

Hoopsters rewed for AUAAAs

MEN / Rock solid

BY ANDREW COOK

The Dalhousie men completed a perfect week with a convincing two game sweep on the Rock.

The Tigers made their bi-annual trip to Newfoundland this past weekend, winning both contests against Memorial University to regain first place in the AUAA. These impressive wins came on the heels of another sweep, this time a season sweep of Acadia after last Thursday's victory.

Game one on Saturday night was virtually perfect on the offensive end of the floor. The Tigers shot 67% from the hardwood en route to an 89-70 victory. Dalhousie executed well in their halfcourt offence, with good communication from everyone.

The unlikely hero was starting guard Clive Henry. Henry, who has been struggling all year with his outside shot, came to life in a big way, hitting all five of his three-point attempts in the game. Never to be outdone or overshadowed, that "other guard," Brian Parker, had a game-high 27 points.

Game two on Sunday saw Dalhousie turn it up on the defensive end of the floor. Reggie Oblitey, who held the AUAA's second leading scorer John Devereaux to a season-low 10 points on Saturday, played stifling defence once again in keeping Devereaux to 18, seven below his season average. This strong effort inspired the entire team as Dal eventually pulled away to a 74-64 victory.

In a weekend that was sure to decide the placings for the AUAA tournament, Dalhousie stepped up their game. With eight crucial points on the line, it was names like Christian Currie and Clive Henry that came to the forefront. Henry, as mentioned before, was sparkling from the outside with nine of 11 from beyond the arc, while Currie took care of business on the inside, making 14 of his 20 shots over the weekend.

"I was very pleased with the balance we received as far as scoring went," said coach Tim McGarrigle. "With more people scoring, it makes us all that much tougher to stop."

The wins in Newfoundland came on the heels of a first-ever achievement for Dalhousie. With Thursday's 79-69 victory over the Axemen, the Tigers completed a season sweep of Acadia. The sweep is even more impressive considering that Acadia's record is 21-3 against the rest of the country.

The victory showed yet another bright light which has been struggling to shine thus far. Jeff Mayo, possibly the most well-respected player in the conference, came to life with an inspired performance that included 17 points and eight rebounds.

For Mayo, it has been a struggle just to survive the beatings he takes during the run of the game. Now, with the playoffs looming and his career coming to a close at the end of this season, Mayo knows that this is it.

"Jeff has been a clutch performer all his career and players like him look forward to these types of situations," commented McGarrigle. "I have 100% confidence in him that he will be there when the time comes for him to step up."

Many of those who watched the game also noticed another Tiger making considerable contributions to the cause. Seldom-used point guard Dwayne Hopkinson changed the momentum of the Acadia game when, midway through the second half, he almost single-handedly took the Axemen out of their offensive rhythm. Also to his credit, Hopkinson had a career-high five assists.

With the regular season coming to a close, Dalhousie finds itself controlling its own destiny. Should the Tigers win one of their remaining two games, against St. Francis Xavier on the road, or at home when they battle Saint Mary's, they'll clinch first place in the regular season standings.

Finishing first is crucial for two reasons. It means avoiding UPEI and Acadia until at least the AUAA finals and it will help should the Tigers be forced to apply for a wildcard into the national championships.

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WOMEN / Second consecutive league title won

BY ANDREW COOK

The Dalhousie women survived the toughest home crowd in the AUAA this past weekend to clinch their second consecutive league title.

With their victory in St. John's on Saturday evening, the women edged out second place Memorial, who are defending AUAA playoff champions.

The women stormed out early and quieted a raucous home crowd. As mentioned earlier, the Memorial crowd is the league's toughest, but on this occasion they had even more reason to be hyped. Not only were the two squads playing for first place, but it was also the last home game for one of the AUAA's all-time greats, Michelle Healey.

"With the title on the line and a packed house, we stayed focused, playing tough defence and executing on offence," said coach Carolyn Savoy.

With Dalhousie's veterans unfazed, they overcame all of the emotion thrown at them and played with composure, winning 77-67.

Danielle Moe had a strong game, leading the way with 18 points. Carolyn Wares and Jackie Fliieger both hit for 16 while Kathie Sanderson marked 13.

On Sunday afternoon the Tigers, fresh off the news of their title, suffered a bit of a letdown and were not able to complete the sweep.

"With our draining win on Saturday, we were not able to get to that same level on Sunday," said Savoy. "Psychologically, after

clinching first place, it was just too tough."

The Memorial Seahawks played a solid game and came out on top with a 69-67 victory.

Like the men, the women also completed a season sweep of Acadia, with a convincing 89-57 win.

Fliieger led the charge with 20 points, while Wares had her usual dominating performance.

Having now clinched first place, the Tigers prepare for a trip to Antigonish for the AUAA playoffs. Being the top seed, the women receive a bye through the first round. In the second round, the Tigers face the lowest seed surviving their first playoff game.

"We aren't concerned with who we play," said Savoy. "For us, it's just a matter of taking care of business."

After winning last season's regular season title and not capturing the playoff crown, the pressure in this year's tournament lies squarely on the shoulders of Dalhousie. With a veteran team and a coach who has been there before, nobody seems overly concerned.

The playoffs also mark the end of a fine career for fourth-year guard Danielle Moe. Moe will complete her days as a Tiger in March, hopefully on a bright Sunday afternoon in Laval, Québec, the sight of the CIAU finals.

Tigers hang tough until final buzzer

Victory eludes determined Tigers team

BY GREG WHITE

For the last five years, the Dalhousie Tigers hockey team has been trying to advance to the AUAA Championships. If you would have asked anybody in the hockey community two months ago what the chances of that happening were, you would have been told that it wasn't going to happen.

This year, the Tigers missed it by the slimmest of margins. The end result was unfortunately similar to those of years past — for the fifth time in as many seasons, the Tigers season has come to an end at the hands of the Acadia Axemen.

After being dealt a solid 7-3 defeat last Wednesday, in front of a mostly pro-Acadia crowd at Dalhousie Memorial Arena, the Tigers travelled to Wolfville on Saturday night to try to even the series at one game apiece. The game looked as if it may have been over as Acadia took a 2-1 lead to the second intermission, but Tigers' coach Darrell Young fired up the team and Dal came out skating in the third.

Following the lead of inspired play by Stephen Maltby, Tyler Naugler, and James Bugden, Dal kept the Acadia crowd out of the game and proved to everyone that they had earned the right to play for the Kelly Division title.

Keifer House set the pace with his first goal of the night in the first minute of the third period. At 8:06, Dan Holmes' eyes lit up as the puck freed up in the slot and he drove a slap shot that hard-working Tim Hill tipped in past Acadia netminder Trevor Amundrud.

The play of the House, Maltby, and MacIntyre line forced the play on Acadia all game. House found the back of the net for the second time at 12:48 of the third with a screened shot, to take a 4-2 lead. Dan Holmes put in the insurance marker on an empty net with 1:38 remaining in the game, his second short-handed goal of the evening.

It was a confident Dalhousie team that left the ice Saturday night, obviously looking forward to Sunday night's game.

Dal carried its momentum into Acadia Arena for the third and

deciding game of the Kelly Division final. Once again, the Tigers came out flying and took the play to the Acadia squad.

Marc Warner started things for Dalhousie by capitalizing on an Acadia turnover with a one-timer on a pass from Mark Alexander. Holmes put the team up 2-0 in the first with a shot from just inside the blue line that caught the Acadia goaltender by surprise.

Dalhousie played an unimpaired and disciplined first period of hockey and showed that when they skate hard and play the body, they are among the top teams in the CIAU. Dal continued to find great scoring opportunities in the first period, but were unable to capitalize on their chances to put the game out of reach.

The sellout crowd of more than 2,400 fans started to get into the game when Chris Skoryna scored at the 30 second mark of the second period. Dalhousie went on the defensive and seemed content to sit on their lead, but some poor penalties by the Tigers and some heavy hitting by Acadia led to a nice individual effort from Skoryna to tie the game.

The fast-skating Acadia sophomore completed the natural hat trick at 13:27 of the second period with another individual effort. Both teams continued to play well and the second period ended with Acadia leading 3-2.

The third period saw more tight checking and Dalhousie's best opportunity to tie the game came when Acadia took a bad penalty with six minutes remaining. Unable to capitalize, Dalhousie pulled their goaltender and kept the pressure on until the sound of the final buzzer.

This may not have been the most talented — or the most solid — Dal team to face Acadia in the past five years, but it was the team that showed the most heart. Every player on the squad gave 100% effort but, unfortunately, the end result means the end of the season. No one expected the team to go as far as they did and the Tigers should be able to carry their heads high and be proud of their 1995-96 hockey season.

athletes of the week

John Hobin, Men's Volleyball



John helped the Tigers to their 10th straight AUAA title. John is a 3rd year middle blocker from Halifax. John accumulated 25 kills, 17 stuffed blocks, 17 digs, and 2 aces. John is AUAA Playoff MVP. He had a 63% kill efficiency and 53% spike efficiency.

Jenn Parkes, Women's Volleyball

Jenn is a 3rd year middle blocker from Sydney. The Tigers won the title at Mt. Allison, beating UNB in 3 straight, and downing Moncton 3-1. Jen managed 30 kills with 2 errors, for a 62% kill efficiency in 2 matches. She also had 6 stuffed blocks, and 2 service aces.



Bobby Stevens, Men's Volleyball



Bobby is a 1st year right side hitter from Halifax. This weekend he replaced Dal's injured regular setter, Scott Brake. He led the Tigers to victory against UNB and MUN at the AUAA league tournament. He managed 5 blocks, 2 service aces, and 8 digs.

Sarah Woodsworth, Women's Swimming

Sarah placed 7th in the CIAU final of the 400m and 800m freestyle. She swam a personal best in the 400m free, in 4:27.95. She also won the consolation final in the 200m, placing 5th overall. She has been team captain for 2 years.



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