

Tigers down Devils 4-3 on the road

by Greg Zed

For some people, Friday the thirteenth would probably be better if it were not repeated. However, for the Dalhousie Varsity Hockey Team it was a day of triumph. When the Tigers travelled to Fredericton, nothing was on the line except pride. A win for the Dal team would add nothing in terms of playoff position and likewise for the Red Devils of Fredericton. The Friday evening game played before four hundred fans in the Lady Beaverbrook Rink was certainly a great "spectator game", with end to end rushes and several fine plays by both clubs. In fact the game was so good to watch that one could easily forget that these clubs were not fighting for a playoff berth.

The line of Paul Finlay, Tom Mann, and Earl Theriault led the Tigers to a 4-3 victory. Both Finlay and Mann set-up rear-guard Rick Roemer's goal to open the scoring at 2:21 of the first frame. It came with the Red Devils short-handed two men, Dave Neil and Gerry Grant. Robert Riopel and John Mallowney were penalized at 5:35 and 7:35 respectively giving the home-towners a two man advantage but the Dal defensive unit in front of Mel Bartlett witheld the pressure. The Tigers picked up two additional penalties before the period ended and still keep the U.N.B. squad off the scoreboard. Tom Mann fired Dal's second goal with less than four minutes in the initial frame and so the Tigers went to their dressing room on a 2-0 cushion, despite the fact that they were out-shot 12-8.

In the second period, both clubs played end-to-end hockey and it was a wonder the Tigers were able to contain the fired-up home-towners. The middle stanza ended without any scoring, however the Dal squad fought off two minor penalties and were out-shot 11-2. Without a doubt Melvin Bartlett kept the Tigers in the game with several key saves.

If the Red Devils were to mount any attack they had to do it in the third period. Paul Finlay, one of Dal most consistent players since the

Christmas break fired the puck past John MacLean to give the Tigers a 3-0 lead but the Fredericton club were not to be denied everything. The fact was they just could not put the puck in the net. At 7:09 of the final frame the Red Devils broke the Dal shutout and they continued to pour it on. Within seven minutes the game was even at three goals a piece. With overtime hanging over the match coach Pierre Page went to his veteran winger Tom Coolen and no sooner did the Halifax native line up for a face off in U.N.B.'s end when the pass from Bob Lewicki and Don MacGregor was re-directed past MacLean to give the Tigers the lead. The game wasn't over but the Tigers began to force the play at centre ice, and soon the home town Red Devils could not mount any sort of last minute attack. The game ended 4-3 and the Tigers had proven to themselves that playing for pride was well worth the two points.

The Dal squad travels to Wolfville to meet Acadia Axemen for their final game. For veterans Don MacGregor, Jim Shatford, Paul Finlay, Tom Coolen, and John Gillis it will be their last game as TIGERS. Next issue (March 4th) GAZETTE will pay tribute to these fine athletes.

League statistics were not readily available at press time. However, as of February 18th, the league officials had shown the Dal squad in sixth place with eleven points, one point behind fifth place U.P.E.I. and five points behind fourth place Moncton Blue' Eagles. The Black and Gold club earned their position by virtue of their unimpressive record of 5-9-1, however, it is only right to mention that of the nine losses, four were by only one goal. Last year the club's record was 12-6-0 good enough for a fourth spot. What else can be compared from last year? Dalhousie got on the score board 85 times in 1974-75 whereas this year the club only managed to light the red light 67 times, however, they have one

game left to play in this season.

Greg Lynch and Vince Desjardins allowed 57 goals in last year whereas this year's combo of Melvin Bartlett and Jim Palmer allowed 73 pucks to enter the net. One must also note that last year the Tigers played 18 games and acquired the above statistics whereas to date the Dal club has played in 15 league games with one game remaining. St. Thomas Tommies

left the league this year. So there is enough information for a comparison to be made.

Before the school year ends it is only fair to speak with the coaches and/or any other persons involved directly with recruitment to see what is in store for next year. A critical look must be made at this point to see if, in fact, next year will be going to another long and frustrating year.

Wrestling conference

Throughout the entire season the Dal Wrestling Team has dominated the A.U.A.A. Conference. Their only losses were at the hands of Hofstra University, a team which was ranked in the top 20 in the NCAA University division.

The tournament itself began Friday night with the first round of competition. Friday evening's wrestling was a disappointing one for the Dal team as Blake Alexander, Ray Williams and Darrel Reed all lost first round matches. Both Williams and Alexander were favorites to make it to the finals. However, the Dal wrestlers were ready for the remaining rounds on Saturday. Outstanding performers for Dal were Greg Wilson (158), Dave Carter (134), Tom Murtagh (150), Mike Soares (177) and George Fieber (HWT). Tom Murtagh after winning 2 tough matches faced Saunders of UNB. Murtagh, in a previous meeting, won by a narrow margin over Saunders.

However, this Saturday, Murtagh completely dominated the match by pinning Saunders in the first round.

Carter and Soares two Halifax natives completely dominated their opposition as both wrestlers pinned the three wrestlers that they faced. Carter's stiffest competition came from his Moncton opponent who Carter pinned in the second period. For Soares all three opponents were down to first period pins. George Fieber (under 220) won his weight division by defeating in the finals Terry Tepek of Acadia. Tepek gave George his only defeat in the A.U.A.A. all season. However, George came up with an excellent performance and defeated Tepek by 10 points. Blake Alexander (167) after losing in the first round Friday night did an excellent job on Saturday finishing in the tournament with a bronze medal.

Dalhousie's six winners will now travel to Thunder Bay, Ontario, for the Canadian Intercollegiate Championships in two weeks time.

Swimmers and Divers

The Dalhousie Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Teams have completed a very rewarding 75-76 season. While both teams are ranked third in the Conference, many of the meets were lost by a very small margin.

The Tigers began the season with an exciting victory that was decided by the final relay. History repeated itself in the final meet of the season against Acadia. The Dal men's squad won the final relay setting a new Dalhousie and AUAA conference record, bringing their season's win-loss record to 5 to 3.

The women's team has proved to be a very strong contender this year. In the final meet of the season the Tigerettes rallied to the call and missed being triumphant over the powerful Acadia Axettes by just 4 points. This is the best showing for the women's team against Acadia in recent years. The women's 4-4 win-loss record certainly makes them a team to be reckoned with at the 1976 AUAA Championships.

The Dalhousie Diving teams have also been busy preparing for the Dual meet season in the AUAA Conference championship. The men's team has proven its value on many occasions and is second only to the powerful UNB Men's Diving Squad. However, this FRESHMAN team has performed well and is looking forward to being still more competitive in the years ahead.

The women's team has been strengthened by the addition of two new divers bringing the total team membership to 4 women. As a group they are not only the largest women's team in the conference but they have shown themselves to be the strongest team as well. The efforts of Margie Barrow and Gail Stewart have led to women's team to many victories over the past few months.

Tiger swimmers and divers are now in the final steps of preparation for the AUAA Conference Championships to be held in Wolfville on the 19-21 of February and are looking forward to being well represented on the Conference team going to the CIAU / CWIAU Championships in Waterloo, Ontario, March 4-6, 1976.

Intramural Ice Hockey

In Intramural Ice Hockey Super action last Sunday, the Law "B" team earned a hard fought victory over Pharmacy by a 6-4 score. Also in "B" league action Science edged Pine Hill 5-4 on R. Sulley's hattrick. In the "A" league, P.E. fought a strong Law comeback in the third period and hung on to win 3-2. Finally Arts "C" cruised to a 5-1 victory over Medicine "C" by virtue of Dan Tempellors three goal effort!

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