the Islanders at 13:18 of the opening from a pass from Daniel Lassard. Then Garry McCarron tipped in a blast from the point by Lorne Carmichael. The period ended with the Tigers behind 2-0. UPEI made it 3-0 on Dan Murphy's second goal, this was to be the winner.

From here the Dal squad had an up hill battle and what a battle they fought. Earl Theriault started the scoring for Dal from a pass from Tom Mann and Rick Roemer. Like many of Dal's recent goals it showed **great use of the point** as Roemer shot the puck in front the point with Theriault there to tip it in. The second period ended 3-1 for UPEI.

Early in the third period Dal's Tom Mann scored a short handed goal to narrow the gap by a goal. From here on in the tempo of the game began to pick up. Mid-way through the period UPEI scored a goal from a blast from the point right off a faceoff deep in Dal's territory. Gerry McCarron got the credit whereas Carl Trainor assisted. The time of this "back-breaker" was 10:34. This wasn't enough to kill the Tigers. In fact the



Earl Theriault - outstanding rookie photos/Tom Mooney

determined Tigers fought back and scored at 19:30 mark. Bob Lewicki's wrist shot from Jim Shatford and Don MacGregor eluded the Panther's goalie. Supporting six attackers Dal just couldn't rally enough to force the overtime but without a doubt it was a great way to end a pre-season up-hill battle. All in all it was a great experience for Dal's young club and I had the pleasure to speak with two young rookies who certainly played some good hockey. Tom Mann and Earl Theriault.

Mann was handed a misconduct for arguing over the lack of decent officiating during the third period when he was literally butt-ended by a Panther attack. Seconds later he was belted to the ice on what was obviously a charging call. Both incidents went unnoticed. This infuriated Mann and his continual questioning led to a misconduct. It might have come at a crucial time and even Tom agreed, however, the dangerous attacks had to be brought to the referees attention. While serving his misconduct Mann noticed that team-mate Darrell MacGregor was speared in the mouth - this event went unnoticed. At this the rookie right winger rose from the penalty box and yelled to the referee who had finally realized what occurred. It was too late. He did, however, see fit to have Mann ejected from the game, MacGregor ended up with four stitches and NO infraction was called. Tom Mann is a young dedicated player from Bathurst New Brunswick. The mild

mannered enthusiast has certainly helped the Tigers penalty killing unit and his goal and assist in the final game added the spark to the club. He scored a goal against Concordia a few weeks ago and is certainly having a great transition phase. He suggested that the team is finally working together as a team and that most of his fellow rookies are beginning to adapt to the college league.

When asked if there was much of a jump from high school he replied. "the game on the college league is much faster, however, it is quite hard to tell in exhibition games. The play at times appears less chipper however, this weekend left a lot to be desired". As for confidence, Mann felt scoring his first goal seemed to get him on track and into the swing of things. Certainly Tom Mann (16) will add to our Dal squad and if pre-season play is any indication both Pierre Page and Bill Shannon have done well in obtaining his services.

Earl Theriault who is a Halifax native did his time with Halifax West High School like Mann he has scored four goals and is playing quite consistent. Finding the adjustment quite difficult Theriault suggested that confidence is the big thing and to date the rookie winger is lacking in it. Certainly something that comes with time. Asked about the clubs' performance to date Earl had this to say, "I feel the club is beginning to play together. Each one of us realizes the importance of helping each other out and if we are to win games we must play our game." Theriault feels the college hockey is a bit rougher than high school, however, he did add that it is less chipper. Theriault like Mann is a fine selection. If his performance isn't up to par now it is quite certain that when he reaches high gear he will be the vital replacement that Dal is looking for. A fine person and a great fellow to have on a club. Just another feather in the coaching staff's hat.

To round out the weekend play, three Dal players received All-Star awards following the championship game. Voted to the All-Star team included Rick Roemer (defense), Paul Finlay (Left wing) and Jim Shatford (centre). All in all it was a great way to end the exhibition road and it all leads up to the opening game coming up. University of New Brunswick fresh from a 3-0 victory

Cont'd on page 20

Tigers edged in closing minutes 4-3

by Greg Zed

A capacity crowd of Xaverians were on hand last Wednesday evening to see their X-men squeak by the Dalhousie brigade (4-3). In fact with less than a minute to go Dal was tied with the home-townners at three goals apiece.

St. F.X. opened the scoring mid-way through the first period on a goal by Bob Stephenson from Flaman and Laughie MacDonald. The X-men continued to out-shoot the Tigers and until the middle of the second period the Dal squad were trailing 2-0. Duncan Chisholm scored the second goal for St. Francis.

Mid-way through the second period Dalhousie's "goal-post" shots finally bounced the right way. Hal Davidson scored from Earl Theriault and Paul "night train" Finlay scored to even the game. Apparently the Tigers were firing several shots that hit posts and cross-bars but couldn't hit the mesh.

In the third period acting captain Jim Shatford scored the "go ahead" goal for the Mean Machine, however Tom Savoy tied the game with less than ten minutes to play in regulation time.

With less than a minute to go Dalhousie threw a clearing pass on the boards which was kept in at Dal's blueline. There was scramble in front of Jim Palmer without hesitation Mike Melanson intercepted and beat a helpless Palmer. Without a doubt the Tigers were robbed of a victory but it takes sixty minutes to win a game and as the Tigers continued to give away the puck - **A Vital Mistake** - victories are going to be lost.

As for the X-men, it was their second win against the Tigers. However, the game was a great one to watch and the end to end play along with the great goaltending of Jim Palmer (Dal) and Mike Mitchell (X-men) gave the capacity crowd something to cheer about.