

Dalhousie women riding high in soccer

by Sam McCaig

This past week saw the women Tigers narrowly defeat the defending AUAA champs St. Mary's Huskies 1-0 at Studley Field on Wednesday, September 22 and then battle Acadia to a 0-0 draw on Saturday, September 26 in Wolfville.

On Wednesday, in a rematch of last year's AUAA final, Dalhousie's Kate Gillespie exacted some revenge for the Tigers as she scored what proved to be the game-winner at the 42nd minute when she knocked in a rebound past the Husky netminder. Persistence paid off for striker Gillespie as she found some room to roam in a game where she had been perpetually hounded by dogged St. Mary's defenders. Nicole Webb's initial shot was stopped, but the ball bounced directly to Gillespie, who wasted little time in potting her fourth goal of the young season.

With St. Mary's seemingly very conscious of Gillespie's whereabouts and responding to her movements with aggressive coverage, striker Dana Holmes was given more room to perform and she replied with a strong effort for Dalhousie. Keeper Leahanne Turner of the Tigers earned her second shutout by making half a dozen saves, but she was never really subjected to intense pressure or forced to make any truly challenging stops as the backfield of Jo Peterson and Suzanne Jones handled their defensive responsibilities admirably.

The tempo of the game was that of the back-and-forth variety. Play would make its way into one end of the field and remain there for four or five minutes until the defence was able to push the ball downfield and allow their offence to apply some pressure of its own. In this way, it was an entertaining

match and though it did not produce many goals, it did produce the potential for goals and this aspect kept the crowd of approximately 350 interested throughout. Due to the numerous swings in momentum, the defensive and offensive units of both teams were tested regularly. Players were forced to maintain a high level of intensity for the duration of the game as any lapses in concentration may have resulted in scoring opportunities for the attacking team. In this respect, St. Mary's and Dalhousie were evenly matched as the game was highlighted with aggressive defensive play and tenacious hustle by the forechecking offences.

This aggression caused more than a few stoppages in play as it contained an element of chippiness that resulted in some fouls being called. However, no players were carded. A sobering situation for the Tigers arose at approximately the 40th minute when Kate Gillespie went down and the trainer was called onto the field. Fortunately for Dalhousie, she was deemed fit to continue and, appropriately enough, scored just a couple of minutes later. St. Mary's then stepped up their coverage and Gillespie remained a physical target for the remainder of the afternoon.

In Acadia, Gillespie stayed down. She turned an ankle early in the first half and was replaced by rookie Joanne Cluet. Goalie Leahanne Turner kept her shutout string intact and this enabled Dalhousie to remain undefeated and tied atop the Eastern division with Acadia, both teams having identical 2-0-1 records.

This Thursday, September 30 sees the women from St. Francis Xavier (1-1) visit Studley Field at 4:00 pm. So, before you head to the Grawood for a few cold pops, stop by and take in a few corner kicks.



Dalhousie celebrates after scoring winning goal

DALPHOTO: MICHAEL GRAHAM

Women's Soccer Schedule

Sat., September 18	MtA @ Dal	2 pm
Wed., September 22	SMU @ Dal	4 pm
Sat., September 25	Dal @ Aca	2 pm
Thurs., September 30	StFX @ Dal	4 pm
Wed., October 6	Aca @ Dal	4 pm
Sat., October 16	MUN @ Dal	3 pm
Wed., October 20	Dal @ SMU	6 pm
Sat., October 23	Dal @ UdM	3 pm
Sun., October 24	Dal @ UPEI	noon
Sun., October 31	Dal @ StFX	1 pm
November 6 & 7	AUAA Championships	
	(Top four at home of league winner)	

Standings

East						
	W	L	T	F	A	Pt
Dalhousie	2	0	1	9	0	7
Acadia	2	0	1	7	0	7
StFX	1	1	0	1	1	4
St. Mary's	1	2	1	1	3	4

West						
	W	L	T	F	A	Pt
UPEI	3	1	1	10	4	8
Memorial	1	2	0	2	6	2
Moncton	0	2	0	2	5	0
Mt. Allison	0	2	0	0	13	0

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