

# Hockey Tigers are number one

by Chuck Piercey

It was one of those rare moments when you actually felt proud to be from Dalhousie. You felt so good it could have been drugs. The seconds were dying in an overtime period and the Dalhousie Hockey Tigers were leading the St. Mary's Huskies 5-4 in the A.U.A.A. championship game. With over 6000 students standing, arms in the air, screaming "We're number one", no one could deny the sheer euphoria of it all. And when the end came, and the Tigers had won the Halifax Herald Ltd. trophy for the first time in 52 years, the relief was overwhelming. The three game series between Dalhousie and St. Mary's was honestly one of the most exciting and potentially heart stopping sporting events I have ever witnessed. It was just too close for words.

This classic match-up was the result of respective wins for both teams in their semi-playoff series. The Tigers had little trouble eliminating the Universite de Moncton Blue Eagles, who appeared to prefer violence to playing good hockey. They suffered for their folly by losing the first game 5-2 and the second 4-1 to a far more disciplined Dalhousie squad. On the other side of the city it was a different story. The U.P.E.I. Panthers turned sleepers of the year had Bob Boucher climbing the walls. The island team shocked everyone by taking the first game in overtime. The final two games were squeakers, but St. Mary's won both and advanced to the finals with Dal.

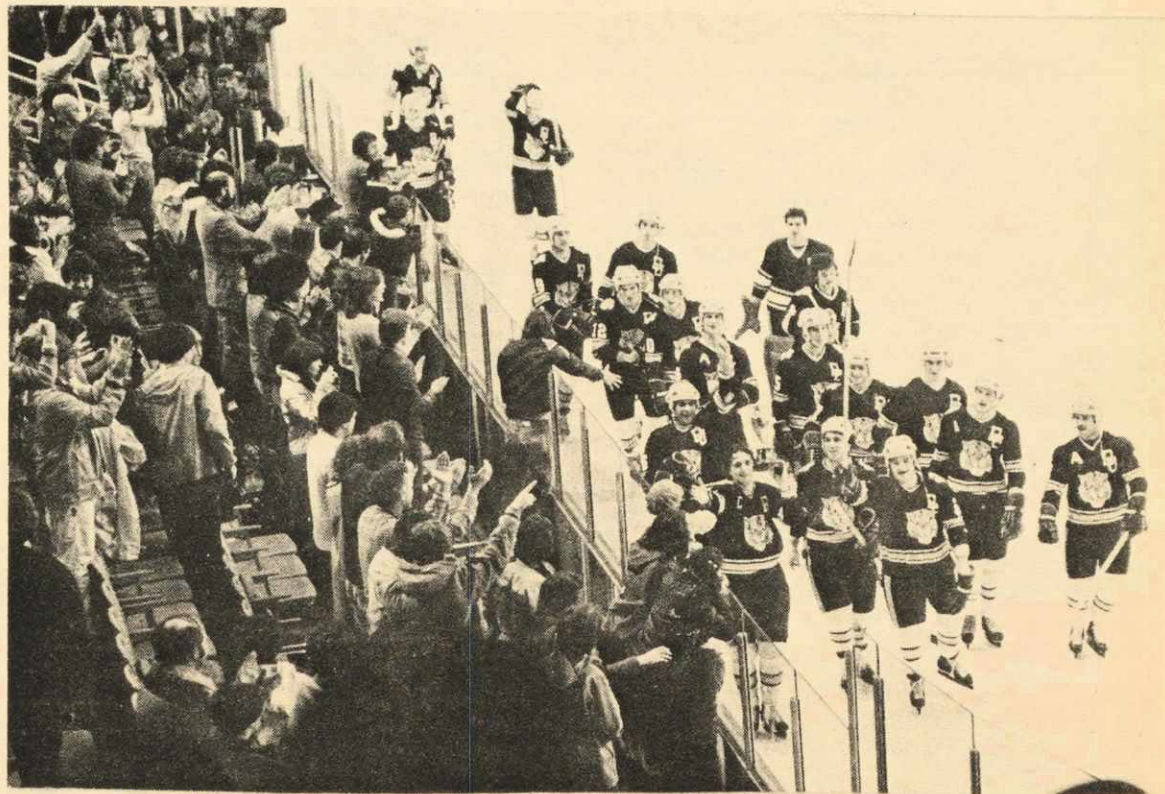
**GAME #1** The first game of the rival Tiger-Huskie championship series was played Wednesday March 7 at the Metro Centre. Those who were looking for a close contest weren't disappointed. At the end of a chippy, hard hitting 60 minutes, the score was tied 2-2, and the initial ten minute overtime frame saw no additional scoring. The teams were playing so

equally, it could have gone either way. Unfortunately, it went the other way. After six minutes of sudden death—the Huskies scored from a scramble in front of Dal netminder Ken Bickerton, and the first game went to the Huskies.

**GAME #2** The second game came Saturday night, a-d Dal had its back against the wall. However, the Tigers rose to the occasion. At the end of two periods, the score stood at a 3-3 tie. Dalhousie completely dominated the final twenty minutes and potted three unanswered goals. The win tied the series up at a game piece—with the rubber match slated for Sunday evening.

**GAME #3** The fever of the college classic was catching on. Wednesday night had a meagher crowd of about 3500. Saturday's game saw about 5000, and on Sunday over 6000 fans packed the Metro Centre to watch the showdown.

The Tigers came out hustling and with goals from Bob Dugan and Mike Brennan, took an early 2-0 lead. St. Mary's came back with tying markers, but before the first period was over Brennan scored his second to give Dal the lead. St. Mary's netted the only goal in the second period to tie it all up again. In the third frame the Tigers went ahead again thanks to Dan Weir, only to have the Huskies reply with their fourth tally and force the second overtime game of the series. The tension was absolutely unbearable. 48 seconds into overtime, Paul MacLean scored what proved to be a championship goal—when he knocked his own rebound past Huskie netminder Mark Locken. The Tigers held a desperate Huskie club at bay for the remaining 9 minutes. While Boucher's dejected troops shuffled off the ice, and the stands were in virtual chaos, the victorious Tigers hoisted Coach Page aloft and paraded around the rink with a humble yet priceless trophy.



Triumphant Tigers receive ovation following AUA A victory

Dal Photo / Morris

For the fans, the players, and especially Pierre Page, the win will be something to remember for a very long time. This is Page's seventh season at Dal and his long time efforts to produce a contender were virtually fruitless until this year. You can bet his wife understood when Pierre came home just a little later than usual Sunday night.

It is difficult to single out individual playoff stars from the Tigers lineup. I've watched the team all season and I hadn't seen any of them skate as well as they did against St. Mary's. However, some deserve special mention.

Ken Bickerton's performance between the pipes was phenomenal to say the least. One Tiger veteran remarked to me that he had never played with a goalie he could rely on so well. Bob Dugan played consistently strong defence along with Louis "Loo" Lavoie, who continued to control the play when he was on the ice. Dan Cyr was forechecking as well as I've seen him and

Earl Jessiman seemed to be flying rather than skating. Mike Brennan turned out to be the unsung hero of the series, scoring twice in each of the final two games. Dan Weir was probably playing the best hockey of his career and Earl Theriault showed me he hadn't lost the moves he had four years ago.

For those who would have Dal perennially apathetic about sports, this series proved that all you need to generate fan support and spirit is a championship team. I doubt whether anyone remembers a time when as many Dal fans cheered all at once and I know the hockey team appreciated it.

The day before he left for Montreal, Pierre Page told me that "although it feels great to have won, the celebrations will have to wait. We've still

got the Nationals ahead of us." He was confident about the prospects. "I've seen who were playing and I know we can win. I think the four line-short shift system will work at Concordia as well as it did here."

The Tigers have a good draw for the single knockout tournament. Thursday March 15 sees Dal meeting Guelph at 6 p.m. On Saturday, Dal meets Chicoutimi at 9 p.m. Wins in both of these games would entitle the Tigers to the championship game covered live on national T.V. Sunday at 2 p.m. (3 p.m. our time).

Because the University of Alberta should provide the stiffest competition in Montreal, don't be surprised to see an East-West confrontation on the C.B.C. Sunday afternoon.

## Parachutists jump for joy

by Laurie MacNeil

With most of the winter weather behind us, the Dal Parachute Club is starting another active season of jumping. Last year was an excellent one for the club, both in fun jumping, and in competition. Jumpers from Dal placed in the top three positions in Accuracy, aerial acrobatics, and Relative Work (several jumpers flying together in freefall) in the N.S. Provincial Competition held last summer. One member, George Haughn, went on to compete nationally.

Over the Christmas break a few Dal jumpers went to the North American Relative Work Meet held in Florida. There David Williamson, the club's chief instructor, earned the Starcrest Special Award, one of the highest honors in skydiving.

This summer promises to be even better! Arrangements have been finalized for the use of a new high speed aircraft for the experienced jumpers as well as another plane to be used by student jumpers. The club has negotiated with the Annapolis Valley Parachute Centre (our main drop zone) to lower the price for the First Jump Course from \$95 to \$75.

We are trying to arrange to purchase student equipment for the club which would also reduce student jump costs.

Actually jump costs are much lower than most people think. Student jumps with equipment rental are \$13. Once you own your own gear, jumps cost only \$3-\$5, depending on how high you jump. We'll be jumping every weekend this summer starting

March 31.

Our main drop zone is at Waterville in the Annapolis Valley (70 miles from Halifax). Once a member of the club, you are qualified to train and jump at any drop zone in Canada or the U.S.



If you are interested in taking up skydiving or just want to find out more about the sport, then come to our short meeting Wednesday, March 21 at 7 p.m. in Room 316 of the SUB.

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