



Tigers back in fray following 3 point weekend

BY DAVID FINLAYSON

This past weekend, the Dalhousie men's soccer team claimed a 1-1 tie with league-leading Acadia and a 2-0 win over Saint Mary's, to vault into second place overall.

of a challenge, although it was a physical affair. Midfielder Paul English set the tone early by levelling the Huskies keeper. Saint Mary's responded by garnering two yellow cards, and having many free kicks called against them.

on, a Husky player was ejected but the Tigers couldn't capitalize, hitting the goal post three times.

The defense, again anchored by Marc Rainford, was solid and acted as the base for many attacks as the Tigers started to play the following game that they used so successfully last year. Goalkeeper Mike Hudson recorded the shut-out as Dal claimed two points in the overall standings.

"Today we came out to play at the beginning, and they didn't," said McFarlane after the game. Coach Neil Turnbull saw that the team's "fitness was obviously lacking," but adds, "We'll work on that over the next few weeks."

The 3-1-2 Tigers need some big wins over the next few games to take home-field advantage but since every team in the league, except UCCB, is within six points of Acadia in the overall standings, we can look forward to an exciting finish.

Tigers squeak out a win

BY AARON BLEASDALE

Last weekend, on a beautiful sunny afternoon, an enthusiastic crowd watched the Dal Women's Soccer team pull-out a 1-0 victory against a tough Saint Mary's team.

Deadlocked at 0-0 after one half of play, the underdog Huskies (2-0-1) took it to the favoured Tigers (2-0-3) in the second half. Dal spent most of that half on the defensive, until in the dying minutes of the game, the ball took an unpredictable bounce and midfielder Karen Hood poked it over the sprawled Saint Mary's goaltender.

Dalhousie had played a tough Acadia team the day before, but head coach Neil Turnbull offers no excuses. "Saint Mary's played well, we didn't play as well as we

should have, and we need to improve on that."

Turnbull isn't concerned though.

"The team hasn't found their rhythm yet. Some years it takes longer, some years it comes together very quickly, that's team sport. It's very dynamic, you never know from year to year, from day to day how it's going to happen."

Part of this rhythm problem may be due to a rash of injuries suffered to key personnel: fourth year striker Kate Orford suffered damage to her anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) during the first five minutes of the first intersquad game of the season; front line player Trudi McCulloch is sidelined indefinitely with medial collateral ligament (MCL) damage; and goaltender Lehane Turner is recovering from a knee injury. To make matters worse, another front line player, Kelly Larkin,

suffered a sprained ankle on Sunday and will be out for three to four weeks.

Turnbull, however, doesn't believe the new turf is the problem. Being specially designed for sports like soccer, it's kinder on the body than other artificial surfaces currently in use. "We played on it last year, and we didn't have any injuries. Again it's just the game that's decided that this year it's your turn to have these injuries and your turn to deal with these types of adversities. It's just another challenge the game throws at you."

Of course having a solid group of rookies and substitutes helps one to appreciate the Zen of the sporting world. The Tigers have "a strong core of twenty players who could all start." And with an easier October schedule, Turnbull

has the luxury to take things one week at a time to build towards the end of the season, because "that's where you need to be in form."

In the last few years, the now 3-0-3 Tigers have built a nationally re-

spected soccer program, appearing in the last three national finals and winning one. Turnbull is unconcerned with being the favourite; what's important is building that level of respect.

With the CIAU finals coming to town in November, the women's soccer team has a chance to build on their already good reputation by winning one in front of their home crowd, but faced with the unsureness inherent in team sport, Turnbull is satisfied to just "take care of what's in the team's control, because the rest will take care of itself."



At Wolfville, on Friday, the Axemen opened the scoring near the end of the first half of play to take the lead. However, Marc Ellis' second goal of the season earned Dalhousie the draw.

Midfielder Dave McFarlane wasn't impressed by the team's effort.

"We did not come to play soccer [against Acadia]. We did not do any running or passing, and there was no support for the player with the ball."

The game saw Tiger defender Matt Serieys return to action. He described the game as "brutal because the field is so small that they just close you into the corners and slide tackle you."

The Huskies proved to be less

Attacking well from the wings, it was only a matter of time until the Dal men struck. After a quick build-up through the defense, the ball came to the feet of forward Mark Ellis who beat a hapless SMU defender and played a chip to a sprinting Jeff Hibberts. Hibberts put Dal in the lead with an impressive volley past the keeper.

SMU was losing the midfield battles, and the second goal capped off a successful midfield surge. After 31 minutes, Ellis delivered a crisp crossing pass to English who powered a header from the penalty spot into the back of the net.

In the second half, the SMU fouling machine rolled on. Early

The Men's and Women's soccer teams are playing at UPEI this Saturday at 1 and 3 p.m., and Sunday at the same times at Mount Allison.

The next home games are on Friday, October 4th: 4 p.m. for the women and 6 p.m. for the men on Wickwire Field.



AARON BLEASDALE

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