

Hockey Tigers Ready for New Championship

by Greg Dennis

The Dalhousie hockey Tigers are putting the final touches on their training camp and on Monday will get down to the business of defending their '78-'79 AUAA title. The Tigers won the crown last spring in a thrilling two game to one upset over the first place St. Mary's Huskies at a packed Metro Center. Not since the Acadia-SMU final in the CIAU Basketball Nationals three years ago had the Metro Center echoed with such exuberant spirit.

This season promises more top-notch university hockey and roofs will likely be raised throughout the region. A parity in the Atlantic Conference was attained last year and it certainly appears no team will run away with it this year.

Two new teams, **St. Thomas** and **Memorial**, have been added to the fold so one can only speculate on their calibre unseen. However, they definitely should not be taken lightly. New squads are eager to prove themselves and can overcome a more talented team on emotion and all-out effort. **SMU** will again be the strong squad they are always and will make the playoffs if everyone plays. Also formidable will be the Flying Frenchmen from the **Universite de Moncton**, especially if they can prevent goals as well as they can score them.

Having fine coaches and an A-1 recruiting department should make **St. F.X.** strong contenders again after a so-so season last year. Squeaking by **St. F.X.** into the playoffs last season was the surprising **Prince Edward Island** squad. Although a good number of Panthers will not be returning, the Island usually produces some fine home-grown talent (what else is there to do in the winter?). Also a surprise in '78-'79 was the **Acadia** Axemen. The valley school has become serious about hockey

and with more offence they could become a playoff threat. **Mt. Allison** iced a competitive team last year but were never more than pretenders. Last year's basement dwelling **UNB** team, like the Mounties, will be depending on off-season acquisitions heavily. Time will tell.

with coach Pierre Page since 1975 and in only three years they have raised the Tigers from the depths of despair to one of the most respected teams in the nation.

Last year's championship team was strong defensively and employed a potent balanced attack (Tigers led the

#5 **Louis Lavoie**—anchors the defense. Tied with Paul MacLean for points leadership on the team last year.

#6 **Peter Aldrich**—solid at 6'3", 205. He always gives 100%. Also is an asst. captain.

#11 **John Cater**—versatile; can play anywhere Page needs him. A fine corner man.

continues to improve. Asst. captain.

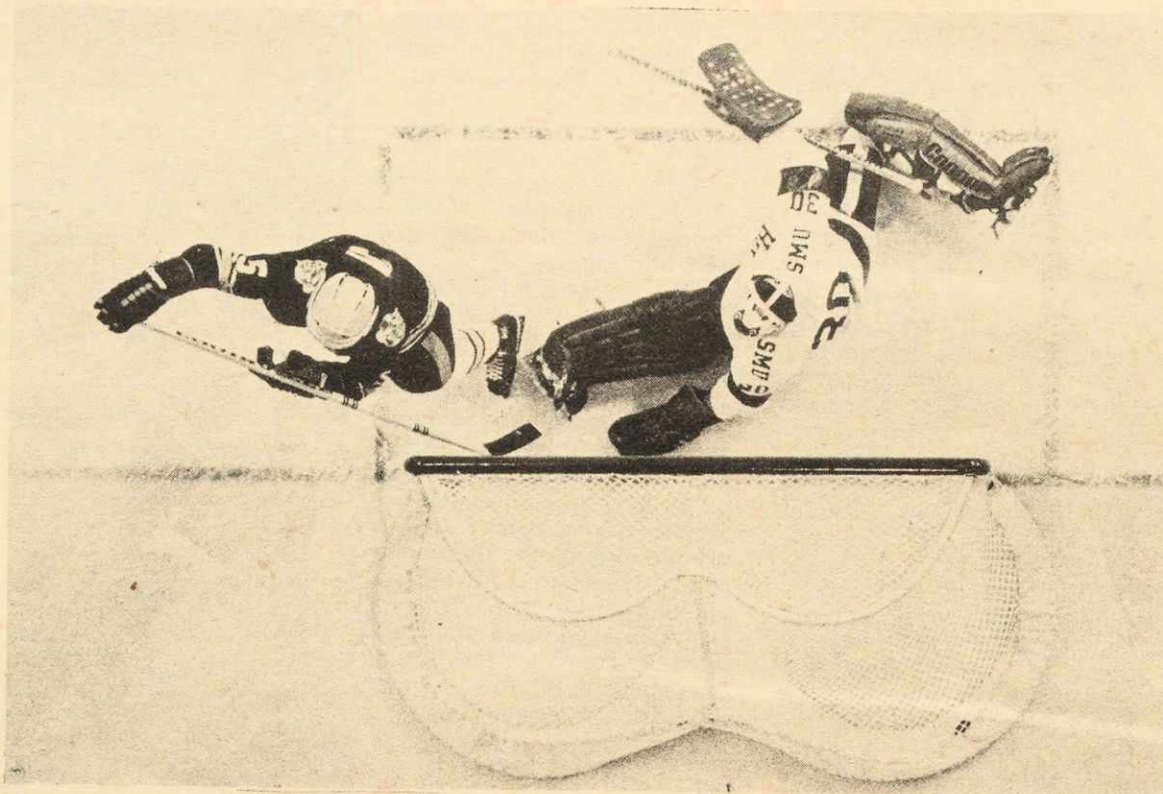
#20 **Dwight Houser**—versatile winger, has good speed for a Big guy. Now taking his M.B.A. at Dal, Dwight toiled for St. F.X. last year.

The Tigers were in action last weekend at the Moncton Invitational and emerged victorious. Dal won the tourney Sunday with a 5-3 win over SMU, after slipping by the host U de M squad on Saturday by a 3-1 score. Ken Bickerton was outstanding in goal, kicking out 74 of 78 shots over the two games.

On Saturday, Don Matheson's goal at 11:45 of the second period turned out to be the game winner over Moncton. The Tigers were outshot 44-25 but U de M count only slip the puck past Bickerton once. Louis Lavoie opened the scoring for the Tigers and Ken Johnston put the icing on the cake with a goal late in the third period.

On Sunday Adrian Facca scored on the power-play at 7:35 of the third period to vault Dal over the Huskies. The Tigers took a 3-1 lead into the third period but it was quickly tied up by SMU. Scott MacLean had served only 17 seconds of his slashing penalty when Rick McCallum and Louis Lavoie set up Facca for the winning goal. Lavoie and McCallum also netted markers for the Tigers as did Peter Aldrich and Keith Meagher. Lavoie was voted MVP of the tourney.

Tonight the Tigers finish off the exhibition season with a match against Concordia (8:30 at the Forum). Monday evening at 8:00 p.m. the St. Mary's Huskies open the new season against Dal in what should be a very entertaining contest. Game is at the Halifax Forum on Windsor St.



Returning vets bolster squad

Despite the fact they lost nine skaters, the **Dalhousie Tigers** will be the team to topple in '79-'80. Coming off a championship year made recruiting easier. The academic qualifications at Dalhousie have always been known therefore a prospective student/hockey player can now benefit by getting a good education as well as exposure with a highly ranked team. Assistant coach Dr. Bill Shannon deserves much of the credit in recruiting fine talent from across the country. Dr. Shannon has been associated

league in goals scored yet had no one in the top eighteen individually). This year's team will likely be the same way; displaying strength, tenacious checking and disciplined positional play. A master of conditioning techniques, Page feels his squad should be 'bumping and grinding' constantly and that 100% effort is required on every shift. It's a long year and the rigours of conditioning will pay off in the playoffs. Page is optimistic about this season and has tremendous confidence in his charges. He adds, "... everyone is willing to work hard. There's a good attitude on this team and that is every bit as important as talent."

Following is the '79-'80 edition of the Dalhousie Tigers.

Between the pipes: #1 **Ken Bickerton**—seems to consistently turn in stellar performances. Page rates the Sydney native as one of the best in Canada.

#30 **Darrell Young**—had a sparking 1.88 goals against average in the first half last year. Led the team in shut-outs with two. He has a tremendous amount of ability. With Bick gives Page best 1-2 combination in nation.

Blueliners: #2 **Gary Ryan**—from Moncton, Gary has the mobility and confidence to quarterback the team when he is on the ice.

#3 **Don Woodworth**—probably the best checker on the team (and they have good ones). Good at controlling the puck.

#4 **Ken Johnston**—asst. captain. Has leadership abilities and can take charge in any situation. Ken was the captain for the Sherbrooke Beavers last year.

Up Front: #7 **Rick McCallum**—has been working hard for this season. Now in his third year. Rick is displaying good leadership.

#8 **Jim Bottomly**—another 'teamer' who gives nothing less than 100%. Has the ability to make things happen when he's on the ice; a spark plug. Selected as team captain.

#9 **Dan Cyr**—the 'Tiger Train'. Will go through anything or anyone that gets in his way. A ferocious fore-checker.

#10 **Don Matheson**—one of four Ottawa natives on the team, Don has been improving every day. Fine two-way player.

#12 **Keith Meagher**—been a pleasant surprise for coach Page. Has worked hard and shows good two-way ability.

#14 **Glen O'Byrne**—returns after a couple years absence. Gutsy worker and good playmaker.

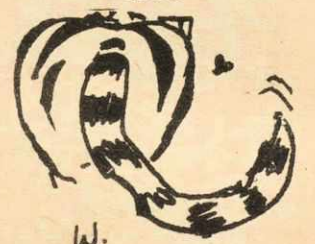
#15 **Mike Brennan**—last year's playoff hero. He is blessed with speed and a quick, unexpected shot. Quiet Leader. Has a bad shoulder and will miss first couple weeks.

#16 **Kevin Zimmer**—very high on this player. Has great speed and is a nifty playmaker. From Edmonton, Alta.

#17 **Chuck Tuplin**—Page's type of player. Has size, checks well and is a team player. Also has a great shot. Will miss first three weeks of season with a sprained knee.

#18 **Brian Gaulazzi**—just joined the team. Played last year for Sault Ste. Marie and led the OHA in scoring with 74 goals. Should be a valuable addition.

#19 **Adrian Facca**—aggressive, an excellent shot, he



TIGER TALES—Will Norma Hogg and Lois MacGregor create a conflict of interest situation when they play for the Alumni and coach the varsity squad Tuesday night... Congratulations to Lorne Abramson and his team who defeated Jan Prsala's squad 15-9 in the finals of the Superstars Festival this past weekend. Accolades to Cindy Moore and Scott Addisen who did an outstanding job, along with Coach Al Scott, of organizing the affair... Where's my T-shirt... Lorraine Cunningham celebrated a birthday this past week... Nice to see a number of former Tigers at the Dalplex this past weekend; Norma Hogg, Leslie Barnes, Bev Johnson, Mary Lawson to name just a few... Watch for an exciting announcement concerning volleyball this weekend... Understand that Alice Kamermans will not compete with UNB this season.

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