

HOLT ON SPORT



(gettas/dal)

Dal's Pierre Page (no. 8) tangles with UNB goalie Keith Lelierre at last week's hockey match. Dal triumphed 6-4.

by Gary Holt

By the time you read this the hockey Tigers will have played the St. Mary's Huskies at the Forum. Therefore my comments are based on the game last weekend against St. Thomas and UNB.

It looked to me in both games as though the team had come together as a unit and the fine team spirit and drive, which was the big plus for the Tigers last year, was very much in evidence.

It looks like a long season in store for St. Thomas. The fact that the Tigers thumped them 12-1 doesn't say very much about our team. They showed what they could do against a poor team. They came out in the first period fired up and ram-

med home seven goals. I fully realize that it is rather difficult to remain at a playing peak when leading by seven goals but there obviously was a let down in the second period.

Three things stood out in the UNB game. First, it was the fight displayed by the Red Bombers who never gave up. Secondly, it was the goal-tending of Keith Lelievre in the UNB net. It is no wonder he was selected the All-Canadian goalie last year. He deserves the honour.

Thirdly was the drive the Tigers had left in the overtime period to score two goals for the 6-4 win. It is an encouraging sign after repeatedly running out of gas in the third period against SMU in the St. FX tournament.

One thing that impressed me overall in the two games was the improved defensive play by all members of the Dal team, including the UNB game, despite the four goals scored against them. The goal-tending was questionable on at least two of the goals of that game.

I seriously question the wisdom of cutting defenseman Doug Chapman. It may be that he wasn't playing well at the time. Cuts had to be made but the fact remains that he has had two years experience in the league and has probably been the Tigers' best defenseman in those two years.

The new defensemen all play well but there is no substitute for experience. Doug has shown he belongs in the league and his play was bound to improve. It's a tough decision for a coach to make and I'm sure it was a difficult one on the part of Coach Walford. Next game is against the UPEI Panthers.

BASKETBALL

The round ball boys dumped Dowling College of Long Island 78-71 with Brian Peters leading the way with 27 points. Pete Sprogis added 24 to the total. All but three of Sprogis' points came in the first half. When Pete is hot he can make almost any kind of shot. But he should realize when he cools off, and restrain his shooting to the good shot. He didn't do that Saturday afternoon in the second half.

Brian Peters seems to have matured a great deal since he last played for the Tigers and has looked good in both outings this year. He appears to be much more sure of himself on the court than he has in the past.

One note of pessimism is that 51 of the Tigers' 78 points came from only two players. It would be better if the scoring were a little more balanced. Next action for the BB Tigers is the Nova Scotia Tipoff Tournament at the Halifax Forum on Friday, Nov. 19 and Saturday, Nov. 20. Other teams playing are Acadia, SMU, and Memorial.



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