

Hockey Season Optimism

TIGERS TO OPEN AT FORUM

by Joel Fournier

A fired-up Dal hockey team will open their regular season schedule against the highly-rated St. Francis Xavier "X Men" this Saturday night at 8:00 p.m. at the Halifax Forum.

The Tigers have been defeated once this year by "X" in exhibition play but only after fourteen minutes of sizzling overtime which saw the Dal squad fail to capitalize on some golden opportunities to wrap up the game. This past weekend saw the S.M.U. Huskies edge the "X" contingent 6-4 and as a result, one can surmise that the league might be a lot more closely balanced this year.

The Tigers in other exhibition play have fared well, defeating the Swiss National team, Memorial and also U.P.E.I. Last year the Bengals never really got untracked until after the Christmas holidays, but this year the team vows that things will be different. Coach Page and his ebullient assistant Pierre Gagne, a former Dal great, are exceptionally pleased with the mental and physical state of the players at this early stage. Page believes that the difference between this year's edition and those of the past two seasons is confidence. "The team feels they can win, they know they can win and they'll be out from the opening whistle to prove it."

Balance is expected to be the key to the Tiger's success when they take to the ice on Saturday night. Sound goaltending, a hard-hitting, mobile defense and forwards that skate full speed both ways will give Dal the kind of attack that has been sorely lacking for some time.

Captain Randy Sears along with assistants Bob Richardson and Dave Creurer, besides providing great leadership, spearhead a potent offensive attack that has been made even more explosive by the addition of Jimmy Shatford and Danny Flynn. Shatford, a Dartmouth native, is following in his father's footsteps as far as smooth playmaking is concerned. Last year he attend St. Lawrence University where he was one of the main cogs in the school's hockey program. Flynn, recently arrived from the Halifax Huskies (formerly "Blazers") has already proved his scoring ability in early exhibition play.

Dal fans should also be on the lookout Saturday night for Peter Wentzell, another popular newcomer as well as veterans, Darrel MacGregor, Tom Coolen, Dave McLeod, Rod McCarron, Art Ells and Paul Findlay.

On defense, a greatly improved Don MacGregor teams up with rugged Charlier Barter, while John Gillis, another assistant captain joins Rick Roemer who is quickly becoming known as the league's hardest body-checker. Chris Turnbull and John Mallowney round out the defensive corps that has

the coaches very optimistic.

This leaves the goaltenders to be considered; Greg Lynch and Vince Desjardins. According to those that know, it's going to be a real battle to see who gets the nod on Saturday night. Both goalies have been playing inspired hockey and it's this kind of problem coaches love to have. Desjardins has already distinguished himself by being named the all-star goalie in the New Glasgow tournament.

The team also has an all-star supporting cast in managers, Greg Zed and Bob MacLeod. Team doctor, Rod Bird should be given a special mention, not only for keeping the boys together, but also for putting up with team trainer, Richard Slaunwhite, the "trainer's trainer" who is known far and wide for his caustic wit, acerbic vocabulary and most of all for his gentle fingers.



1974-75 Dal Hockey Team



Danny Flynn

Outstanding Rookie

It looks like a great opener for fans and teams alike on Saturday night. The boys are ready but they'll need your support especially since a large crowd is expected from the Antigonish area.

Dal students will have the opportunity to buy advance tickets all this week at the unbelievably low price of \$1.00 for students and \$2.00 for non-students. Tickets will be on sale in the SUB Lobby from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, so be sure to get yours early. If you miss out at the SUB, you can get them at the Forum from 11:00 - 5:00 on Friday at \$2.50 for opera and reserved. Saturday night tickets go on sale at 6:30 p.m. at the Forum - Reserved - \$2.50; Rush - \$2.00; and children - .50.



Greg Zed

Outstanding Manager

This year the Tigers guarantee action from the word "go". At the prices quoted above, you'll certainly get more than your money's worth. See you at the Forum!!! Remember - '74, the Year of the Tiger.

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