

sports

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marking was good, and the support from the defense was also very good. Overall, the boys played very well. Here we are in Moncton playing a team that has beaten U.N.B. three-nil, so to come away with a 5-0 win is very good indeed."

Dal 8 @ U of PEI 1

Five shots on net in the first twenty minutes of play preceded the first of eight goals against UPEI, a team never to be taken lightly but one that seemed to buckle under the constant pressure that Dal amassed against them. Again it was fitness, creativity, and accuracy that were the collective constants in a victory which was, incredibly enough, a level beyond that of the day before. Immediately striking was the amount of depth that each position on the Dal side had. From strikers to keeper, again the best description was "composure," and what carried through for a full 90 minutes of play was an ongoing, 100% effort that created a rhythm of speed and finesse, punctuated by a barrage of goals as inevitable as the beat of music.

As if sticking to tradition, Richmond opened the scoring in the 22nd minute of play. First Sedgwick beat two defenders on the wing, then crossed into the penalty box, where Richmond won a heated skirmish and let it loose into the net. It was a good start, but on the counter-attack, defender Peter Lee conceded a penalty kick in the 24th minute, and the resulting equalizer for UPEI would be the first goal against Dal in five games.

That had no bearing at all, however, as Dal answered right back with the go-ahead goal. Speedy Rob Sawler, PEI's Enemy No. 1 on the right flank, was having an exceptional game, but in the 30th minute became victim of a vicious foul. A frustrated defender, who had spent the last half-hour fruitlessly chasing the guy, said enough was enough and just mowed him down. The resulting free kick was taken by Sedgwick, and the shot coasted into the upper right corner, after being too slippery for the keeper to handle. Ten minutes later, Sawler was again taken down (poor guy), which drew a penalty, and Craig Janc stooped down to tighten his shoelace ("nuff said, as Dal went up 3-1).

The forward line had a bit of a siesta in the beginning of the second half, as the first shot on goal didn't come until the 71st minute. In the meantime, Adams, Ibbetson, and Chisolm kept themselves busy with a trio of UPEI attacks that saw Ibbetson kiss the turf a little more than the custom, but "the master of the outdoor experience" was, of course, quite composed about it. That first shot on net for Dal also became goal number four, marked by a grounder from Pignatiello after a pass from Sedgwick. It would be the goal that broke the back of UPEI, and the keeper seemed quite the nervous wreck for the remainder of the game. Case in point was goal number five,

as a slightly misdirected cross by Janc from the left side was badly misjudged and slid into the net.

Veteran Sean Grondin, who goes way back, replaced Ibbetson for the last quarter of the game, and ended up being the architect for the next two goals. Along with fellow-dinosaur Ian Clark, who was also a replacement, the duo were inspirational in their control at midfield. At the 82nd minute mark, Grondin laid the ball off to Lee, who played it to striker Audain on the wing. Audain fed Janc, who beat a defender and then played it back to Audain, who scored. Shortly after, Grondin again took it

down midfield, and laid it to Clark who crossed for Richmond to flick it in on a diving run. You had to like it, but the blitz was still not over. A defensive error after a UPEI goal-kick gave Audain a free ball just inside the box, and he cleverly lofted it over the keeper for the last goal of the weekend.

Audain wasn't about to go "bla-bla-bla" when asked for his opinion about the game. Rather, he was quite ecstatic: "Things are starting to jell, which is good. Against Acadia it was a good game [1-0 for Dal], but things weren't quite clicking. Today it really did. No one really stood out on

our side, instead everyone just did their job, and everyone did it well."

"The resounding 8-1 victory should send some shivers down the backs of some people elsewhere in the conference," said Ibbetson. "Our good depth on the team is showed by the fact that all our players were used. To produce such a performance makes it look quite good for the next two weeks."

Indeed. With such an outstanding weekend, Dal has emerged as the dominant team in the Atlantic, as an impressive record of 5-0-0 and twenty goals for and one against can't help but raise some eyebrows when won-

dering where this is all leading to. [Nor prevent the writer from going a little overboard in the raving reportage. My apologies!] But any sensible coach will always throw caution to the wind with hints such as that.

"The ability of the team to maintain such high intensity throughout 90 minutes of play will be absolutely essential to win the 'tougher games.' In simple terms, their focus was good, they did their job, and if they repeat the approach to this weekend, we will then have a successful season."

The team enjoys a break before their next game, against Acadia on Oct 14 at 4 pm, at Studley Field.

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