

## GONE ARE THE DAYS

of too many men on the field and needless penalties. Gone also is the invincibility of the service teams and also-ran college squads. This year's Tigers are off to their best start in five years—but are there enough championship ingredients?

## STRONG POINTS:

Our backfield. Coach Merv Shaw boasts the best in the league; Don Nicholson, most valuable player of 1957, still lugs the pigskin like nobody else, but this year he has help. 180-lb. halfback Pete Corkum, who played eye-opening ball as a rookie in 1957, is a consistent carrier, leading the team in average yards per carry, and Winnipeg's Tommy Evans can pick up that all-important third down yardage. Brewer Auld and Dave Logan provide the needed depth to round out the Bengal attack. When it comes to quarterbacking, Dalhousie fans can again breathe easy; Ted Wickwire donned a Tabby uniform in 1956 but in 1959 has finally come into his own. Now a mature ball-handler, he carries well, can pass with the best in the league, is deceptive and clever on the attack. Ted has a tried and true receiver in Nick Weatherston, although he is not alone.

## WEAK SPOTS:

All the backfield power and good quarterbacking in the world won't help if your team can't do these fundamentals: the Dal offensive team can't block. Oldtimers Spud Chandler and Don Lyons give their all, and everybody tries, but the end result is the poorest blocking in the league. Without a powerful front wall, that big backfield is hampered; with it,



Quarterback Ted Wickwire briefs backfielders Dave Logan, Pete Corkum, Tommy Evans and Brewer Auld in preparation for a heavy season.

they could be even better. The Tigers can't kick converts. We could in '54 with Choo Choo MacKenzie, and Steve Thompson got in two solid years following that, but since Dal coaches have been shaking their heads. Donny Tomes, our present kicker, is the best of the meagre kicking experience on the team, although he is one of the few who has solved the problem of good blocking. Packaged-sized Stu McInnis knows he can't make a kick runback, but his ineptness is offset by experience. The lack of driving runbacks is noticeable on Dal's team. Then there's the question of bench strength. The Tigers have depth, but maybe not quite enough.

## ROOKIES AND NEW FACES:

None of the new boys are going to walk off with Rookie honours, nevertheless the team has some worthy of note. The newcomers have a big job: they must replace key losses in the line. Everybody started talking about a fellow named Charlie Brown, and the 200-lb. U.S. born defensive guard has done all right for himself. Local Eric Parsons is a scrapper from away back; Sid Oland knows the game well and plays accordingly. Americans Schiffman and MacIntosh, and Law boys Anderson and Noonan are a hardworking nucleus. And there are others—the return of Don Lyons makes Coach Shaw sleep easier nights (that's not saying he sleeps easy.) If only others would return.

## THE BIG IFS:

When the offensive line is good, the defensive line is not. Conversely, when the defensive line is good, the offensive wall plays with about as much effect as if they were facing the profs at broomball on Munro Day. If the two can meld their efforts, our chances of beating all the teams soar. The line veterans (notably Hoogstraten) are improving; but are they improving enough? If any of the big names gets injured, the whole team is hit; that's how close it is. Fumbles and blocked kicks can also injure a team. We can do without them.

## THE OUTLOOK:

Once upon a time the team to beat was Shearwater. Now it's the X-Men. Shaw and Company may be of equal calibre man for man to the Xaverians, but without breaks and superb conditioning we'll finish a disappointing second.

# Tigers' Tale In Time

Thirteen might be referred to by some superstitious people as unlucy. However, this is the thirteenth year since Dalhousie entered entered a team in the Nova Scotia Football League and this could prove to be the best. This fact and all of the following, was discovered by the writer while browsing through the NSFL record book compiled by George Hanson of the Halifax Chronicle Herald and Mail Star.

In the first twelve years, Dal has won the Prudy Cup (or Trophy) — emblematic of NSFL playoff supremacy, twice in four bids. Dal has also won two league schedules. The Purdy Cup first reposed in the Dal Trophy case after the 1951 season. The Tigers, coached by Gabe Vitalone, beat Greenwood 23-5 in the semi-finals and shutout Shearwater 5-0 in the Trophy game. Don Harrison scored the only touchdown of the contest. In 1954, the year in which Al Thomas made his coaching debut in these parts, Dal finished third. However, in the Bengals made their big noise in the playoffs. A 30-15 semi-final triumph over Shearwater was followed by a 10-0 Cup victory over St. Francis Xavier in Antigonish. Bob Goss and Reg Cluney scored the Dal touchdowns as Cluney completed seven out of ten passes and the Dal defense permitted "Pistol" Pete Lesaux to connect on only six out of 18 heaves.

In 1957 Dalhousie first entered the league and placed second with a 3-1 record behind Navy (4-0). Saint

Mary's took the measure of the Tigers in the semi-finals by 17-11.

In 1948, under Bill Burkhart, Dal (5-1) took first place from the Navy (4-2) but were beaten in the Trophy Final 15-6. Burkhart and the Bengals felt the pressure of defeat in 1949 and 1950, however, as both years, Dal finished fourth with 1-5 records. Stadacona were league champions in these campaigns.

In 1951, with a new mentor, Gabe Vitalone, the Tigers tied for first with Stad and Shearwater and copped the Purdy Cup with a 5-0 win over the Flyers. Reg Cluney was the leading scorer of the league with 39 points and also won the Duffus Trophy as the Most Valuable Player of the league.

1952 saw Dal finish third with a 4-4 mark, but Scott Henderson won the scoring title with 55 points and Quarterback Andy Mackay was the MVP. A 33-18 loss in the semi-finals marred the great individual efforts of the Tiger squad.

1953 was another great year for individuals as Keith King made his debut at the helm of the Tiger ship. Payne Henderson was the Most Valuable Lineman in the league and Dave Bryson was runner-up to Bob Hayes of Stad in the race for

scoring honors. Hayes led with 87 points and Bryson scored 30. Dal advanced to the finals, only to lose to Stad 39-0.

Dal won the whole "shebang" in 1954 after placing third in the schedule with a 4-3-1 record. Al Thomas bowed in as coach of the Bengals. The next year, Dal fell by the wayside in the semi-finals after placing fourth with a 4-4 mark. Don Nicholson won the Rookie of the Year award.

In 1956, Dal hit rock bottom in the standings (0-6), but came up with the two outstanding players in the league: Don Nicholson, the MVP; Gordie Rankin, the MV Lineman.

In 1957, Dal started another comeback as they compiled a 3-4-1 record. Pete Corkum took the Rookie of the Year award. Last year, as Merv Shaw made his coaching debut, Dal moved into second place in the four-team loop, but were nosed out in the semi-finals by the Shearwater Flyers.

Dalhousie, in those first 12 years, ranks third behind Shearwater and Stadacona in total overall points. The Flyers have 102 points, Stad has compiled 91, and Dal, with a 12-year record of 35-40-2 have

## THE COACH SPEAKS OUT

In an interview last week Merv Shaw, the coach of the Dalhousie Tigers, had this to say about his team's chances against X this Saturday: "Man for man, we are as good as they are, the winner will depend on the team with the most drive; and who makes the fewest mistakes."

The coach went on to point out that with this being X's big Alumni Weekend, the Tigers would have to go all out if they expected to contain the Xaverian machine which last week rolled up 57 points against Shearwater.

The Studley crew is much improved this year mainly in experience, conditioning, and line play. Defensively the squad is not much heavier, but added drive and power, along with better tackling have made a big difference. The line, led by John Hoogstraten whom the coach regards as the most improved player on the team, has kept the opposition well bottled up. Three newcomers, Parsons, Oland, and Brown have strengthened the defensive forces considerably, and as they gain experience, should continue to improve.

amassed 72 points. Up to this season, the Tigers have scored 1222 points, given up 1307. In playoff competition, the Bengals have a 2-3-1 record with a for and against mark of 112-75.

This year, things have looked bright from the start and it is hoped that Dal can bring the Purdy Cup back to its rightful place—the Studley campus.

ing opened in our opponents defensive line, and as a result the Tigers ground gaining yardage has increased considerably. Also, the passer is being well protected and is being given plenty of time to find his receivers.

Despite a strong defense, Dal's greatest improvement has been in the offensive line. The blocking being supplied to men like Corkum, Wickwire, and Nicholson, is exceptional when compared to that of years gone by. Large holes are be-

The backfield, as Shaw explained, has not changed noticeably except that experience is going to play a major role. Wickwire is mixing his plays expertly and has become a better runner than ever before. Corkum and Nicholson are both as strong as usual, but added protection from the line has increased their yardage gained.

In summing up, it can be said that Dal is strong, is fast, and in all respects is capable of winning the Purdy Cup. Whether they do or not depends on two prime factors, the number of mistakes they make and their drive and spirit. The errors rest solely with the team but the spirit, is in many ways up to us, their fans. Let's all get out, and support the team and let them know we are behind them.