

# The puck stops here

## The year in hockey

BY NIK MADAN.

They said it was supposed to be a building year for the hockey Tigers, who had twelve first and second year players on their roster for the 1996/97 season. However, although the Tigers ended the season in third place in the Kelly Division, their 13-11-4 record was an improvement on the previous year.

Notable acquisitions for the year included: the Naylor twins (Luke and Ted) and Craig Brocklehurst, all UNB transfers; former Major Juniors Jan Melicherik and Craig Whynot; Chad Kalmakoff; UCCB transfer Tommy Hunter; and ex-Acadia stalwart Scott Gallant. From the coaching point of view, the Tigers added the services of all-time Dalhousie great, Keifer House, as assistant coach.

Following a modest start in October, the Tigers began to fulfil some of their potential by November. A sensational come-from-behind 10-6 victory at Acadia sent shockwaves around the CIAU. This victory sparked a four-game winning streak, and led to the young Tiger team cracking the national rankings.

Despite a couple of losses to highly-regarded Acadia and UNB, and a season ending injury to Scott Gallant, the Tigers ended the first half of the season on a high note. A tie against the lowly SMU Huskies was notable because of the character and resilience that the Tigers displayed in coming back from three goals down in the third period. The game also saw what was the hit-of-the-year: a hip-check from Martin LaPointe that sent SMU's Pineau spinning spectacularly through the air. A hard-earned road victory at St. FX ushered in the Christmas break.

During the Christmas holiday, the tired Tigers made the arduous bus journey to Maine to participate in a tournament at the University of Maine. Dalhousie lost both its games, to UMaine and Union College, with the results having more to do with the wealth of talent that the American universities are able to accumulate because of their vast budgets, than with any great difference in coaching and/or commitment.

Back in Halifax, an exhibition

game against the visiting Brandon Bobcats was indicative of the difference in quality between the AUHC and the rest of the country. The Bobcats were overwhelmed 8-1 by a rampant Tiger team. The game also marked the debuts of Neil Savary and David Carson from the Halifax Mooseheads, whose arrival injected new life into the team. The Tigers also lost goalie Greg Dreveny, who left to pursue his career in the States, and blue-chip recruit Chad Kalmakoff to a broken jaw.

A six-game unbeaten streak followed shortly after. This included two of the best games of the year, both home wins versus Acadia. The first, a 4-3 victory, was lit up by what was arguably the goal-of-the-season by Marc Warner, who beat his man with some fancy footwork, and followed it with a finish of the highest calibre. The second was a nerve-biting 6-5 overtime victory in front of a packed, and extremely noisy, Memorial Arena.

The end of a successful January brought the annual All-Star Game at the Halifax Metro Centre. Players representing Dalhousie were Martin LaPointe, the Naylor twins and David Haynes. Rookie defenceman Craig Whynot also got the call, but unfortunately could not play due to injury. Veteran Jeff Letourneau was on standby, but did not play.

The most talked about game of the year, unfortunately for the wrong reasons, was against Acadia. A skirmish involving Dal's Martin LaPointe resulted in a brawl between Tiger goalie Neil Savary and Acadia's Mike Dawson, with David Haynes being physically restrained by a linesman from going to his teammate's aid. The end result was a clutch of suspensions, including a three-game ban to Savary, and five games to Haynes.

With the prospect of a playoff spot against St. FX looming, the Tigers ended the regular season quietly. An exciting playoff series versus St. FX saw the Tigers prevail in a 5-4 Game 3 victory. The year ended with a tough loss to favorites Acadia in the Kelly Division Final.

With the nucleus of the squad expected to remain intact, the Tigers will prove to be even stronger next season.

Like hockey? Wish hockey season wasn't over? It's not!

This year's IWK Charity Cup is happening this Saturday, March 8th. The fifteen best players from Howe Hall play the best of Howe Hall alumni.

The game starts at 8 p.m. and tickets are just \$2.

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### athletes of the week

#### Angela McAlpine, Women's Swimming



At this past weekend's CIAU Swimming Championships, Angela swam three personal bests, placing 7th in the 400m Freestyle with a PB (personal best) of 4:29.53, 1st in the 100m Fly consolation with a PB of 1:05.35 and 2nd in the consolation of the 200m Free with a PB of 2:05.69. She also won the 100m Free consolation in a time of 59.12 and was a member of the 800m Free relay team that swam a new AUAA Record in 8:37.27. That record had stood since 1983 and was originally held by Garapick, Deveau, Duncan and Platt of Dalhousie.

Angela is a first year athlete at Dal studying Commerce Co-op. She is from Digby, Nova Scotia, stands 5'8" and is 18 years of age.

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