

Hockey Tigers eliminated in AUAA Playoffs

X advances in convincing fashion

BY TERRY HAWES

Perhaps the St. Francis Xavier X-Men should consider playing the rest of their home playoff games at Dal instead of Antigonish.

The blue and white ran their record to a perfect 4-0 on the road against Dal with a 6-1 victory to sweep the best of three Kelly Division semi-final on Friday night. Despite the final score, the match was tight until the last couple of minutes when X scored three times to make the result flattering for the visitors.

St. FX 2 Dal 1 — Xavier head coach Danny Flynn knew that the match-up with Dal would be no walk in the park.

"They were in first place at

Christmas, it was the injuries that resulted in their slump," Flynn said.

In a tight defensive battle, the X-Men got goals from Dominique Auger and Kurt Walsh, then survived Dal pressure late in the match to win game one in Antigonish. The Tigers were effectively shut down for the first two periods, finding X goalie Shawn Silver hard to beat and it was not until the last minute of play that defenceman Martin Lapointe scored a powerplay goal to narrow the gap. Dal pulled the goalie, but it was too late as X held on to send the fans home happy.

St. FX 6 Dal 1 — A capacity crowd of over 1,000 at Dal Arena, including many fans that made the

trip from Antigonish, witnessed an all out war between the Kelly Division rivals.

The Tigers had the first scoring opportunity only for Brian Surette's shot to be stopped by Silver. Within a minute later, X took the lead as Chris Angione fed it across to Steve Nimigon, who beat goalie Neil Savary to the left side at 3:32. Both teams turned up the physical play. Tigers forward Chris Pittman, a marked man in the eyes of the St. FX players after a vicious hit on Andrew Warr earlier this year, got into a heated exchange with X defenceman Carl Beaudoin, which ended with both players receiving misconduct penalties.

X goalie Silver couldn't stop

Dal Wrestling Club takes gold

BY GAZETTE STAFF

The Dal Wrestling Club travelled to CFB Greenwood last Saturday, Feb. 27 for the Nova Scotia Club championships. Dal had some great results, which was slightly contrary to the performance at the AUAA's.

For the first time in the club's 3-year existence, Dal walked away with the Provincial Men's Senior

Championships.

Highlights in the senior men's finals were 2 champs, Logan Ward at 63kg and Mike Leblanc at heavyweight. Benji Parks lost a hard fought match in the final to place silver.

Dal also placed 2nd at the Junior Men's title, with 76kg Paul Rhyno winning his first Nova Scotia Junior Championship.

At 97kg, Jason Mitchelmore lost a close match in the final to earn

a much-deserved silver.

The Dal Club will attend the 1999 Atlantic Open this Friday and Saturday at Sackville High School. This is the Atlantic age group championships and will feature wrestlers from all Atlantic Provinces.

"We have a very strong [under 20] team," says Dal coach Scott Aldridge, "and I hope we can win the Atlantic Junior Men's team title."



ROAR INTO THE SILENCE: Tiger action before elimination.

them all and the Tigers levelled the score when Surette tipped Chad Kalmakoff's shot from the point at 10:49. However, undisciplined penalties, the Tigers' Achilles heel, ruined a potential 2-on-1 break with an interference penalty to Lapointe.

The X-Men took advantage of the mishap as Yannick Evola one-timed a pass from Mark Matier to give X a 2-1 lead heading into the dressing room.

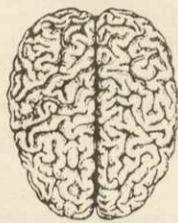
The intensity was so great that referee Bob Best ordered the Tigers to wait at their bench while X left the ice first to avoid potential trouble.

The chippiness continued in the second period with numerous battles after the whistle. Savary took a senseless penalty for roughing after the whistle, but Dal had a chance to score shorthanded

as they broke out 2-on-1 only for Silver to stop Lapointe.

St. FX stepped it up in the third period, winning the battles on the boards and outthrusting the Tigers. It was no surprise that the blue and white extended the lead after some lax defending by Dal let Dave Stewart in alone and he beat Savary to the top left corner, giving X a two-goal lead.

It was over from there on in. Dal appeared disorganized, Silver only had to make one challenging save, stopping Jason Pellerin on a breakaway. With 2:12 to go, Paul Andrea one-timed a shot to make it 4-1 and he scored at 19:03 on a rebound from Evola's initial shot. Kurt Walsh banked a shot in off of Savary's skate at 19:45 to complete the scoring and give X a well-earned victory.



Wakey, wakey.

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