

Husky goon drops Tiger Pride

SMU player suspended for assaulting fan

BY GREG WHITE

Regardless of the circumstances, what happened at last Wednesday night's hockey game can only be described as ugly. For the fans and players in attendance, as well as those who saw the well-covered reviews in the media, it was nothing short of disgraceful.

On November 20, the Dalhousie Tigers played host to cross-town rivals, the Saint Mary's Huskies. Trailing 5-1 in the third period, a daunted SMU team began to slash and swing at their opponents as their frustration level mounted.

SMU was ranked as one of the top teams in the country early in the season but are currently riding an eight-game losing streak. Near the 17:00 minute mark of the third period, SMU tough guy Ken Tasker was ejected from the game for roughing. On his way to the dressing room he became involved in a verbal exchange with a number of members of the Tiger Pride spirit squad, including DSU Vice-President Community Affairs Carman Barteaux.

Tasker was on his way to the locker-rooms when something one of the fans said struck a chord in him. He turned back up the ramp, toward the ice, and punished the fan with a couple of sharp punches to the face before Security and members of Dal's coaching staff were able to interrupt the assault.

After reviewing the tape, Saint

Mary's Athletic Director Larry Uteck has suspended Tasker for the remainder of the season. Watching the incident, it is clear that Tasker had the time and the opportunity to walk away from the fan; instead, he chose to turn and physically assault someone who had their hands at their sides.

Perhaps the fan deserved what he got; if a fan continues to annoy and pester an obviously upset player then he may be biting off more than he can chew. However, the role of the student athlete is to serve as an ambassador for the school that he or she is representing. These athletes should take responsibility for their actions.

This is the second incident in a week involving disciplinary problems with members of SMU hockey, and the question of problems in the program as a whole have surfaced. Head coach Paul Boutillier has been suspended for five games for throwing a clipboard on the ice during a game versus Acadia. With examples of leadership like this, it is no wonder that Saint Mary's may need to re-evaluate their hockey program.

There are numerous other examples of classless, unsportsmanlike antics from recent Saint Mary's hockey teams which leads people to think that this may be a more revealing comment on the Athletic Department Administration. Uteck was unavailable for comment regarding the latest incident.

Darrell Young is head coach of Dal hockey, one of the least penalized teams in the league over the past few years. He attributes his team's discipline to a different coaching philosophy. He ensures that each player on the team is clear on what expectations he has of them, and tries to instill a sense of pride in the school that they are representing.

Regardless of the circumstances, he tries to "prepare players to focus on the big picture and to focus on bigger and better things." Young feels that this type of coaching philosophy can only make a team stronger.

The CIAU has strict penalties for fighting and other goonish antics. However, most of the players in the league come from the OHL or other Major Junior organizations where the penalties for this type of behaviour are more lenient. In the past, it has been argued that if the CIAU was to allow fighting in hockey games, the amount of illegal and dangerous stickwork would diminish, and frustration levels would never reach the level that they do. Young, however, feels that a player should "know the rules coming into the league and adapt."

Earlier in the game, before the start of the third period, Tasker, was assessed a ten minute misconduct for slashing a Dalhousie player before the puck was even dropped. He apparently has a short fuse and a history of this type of behaviour. It is likely that



the individual, and not the rules of the CIAU, is the problem.

Members of the SMU coaching staff were quick to blame arena security for the incident, citing that it never should have happened. While some members of the security staff declined official comment, it can be assumed that security measures will be reassessed, and that steps will be taken in hopes of avoiding a recurrence of such an event.

Generally speaking, security at the arena is good. This is an isolated incident and members of the security staff cannot be expected to stop a big, physical person like Ken Tasker when he wants to

cause trouble. One of the duties of the security staff, however, is the protection of the fans, as well as the players, and in this capacity they failed to do their job.

It will be the true measure of the strength of the Saint Mary's hockey program when it is tested in the face of adversity in a rematch against the Dalhousie Tigers this Friday at 7 p.m. in Dalhousie Memorial Arena. Hopefully, the message will have been received as to what constitutes appropriate behaviour. Saint Mary's can still salvage their dignity out of this mess, and it will be interesting to see if they will stand up and dust themselves off.

Volleyball finds silver lining in Sherbrooke

BY CARMEN TAM

The Dalhousie men's volleyball team placed second at the Sherbrooke Omnium Vert et Or Tournament last weekend. They met the defending national champs, the Manitoba Bisons, in the final. The Bisons, currently ranked fourth in the country, displaced the third ranked Tigers 10-15, 15-17, 13-15 and 4-15 to capture the tournament title.

Despite the loss, an outstanding performance came from Dal's Terry Martin who shone for the Tigers with 27 kills and 5 digs. Eric Villeneuve and Jason Trepanier chipped in 26 and 20 kills respectively.

Notes Trepanier, "Manitoba put the pressure on us and broke us down, which we don't usually do."

The Tigers started the competition strong, boasting a flawless 3-0 record in the round robin portion of the tournament. Dalhousie swept their first match 3-0 over the McMaster Marauders 15-8, 15-3 and 15-6. Left side hitter Eric Villeneuve was DAL's top performer with 15 kills and 6

digs while teammate Terry Martin totalled 12 kills and 3 blocks.

Later that evening Dalhousie edged host team Sherbrooke in a gruelling five-set match. The Tigers dropped their first two games 7-15 and 3-15 before rebounding with 15-9, 15-8 and 15-12. Villeneuve amassed 28 kills and 7 digs for the victory as Martin racked up 24 kills, 6 digs and 2 service aces.

The next day, Dalhousie won in convincing style over Sherbrooke College with game scores of 15-3, 15-4 and 15-6. Jason Trepanier had 13 kills and 7 digs. Fifth year veteran Jamie Mallon, an AUAA all-star last season, chipped in 11 kills and 7 digs.

In semi-final action, the Tigers played another five-set marathon. They topped the Montreal Carabins with game scores of 15-5, 10-15, 15-8, 10-15 and 15-8. Once again seasoned players Martin and Villeneuve lead the Tiger offense, with 27 and 20 kills each. Martin also had 5 blocks and 8 digs. The rest of the starting lineup played well as Trepanier had 15 kills and 11 digs, Mallon had 14 kills and 9 digs and mid-

dle John Hobin added 11 kills and 13 digs and 6 blocks for the Tigers.

"Overall, I think we played very well [in the tournament]," summed up Martin who had 97 kills for the weekend. "We could have done better. We could have won it if we hadn't been so mentally and physically drained after playing two five-set matches."

November was a busy month for the Black and Gold. They competed in three tournaments, highlighted by capturing the gold medal at the Waterloo Warrior Classic and two Atlantic Conference matches. The Tigers, who are 2-0 in AUAA action, play their next home game tomorrow at the Dalplex. Dal will take on the Sea-Hawks from Memorial University of Newfoundland.

Jason Trepanier, playing in his third year, noted, "We haven't seen them [Memorial] yet this year so we don't know how they are playing this season. However, we have been training really hard, so we are ready and prepared."

Game time is 7 p.m. and there is free admission for Dal students with valid ID cards. See you there!

this week's games:

Friday, November 29

Hockey vs. SMU, 7 p.m. @ Memorial Arena
Basketball (women) @ St. FX, 6 p.m.
Basketball (men) @ St. FX, 8 p.m.

Saturday, November 30

Volleyball (men) vs. Memorial, 7 p.m.
@ Dalplex
Volleyball (women) @ Mt. Allison
Basketball (women) @ UCCB, 6 p.m.
Basketball (men) @ UCCB, 8 p.m.

Sunday, December 1

Volleyball (men) vs. Memorial, 12 noon
@ Dalplex
Volleyball (women) @ UdeM
Hockey @ St. FX, 2 p.m.

If you have an event that needs posting, call the Gazette at 494-2507 and ask for Aaron, Sports Editor and all-round nice guy.