

Brandon trips up Tigers in Shoveller Final

BY ANDREW COOK

The defending national champion Brandon Bobcats used a stellar effort by their star forward, Shawn Gray, to lead them to a 79-75 victory over the host Dalhousie Tigers in the final game of the 6th annual Rod Shoveller Memorial tournament at the Dalplex.

Despite picking up his 3rd personal foul just 12 minutes into the contest, Gray was still able to throw his teammates over his shoulder and carry them home to a title. The 6'8 senior finished the game with 30 points and was named the tournament MVP.

After a hand injury to starter Donald Phillips, Brandon coach Jerry Hemmings was forced to stick with his last post weapon, despite the early foul trouble. The calculated gamble paid off as Gray stayed in the game and continued to wreak havoc over Dalhousie forwards until he finally fouled out with just over a minute left in the second half.

For the Tigers the loss cuts deep. With a 75-71 lead, Brandon

stars Gray, Floyd and Phillips all on the bench, and just over a minute remaining, Dalhousie failed to close the deal.

Guard Stan Mitchell led the Tigers with 19 points, while Shawn Plancke dropped 17 and Brian Parker added 16. Both Plancke and Parker were later named to the tournament's all-star team, joined by Brandon's Richard Lovelace, Concordia's J.P. Reimer and SMU's Jason Medford.

En route to appearing in their third consecutive Shoveller final, Dalhousie took the opportunity to trounce the Windsor Lancers and embarrass the Concordia Stingers. The Windsor contest saw the Tigers open on a 21-4 run only to see the Lancers fight back to close the gap to 29-28. Dalhousie was clearly too athletic for the ploddingly slow team whose only saviour was forward Chester Wydrzynski who led Windsor with 20 despite his dreadful pony tail. Brian Parker's 17-point performance guided the Tigers to a 96-80 victory over the Lancers.

In a rematch of last year's tournament final, the Tigers

trashed Concordia in Saturday night's semi-final by a count of 99-74. Dalhousie point guards Brian Parker and Dwayne Hopkinson riddled the Stinger defense for 43 points. Parker was as close to perfect as humanly possible, scoring 28 and dishing out 9 assists in just 23 minutes, while hitting 9 of 11 from the floor, 4 of 4 from 3-point country and 6 of 6 from the line. Dwayne Hopkinson was Dal's next leading scorer with a career best of 15-points, followed by Mitchell (12) and Darryl Baptiste (11).

A win over 2nd ranked Brandon would have secured the Tigers a top five position in the weekly coaches poll of national rankings. Nonetheless, a 2-1 weekend against non-conference opponents should boost Dal's ratings.

Now the Tigers' focus returns to the gruelling AUSA schedule as Dalhousie continues to integrate forward Mike Sabol into their already talent-laden roster. They'll host the Huskies in their next home tilt on January 17th at the Dalplex.

Bring on the next term...

BY GREG WHITE AND
EUGENIA BAYADA

With more than ten players in their first year and a number of injuries to key skaters, the first half of the '96-'97 season should be seen as a stepping stone for Dal hockey.

The team ended the first term in third place in the Kelly Division with a 7-5-2 record, one point behind nationally eighth-ranked St. FX.

"Despite a tough first half schedule, we showed a lot of character on the road and a lot of team play," commented assistant captain Martin LaPointe. The Tigers played ten out of their first fourteen games on the road and are looking forward to being at home for most of the second semester.

The Tigers bolstered their confidence with key victories over SMU, Acadia and St. FX late in the first term. The semester ended in Antigonish where the Tigers beat the X-Men 4-2, despite a shortened roster. The team seems optimistic heading into the second half of their schedule.

"The way we finished the first half with an away win and a short bench leaves us in a good position heading into the second half, especially since we'll be at home a lot more," commented left wing Jason Pellerin.

"If that same kind of attitude is going to carry over to the second half, we can beat any team in the league. We've proved it before on many occasions that we

can play like that," added defenseman Richard Ujvary.

"The first term went well," noted team captain David Haynes. "We didn't do anything special but we finished above .500 on the road. We showed a lot of character."

Head coach Darrell Young was most impressed with the coachability, commitment, and work ethic of this year's squad. He feels that they "play with great intensity but lack some consistency" which he feels will come as the team continues to practice and play together. Young witnessed "improvement throughout the first half of the season" and is impressed with the progress of the team with a little more than a month remaining until playoffs.

The team underwent a number of changes over the Christmas break. Jake Grimes and Scott Gallant will sit out the rest of the season with injuries, and goaltender Greg Dreveny has taken his game to Alabama as the newest member of the IHL's Birmingham Bulls. While Gallant and Dreveny were key players to the team and their leadership will be sorely missed, the Tigers continue to improve and are gaining confidence.

The recent acquisition of two former Halifax Mooseheads, sniper David Carson and goaltender Neil Savary, has given the Tigers the shot in the arm they desperately needed going into the second half of the schedule. Combine these players with the return of the potent scoring

of Tim Hill, and, on paper, this is a better hockey team.

Five of the top six scorers for Dal are in their first year with the Tigers, and rookie goaltender Fred Corkum's steady play continues to impress.

The Tigers kept busy over the holidays, travelling to Bangor, Maine to take part in the J.C. Penney Hockey Classic Invitational, and faced tough US college teams from Princeton, Union, and host U of Maine.

Last Monday night, the Tigers hosted the University of Brandon Bobcats in exhibition play, which allowed coach Young the opportunity to find the best possible lineups heading into the playoffs. If that game served as an indication of what Tiger fans can expect from the team for the second half of the season, a fast and exciting team will play, displaying a number of offensive weapons and a solid defensive core. There is a great deal of optimism in the Tiger locker room heading into the latter half of the schedule.

"For the second half, we're at home, and hopefully we can get a winning streak going and get home advantage for the playoffs," commented blueliner Rick Findlay.

It will be interesting to see if it is a consistent and confident Tiger team that shows up for the second half. The Tigers will face their biggest challenge of the season against the nationally second-ranked Acadia Axemen this Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Dalhousie Memorial Arena.

Tired Bobcats easy meat



STEVE PATTINGALE

BY EUGENIA BAYADA

On Monday night, the Tigers hockey team hosted the Brandon Bobcats in an 8-1 exhibition mauling. The game also saw the introduction of two former Halifax Mooseheads into the home team. Goaltender Neil Savary and forward David Carson will be joining the Tigers for the remainder of the season.

The Tigers jumped to an early lead and were up 4-0 at the end of the first period. Goalscorers for Dal in that frame were Tommy Hunter, Marc Warner, Chad Kalmakoff and Ted Naylor, respectively.

In the second period, Kalmakoff added another goal before the Bobcats had a

chance to score on a power play. The frame ended 6-1 for the Tigers, following an inside slapshot from Carson.

The final two goals came from Mark Alexander and Martin LaPointe. The Tigers outshot the Bobcats 35-16 in the game.

Savary made some good saves the few times he was tested to earn the win in the pipes.

"The whole team played well... It was a good game to be my first, to gain my confidence," he commented.

Carson added 3 assists for a game point total of 4. If Monday's game is anything to go by, big things are to be expected throughout the semester from both new additions to the Tiger lineup.

athletes of the week

Carolyn Wares - Women's Basketball



Carolyn is a fourth year athlete at Dalhousie studying Recreation. Over the Christmas break, the Tigers travelled to the west coast for some exhibition play, and Carolyn was outstanding in each of these contests. In the six games played, she managed 122 points and 43 rebounds. The Tigers won two of six games on the road. Carolyn stands 6'1", and is 21 years of age. Her home town is Calgary, Alberta.

Terry Martin - Men's Volleyball



At this past weekend's York Excalibur Men's Volleyball Tournament, Terry Martin was named to the All-Star team. This middle blocker managed 107 Kills, 56 Blocks, 1 Ace, and 12 Digs. Terry is a third year athlete at Dalhousie studying Science. He stands 6'8". He is 21 years of age, and hails from Burlington, Ontario.

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