

DAL SPORTS

FROM THE SPORTS DESK

by Joel Jacobson

OPPORTUNE MOMENT FOR VICTORY

Dal Tigers finally won their first game of the basketball season and the initial triumph could not have come at a more opportune time. The victory, 61-58 over the X-men of St. F.X., puts the Bengals in the lead of the best-of-three semi-final series 1-0. The next two games will possibly be played in Antigonish Wednesday and Thursday of this week.

There are no adjectives in the sports writers' dictionary that could describe the tremendous reversal of form the Tigers showed in their last two games. As we well know, the Bengals had not won a game all season (until that golden moment Saturday night) and it was believed, by all, that the Dal boys would remain without a victory for the rest of the year. However, something fired up the Black and Gold and last Wednesday night they held Acadia to a draw through regulation time and finally succumbed to the Axemen in overtime. This seemed to put the spark into the squad that they needed Saturday evening and the flame remained flickering through the final minute of the game as all Dal fans held their breaths until the last buzzer sounded. There were plenty of happy faces at that buzzer.

TED WICKWIRE—NUMBER ONE STAR

It was wholly a team effort in Saturday's encounter. The starting five went practically the whole way and were a tired but happy group in the dressing room afterwards. Ted Wickwire, in this writer's opinion, deserves the majority of the credit for the stellar performance of the team. He put in 22 points, including two clutch free throws with 20 seconds remaining in the game. "Wick," the leading light in the Tiger cause, scored 8 of 8 from the charity stripe and was the target for the passes of Ron Simmons and Bob Schurman when the two guards were looking for a man to whom to give the ball for an almost certain two points.

However, this is taking nothing away from the stellar rebounding duo of Bruce Stewart and Pete Wilson. These two played phenomenally, grabbing rebound after rebound, and throwing a blanket over the high-scoring X tandem of Bob Moran and Paul Davenport. "Lackadaisical" Bob dunked 19 points and Davenport contributed 17 but this is far below the potential of the two and the reason they played below their potential is Stewart and Wilson. The X duo must feel that Bruce and Pete are part of their white uniforms.

SCHURMAN RATES PAT ON THE BACK

The foul shooting of the Bengals has improved considerably and this is where the Tigers won their ball game. Dal hit on 21 of 30 free throw attempts, with the aforementioned Wickwire scoring 8 and "Nort" Schurman, 8. Bustlin' Bob played one of the finest games we have ever seen him play. His last three performances have been spectacular as he led the team in scoring against SMU, was the leading light in the Tiger thriller Wednesday against Acadia, and his heads-up ball hawking and sharp passing were keys in the Tiger triumph Saturday.

We also feel that the support the Bengals have received in the last two games has been a tremendous factor in the winning performances of Dal. People will say that Dal did not win the game Wednesday but the general feeling was that, even though the scoreboard read defeat for Dal, psychologically Dal was the triumphant team. This may sound like hogwash but Saturday's performance was indicative of the play the Tigers were actually capable of producing all season long and the closeness of the game against Acadia lifted the boys to a peak which they held through the Saturday encounter and, we hope, will be able to hold through the next game or games against the X-Men in Antigonish.

TIGERS UPSET "X"

By MIKE NOBLE

Fabulous, Fantastic, Tremendous—words just can't describe the hard fought basketball fixture played at the Dal Gym last Saturday night. The spirited black and gold cagers put on a flawless display of superb basketball offensive and defensive power to notch their all important win over the visiting X-Men, 61-58.

The hometown crowd had barely settled down to watch the game when Moran and Davenport had collected enough points for the Xaverians to sport a 10-2 lead and it was thought that there was a rout in the making. But the Tigers, hungry for their first win of the season were not to be denied. They worked the ball smoothly and, almost effortlessly, waiting for the "sure-two", as they slowly cut the Antigonish collegians' down to size, and their lead with it. The Alex McAdam coached quintet seemed to be suffering from a case of over confidence as the Bengals outplayed their opponents in every department and the scoreboard showed "X" on the short end of a 34-25 score at the half.

It was a team effort all the way! Ted Wickwire dazzled the enthusiastic crowd time and time again with his pretty drives under the basket, and his soft one hand jumper from the head of the key—these two shots combining to provide a deadly one-two punch for the Tigers. Bob Schurman continued his role of scrappy playmaker, and found enough time on the side to score quite frequently himself. This local duo, playing together for the first time since their high school days, are a twosome St. F. X. aren't too anxious to face again.

NO REBOUNDS FOR "X"

The hub town of Truro can be well proud of its twin court stars, Bruce Stewart and Pete Wilson. This pair

provided fans with some of the best defensive work of the season, and pulled down so many rebounds on both boards that Russell and Chamberlain had better take note.

Moran was struck with a case of Stewartitis, while Davenport was suffering from Wilsonitis, as the two X stalwarts were out-positioned, out-played and out-rebounded in a spectacular performance by the Tabbies. Ron Simmons was a steady influence on the court and his presence gave no worries to the forward trio. He set up many field goals on "pick and roll" situations and played well on defense. Ted Brown and Brian Noonan filled in ably when called upon and the bench as a whole kept the team operating at peak production with its spirit and encouragement. Coach Merv Shaw shuffled his players and time outs with the knowledge of a fine basketball mentor, whenever things got rough, a few words . . . and look out X.

Many fans felt Dal were fortunate, that it was too good to last, but in the dressing room at half-time, the players realized they were potentially the best team in N. S. and they still had twenty minutes to prove it—they did.

The X-men were forced to play Dal's game and our boys were ready to roll. They played good heads-up ball and kept X continually off balance. The teams traded FG for FG and FT for FT until the eighteen minute mark of the last stanza when

X called a time out, seven points down.

Jim Walsh hit for two quickies outside and Davenport connected on a short two-point effort to narrow the lead to 59-58 with the clock showing only 35 seconds remaining. A foul, Ted Wickwire on the line, one and one, . . . the game hanging in the balance. The veteran of four years intercollegiate play made no mistake and the Tigers were out in front 61-58. Davenport choked close in and Simmons came up with the all important rebound . . . 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 seconds left . . . Dalhousie upsets X and takes a one game lead in the 2 out of 3 semi-final series.

The X-men hit for 45.4% from the floor, connecting on 25 of 55 for 50 points. On the foul line, X didn't have too many chances but made good on 8 of the 12 handed to them. The Studley courtmen sported a 35.1% shooting average but made up for it with their aggressive play under the boards, getting their own rebound time and time again. On the free throw line, the black and gold cagers cashed in on 21 out of 30 attempts and that was the ball game.

DALHOUSIE—Wickwire 22; Schurman 16; Stewart 9; Simmons 8; Wilson 6; Brown; Noonan; Fisher; Cunningham; Morrison; Robertson — 61

ST. F. X.—Moran 19; Davenport 17; Walsh 11; Sullivan 7; Civiello 4; Gouthro; Daigle; Tapley; Blair; Ashe — 58



A HAPPY BAND OF BENGALS—"Emotional" Ron Simmons (13) typifies the feelings of all Tiger Players and fans after Saturday's thrilling win over St. F. X. Merv Shaw congratulates Brian Noonan (17) as Robert Cunningham (20) leaps into the middle of the pack to offer his best wishes. (Photo by Acker)

Tigers Fall In Overtime

Dal Tigers dropped a 56-55 overtime thriller to the visiting Acadia Axemen last Wednesday night in what was the most exciting game of the year for Dal fans (up until Saturday night). A tie at the end of regulation time forced the five-minute extra session in which the Acadia quintet outscored the Bengals 7-6.

The game was a tight one throughout with neither team holding a commanding lead at any point. The scoreboard read 30-30 at the half and each team tossed in an additional 19 points in the second stanza to set the stage for the over-time. It was a heartbreaking defeat for the Studley crew who had the game virtually won 49-48 only to have a foul called against them with no time remaining in the contest. Pete

Haley, Axemen guard, toed the line with fans waiting with baited breath and calmly sank the game-tying point.

Ted Wickwire opened the scoring in the overtime with two free throws but Acadia came back with a rally of their own and with 30 seconds remaining held a 56-53 margin thanks to a three point play by Jim Mosher. Ron Simmons brought the Bengals to within one point with two foul

shots but the Tigers were unable to capitalize on a break and could not sink the winning basket.

Dal was led by Ted Wickwire who scored 17 points and Pete Wilson with 11. Haley was responsible for 16 of the Valley squad's total. Bob Schurman turned in another sparkling performance for the Black and Gold and pivotman Bruce Stewart starred under the boards grabbing many clutch rebounds.

"EXPORT"
PLAIN OR FILTER TIP
CIGARETTES

Represents Dal



Eve Smith, shown above, travels to St. F. X. this week-end to represent Dal in the Inter-collegiate ski meet. She will contest in the slalom and downhill competition. Eve placed third in the recent ski meet held at the University of New Brunswick. Best of luck, Eve.