

Dal squeaks through against Xavier but trounces SMU

by Brian Miller

You can tell it's going to be a big evening. Everybody is intently doing his thing. Thirty minutes before the first game, the Forum is beginning to come alive. A few spectators are drifting into the seats, each person making his own humble effort to try and fill the empty cavern.

Down in the network of passageways under the seats

everyone seems to be moving very purposefully. The head usher, a short man wearing a great coat with big brass buttons, a wide flat top hat and overshoes carefully zippered to the top, is intently giving directions to the rest of the red-coated ushers. From time to time the concerned face of Keith Lewis, Forum Manager, is seen anxiously pacing around his domain.

Out on the court, both teams

are warming up. Tiger coach, Al Yarr, walks around the floor, occasionally stopping to stare up into the rafters. His physical stature and the sharp features of his face surrounded by a beard gives the impression of a contemporary Abe Lincoln.

At the St. F.X. bench, Packy MacFarlan exhibits a less mobile coaching technique. He sits motionless, bent over, head in hands and stares at anything that happens to confront his roving eyes.

A short while later the teams have left the floor from their warm-ups. And looking around the Forum something very unusual is apparent. It's packed with a huge crowd, easily surpassing any of the earlier games. And already there is excitement in the air. Next the Tigers and "X-men" return to the court and we're off!

The Tigers scored the first basket but "X" took over and jumped to a 15-2 lead. Probably the biggest factor contributing to the lead was the full court press by "X" that forced the Tigers into mistakes.

With 9:35 remaining in the first half, "X" had a 25-10 lead. That was the last time they had the lead in the game as the Tigers came back to finish the first half ahead by a 36-34 score.

Outstanding play by Albert Slaunwhite highlighted the return by the Tigers. Defensively he played a strong game but the most impressive aspect was his ball handling and passing in the later part of the first half. By the end of the half, the crowd was solidly behind Dal and gave the team quite an ovation as they left the floor.

The second half saw the Tigers continually increase their lead until the apex was reached with 9:30 remaining and Dal having a 61-47 lead. A good team effort was mainly responsible for the commanding lead.

Slowly but surely, Packy's boys began unwrapping their potential. At the 18:01 point "X" had closed the gap to 3 points. Dal 69, St. FX 66. Aggressive defence combined with sloppy play by Dal put the Tigers on uneasy footing.

The rest of the game is told in the timing of the scoring.

1:36 left — Dal 69, St. FX 68
:38 left — Dal 71, St. FX 68
:24 left — Dal 72, St. FX 68
:11 left — Dal 72, St. FX 70
Final — Dal 74, St. FX 70

Not much else needs to be said. The going got rough and the Tigers came through in fine fashion.

The less said about the St. Mary's effort against Acadia in the second game of the evening, the better. After trailing 31-29 at half time, SMU folded completely and limped to the final score of Acadia 90, SMU 62.

SMU

At the end of the St. Mary's bench sat a beautiful pure white husky dog. Before the game his behavior was exemplary. But when the game got under way he greeted the first basket of the game, scored by SMU, with barking that echoed around the Forum. He continued the barking and because it became disruptive he had to be removed. The husky's departure signalled the demise of the Huskies for the duration of the game.

SMU was unable to sustain the relentless, aggressive defence by Dal. Steve Bezanson and Albert Slaunwhite posed the greatest problem for SMU, as both players intercepted passes and stole the ball from the

hands of the Huskies.

Dal controlled the boards on both offensive and defensive rebounding. Bruce Bourassa who appeared to be out of condition, came in as a sub in the first half and dominated the rebounding statistics. Also contributing good rebounding was Mike Flinn and Joe Leishman. Leishman however, showed best in the scoring department as he scored 20 points, mostly on lay-ups.

The only real problem that SMU caused Dal was in the second half where they showed an effective full court zone press. The Tigers after initial problems eventually broke the press and ended overwhelming the Huskies.

The Tigers, who were playing their last home game showed substantial improvement from the beginning of the season. The team has developed into just that, a team. It shows in their floor play and scoring statistics. High scorers for Dal against SMU were Leishman, Sprogis with 11, Slaunwhite with 14, and Bezanson 18.

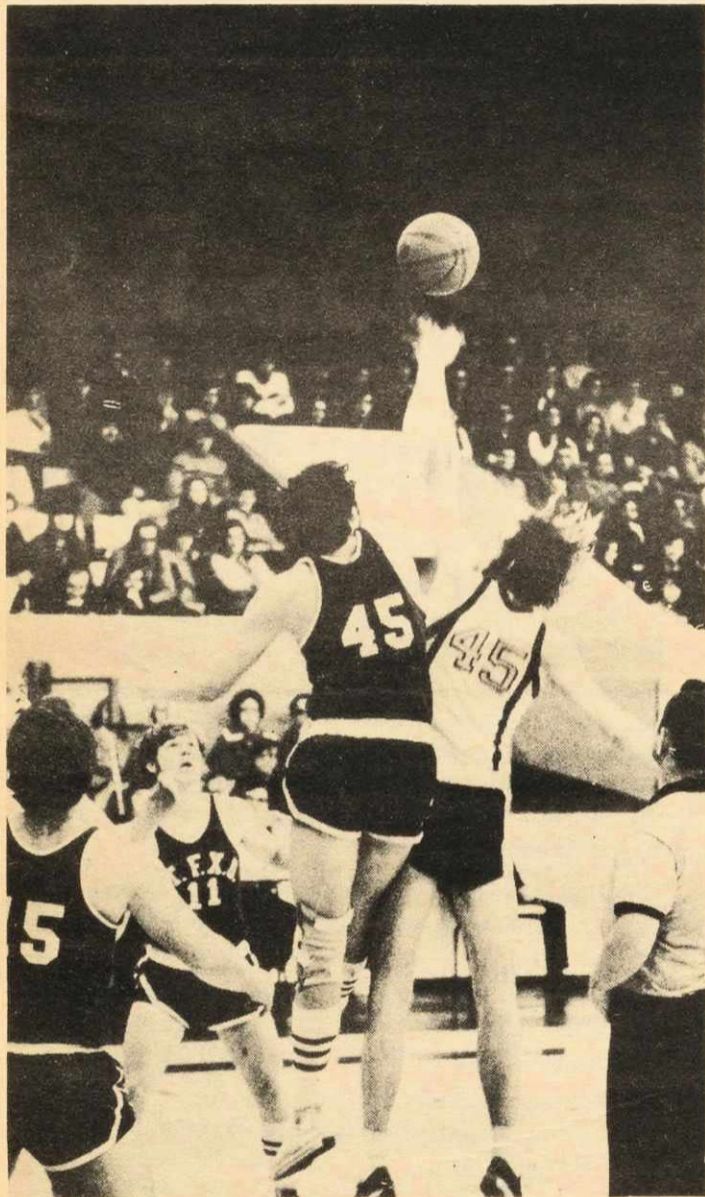


photo by Chris Anderson

Dal . . .

(cont'd from p. 7)

Oh no! Penalty shot to Acadia, they score. Damn it!

This is driving me nuts. Is it never going to end? You better believe it, and right now! 6-5 Dal. 7-5 Dal. 8-5 Dal. And up, and up, and up. Final. Dal 11, Acadia 5.

As the score would indicate, the Tigers didn't really get under way until the last ten minutes of the game. Up until that point, they played good but far from great hockey. The seemingly ever present habit of the defence for being caught behind the play was in evidence again. Most of the first period and a good part of the second was played with men in the penalty box. The slow and sticky ice kept the pace of the game restricted. At one point Acadia had a two-man breakaway and both men overskated the puck.

The last ten minutes of the game really showed the offensive power of the Tigers. It's unfortunate that many of the crowd from Dal didn't see all of those ten minutes as they were too involved in the brawl that broke out among the spectators. Seems they got too high spirited.

Interfac Roundup

Most interfac action should be finished by the end of February, or at least the first two or three days after March break. There is badminton, paddleball, squash, and volleyball scheduled after March break.

Interfac Basketball — Semi-final playoffs started Feb. 17. By Feb. 24 a winner will be decided in both leagues.

Floor Hockey — On Feb. 21 at 5:30 two more floor hockey games will be underway. Law will play Dents and Engineers versus Arts. Rules are very important in any game and sometimes special rules are made. In this league a player must keep both of his hands on his own stick at all times when playing. If a penalty is called a penalty shot will be given instead of a two minute penalty.

Hockey — The last regular season game is on Feb. 24, which means we are in the last week of regularly scheduled

hockey. The playoffs begin March 8 but a winner must evolve by March 10. I don't know whether the ice is being removed after that, but it is a good possibility.

INTERFAC HOCKEY SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 21

12:30 — Law A vs Phys. Ed. B
1:30 — Arts vs. Soc. Work
2:30 — Commerce vs. Engineers
3:30 — Science B vs. Dents

FEBRUARY 22

8:30 — Engineers vs. Soc. Work
9:30 — Phys. Ed. B vs. Arts
10:30 — Law A vs. Law B

FEBRUARY 24

8:00 — Grad A vs. Arts
End of regular schedule

FOR WOMEN MONDAY, FEB. 22

12 - 2 p.m. — Free skating, Dal. rink

TUESDAY, FEB. 23

6 - 9 p.m. — Floor Hockey, Dal. gym for info call Kathy Belmore 423-4100 or Mary Lee MacDonald 455-6358.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24

8 - 10 p.m. — Swimming, Infirmary Pool (corner of Queen and Duke Streets)

For information on any events, call Mervin at 424-2330, Mon. - Fri., 1:00 - 1:25 p.m., or Mary Kimball at 429-7538.