

Hot goaltending spells Dal's demise

by Gordie Sutherland

The Dalhousie hockey team ran into some hot goaltending and some bad luck as they fell just short of their bid for the Atlantic Universities Hockey Conference championship last weekend.

On Sunday evening the University of Prince Edward Island killed off all six of Dalhousie's power play opportunities and goaltender Jamie Blanchard stopped all 36 of Dalhousie's shots as the Panthers took the rubber match by a score of 3-0. The win earned the Panthers a trip to Toronto for the CIAU championships to be held later this month.

*one
game
apiece*

The Tigers evened the best-of-three championship series at one game apiece when they defeated

UPEI 7-4 on Saturday night. Dalhousie lost the opening game of the series 3-1 in Charlottetown the previous Wednesday.

Both weekend games were played at the Dalhousie Memorial Arena and each contest attracted over 2000 fans. University spirit was at a year high as students, alumni and other fans crammed into the arena which comfortably seats 1600 people.

In Saturday's win, the Tigers were led offensively by the line of Alan Baldwin, Derrick Pringle and Todd Mondor. The veteran Alan Baldwin potted a pair of goals and Pringle picked up a goal and two helpers while Mondor contributed with a goal and an assist. Dalhousie defenceman Brian MacDonald set up three of the Tiger markers.

Bob Giffin sparked the Panther offence with two goals and Shane MacEachern added a goal and two assists.

The two teams were tied 2-2 after one and the shots for the period were 12-11 in favor of the Panthers, but the Tigers dominated the final two periods of play outshooting their guests 30-18 and

outscoring them 5-2.

All four of UPEI's goals came on the power play and were scored before the game had reached the halfway mark. "They had a good power play and capitalized on their chances tonight," said Dalhousie defenceman Kevin Meisner. "But we knew that as long as we stayed out of the box eventually we were going to come out on top so the guys just kept on plugging away and it worked out well."

The Panthers were propelled by Tony Gallant and captain Wayne MacPhee, each collecting a goal and an assist. Goaltender Jamie Blanchard was named player of the game for his shutout performance.

Panther defenceman Ronnie McKinnon praised teammate and goaltender Jamie Blanchard. "Excellent game—he has played well through the playoffs," said McKinnon. "Last night, he made a lot of good saves, it wasn't a 7-4 game. Jamie came up big through the playoffs and Jamie deserves player of the game."

The Panthers took a 2-0 lead when Richard Little scored on the power play at the 17:22 mark of

the opening period. The only other goal of the game came at 9:50 of the second.

The Tigers, as on Saturday night, outplayed the Panthers over the last two periods but in this game were unable to beat Blanchard. The Panthers appeared to retreat into a defensive shell for the last 40 minutes as they iced the puck frequently and launched little in the way of an offensive attack. The Panthers managed just two shots in the last period.

*life just
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Head coach Darrell Young felt somewhat cheated after Sunday's loss. "The bottom line is that life just isn't fair," he said. "It just wasn't fair to us tonight. We dominated a team you know for a whole game and we end up losing - we outshot them 36-17 and we

periods. The play was there, we had chances to score - a couple of crossbars, a couple of breakaways.

"It's just not fair. I feel sorry for the guys like (Brian) Melanson, (Craig) Morrison, Pringle and Baldwin, the guys who gave so much to our program, developed so much as people. This was for them. This was supposed to be their so-long song. This is it, it's not fair."

The Tigers fought to the final buzzer peppering Blanchard with shots, calling a time-out with 1:33 remaining and even pulling the goalie for an extra attacker. The Tigers refused to quit and although they lost, they did so with style.

After the game, a typically gracious Darrell Young went into the UPEI dressing room and offered his congratulations and wished the island team the best of luck at the CIAU's.

The prosperous University hockey careers of Derrick Pringle, Craig Morrison, Alan Baldwin and Brian Melanson did come to an end, but not without a successful final season to reflect back upon.

Men's volleyball team heads to finals

by Kevin Barrett

The Dalhousie Men's Volleyball team is travelling to Laval University this weekend to participate in the C.I.A.U. Volleyball championships. This year more than ever the Tigers have a real shot at taking home the championship. One of the key reasons for the optimistic outlook is team captain Scott Bagnall. Bagnall has been the team leader for several seasons now and provides the inspiration, dedication and hustle that is required of his role. Bagnall has won a lot of individual awards in his career but none would be bigger than the title this weekend.

The *Gazette* had a chance to talk to Scott recently and here is what he had to say:

Gaz: Why is the team so good this season?

S.B.: I think the main key is that we have been together for another year. Last year, we learned a lot when we finished seventh at the CIAU's and that has helped a lot this year. We got Jody Holden, a former National team player back so it makes it easier for us to spread the offence around. Everett Rose and other rookies have certainly added to the team as well."

Being a top ranked team you haven't received the press that some other nationally ranked teams have in the local media. Why?

We are not as high profile a sport as hockey or basketball; people think that volleyball is not a sport. They see it as a game that people

play on the beach. However, they would be surprised at how exciting it is when they take a chance to see it.

Some athletes are turned off because it is a frustrating game to get good at. It takes a long time to develop and the rewards in vol-



Scott Bagnall dives for the ball during a recent tournament at Dalhousie.

leyball are not as obvious as hockey and basketball.

As the leader on the floor what is your main job or jobs?

I have to keep the guys together and basically run the offence. I want to stay away from two man blocks and set up our power hitters like Jody and Deon (Goulding). I make a lot of lay in shots as well to keep the other team off balance. The guys on our team have great personalities and are easy for me to work with.

How hard is it to play against the weak opposition offered by other AUSA teams?

It is hard to get up for these games but we have to remember we have a lot to lose if we get beat. A loss to an AUSA team would drop us to the bottom of the rankings. UNB usually gives us a good game but

it is difficult for us to be at the top of our game in the AUSA.

How hard is it to play or get ready for non conference teams?

It is a lot easier that the AUSA teams. Against the top ranked teams it is easy to get psyched. But

now that we are a top team I find I am much more nervous about the teams ranked just below us. They are like we were because they have nothing to lose and we have everything to lose and I find it a little nerve racking.

Can you win the CIAU's?

Yes, I think we can but we have to take it one match at a time. This year the teams are so even that any team can beat another. Our first match will be as hard as our last no matter where we end up.

Will you win the CIAU's?

I hope so!

Who do you model yourself after?

There are probably two players. First of all was Brian Rourke. He was a leader and the best player ever to play at Dal. He played the

same position as I did and I always like the way he played. Second, would be Travis Murphy. He played with a high level of emotion and he was always in the game.

What can you remember most about your early coaches?

They all were very encouraging people. In a game where height is such an important factor it can be hard for a guy like me, who is a bit smaller than everyone else, to see the light at the end of the tunnel. They gave me the chance to make it and gave me the breaks when I needed it.

Describe coach Al Scott.

Tough question. He is the best

technical coach in Canada. He has done a great job with the team as far as keeping things positive and keeping the guys cool. There are a few sensitive players on the team and they do not like to be yelled at. There is a fine line there and I don't think Al has crossed it.

What will it take to win?

We will have to play our best three matches of the year.

Dal is rated as the number three team in the tourney a position they have held since beating the Manitoba Bisons in the final of the Dalhousie Volleyball Classic earlier in the year.

UNB b'ball superior

by Sara DeLong

The UNB Red Bloomers captured the AUSA Women's Basketball Championship March 3 with a final score of 72-63 over the Dalhousie Tigers.

In a very close game, the Bloomers proved to be superior in both offensive and defensive teamwork. The Tigers were strong individually, but appeared to lack team experience. Dal's top scorer was Mary K. Lase with 18 points, trailing closely behind the overall top scorer, UNB's Jennifer Hale with 22 points. For the Tigers, Kelly Copeland had 12 points, while Angie McLeod and Kim Empey each racked up 11. Rookie Jennifer Clark played an outstanding game, earning the Tigers 10 points.

Throughout the first half of the game, the score was very close with half-time score of 38-33 for the Bloomers. It appeared the game could go to either team; the teams were evenly matched going into the championships, each with a record of 11-3. It wasn't until the last 3 or 4 minutes that the Bloomers' play became more aggressive and they took control of the court. The game was dominated by UNB's 5'4" Jill Jackson, who was named MVP.

Once again, the Dalhousie Tigers gave the opposing players a run for their money, and played an impressive game. They showed talent and great potential for a winning team. We'll get 'em next year!