

SPORTS

Tiger women strike gold at CIAUs

BY TERRY HAWES

The Dalhousie Tigers women's soccer team was tired of being taken lightly at the CIAU National Tournament.

Despite seven successive appearances at the big show and a national title in 1994, the black and gold were still being viewed by critics as a rank outsider to take it all in 1999.

Not only did the Tigers pass the test, they passed it convincingly and with flying colors, limiting the Alberta Pandas' chances to a minimum in a well-deserved 2-0 final victory that gave Dal its first championship since 1994.

"The team chemistry was unbelievable this year," said Kelly Larkin, who completed her five year career with all three medals — Silver in 1995, Bronze in 1998 and Gold in 1999.

Dalhousie advanced with pool victories over McGill and the host Wilfred Laurier Golden Hawks.

Head Coach Dara Moore is now 37-8-9 in her three years at Dal and this record will only improve as the squad has the potential to return every player

with the exception of Larkin.

CIAU Final
Dalhousie 2 Alberta 0
(Nov 14)

The Tigers came out gunning as early as the third minute when Larkin struck a shot from 15 yards out that deflected off of Alberta keeper Melanie Haz and almost went into the net.

Dal goalkeeper Roxanne Murphy was tested early as Alberta midfielder Tsujikawa had a deflected shot from 10 yards out that she easily handled.

In the 30th minute, Stefanie Finateri took control of the ball, dribbled over 50 yards in a magnificent display of ball handling, flew past three Alberta defenders, and tucked it past Haz from 15 yards out for her fourth goal of the tournament and fifteenth of the season.

Minutes later, the Pandas had the chance to tie the game only for Murphy to stop Calinda Reschny from in close and deflect it for a corner. Dalhousie managed to shut Alberta down the rest of the half and put them 45 minutes away from the title.

The Pandas, who advanced

to the CIAUs after defeating both Saskatchewan and UBC on penalties, were feeling the frustration of having to go up against Dal's rock-solid defense. When they were able to create opportunities, they failed. Reschny had Murphy beaten from seven yards out, but it grazed the left-hand post and went out for a goal kick.

As if the match were set in Hollywood, it started to snow with a half an hour to play. But the result was still the same with Dal holding firm when the Pandas pressed forward in a vain attempt to level the contest. Murphy was

called upon to stop a strike from Nadine Chapdelaine, but handled it with relative ease.

The Tigers took the match by the jugular when Larkin made it 2-0 in the 69th minute off a Claire Martin free kick. The free kick was partially cleared by the Pandas defense, but Larkin was there to score from just inside 25 yards, giving Haz no chance.

Dal could have made it three in the 88th minute, but Andrea Gillespie's shot was driven straight into the arms of Haz. It proved unimportant as the Tigers stormed off the bench in

celebration of a great season and many individual accomplishments.

Both Pigozzo and Finateri made successful returns to the squad after a one year absence while Gillespie and Martin were reliable as always in midfield and defense while Jessica Dooley and Sarah Buckland had strong rookie campaigns. Goalkeeper Roxanne Murphy was outstanding in net when called upon and, although she garnered no all-star status in the AUAA, her stingy two goals allowed in 1100 minutes of action deserves two thumbs up.

Shootout sham — Part II
Indecision costs Tigers another victory in AUAA Hockey

BY TERRY HAWES

Perhaps by the end of the season, the Dalhousie Tigers will be against the idea of having shootouts decide games in the AUAA.

For the second time this season, an apparent shootout victory for the black and gold was taken away, this time following

the November 5 game against the UPEI Panthers in Charlottetown.

Coupled with defeats to the Saint Mary's Huskies and Acadia Axemen (the latter being in a shootout) this puts the Tigers in last place in the Kelly Division.

Dalhousie has matches this week at Memorial Arena when they play Saint Mary's on Wednesday night and St FX on Sunday afternoon. The St. FX contest will start with the completion of the shoot-out from the October 20 match.

Dalhousie 5 UPEI 4
(Nov 5)

The Tigers' victory was tainted after the referee failed to allow the Panthers their final shot in the shootout, which had gone into a sudden-death format.

Dalhousie and UPEI were tied after the customary five players for each side had taken their shots. With the tigers shooting first, the Panthers should have been given their chance to respond no matter what the outcome. Derrick Pyke scored on Dal's seventh attempt, but the referee thought sudden-death meant first-goal-wins and awarded Dal the victory, infuriating the UPEI coaches.

"You would think the officials would know the rules, but that's twice we've had wins taken away from us," said a sarcastic Coach Shane Easter.

The poor judgement call ruined an otherwise fine match as the Panthers rallied three times from a deficit. Dalhousie got two goals from rookie Denis Aucoin while Ben Gustavson and Dan Tudin added singles. UPEI remains winless on the season.

Saint Mary's 4 Dalhousie 2
(Nov 9)

Missed opportunities and a lack of discipline led to Dal's loss against SMU.

The Huskies were led by sophomore Travis Kennedy, who had a goal and two assists while goalie Mike Weatherbie was solid in the net, stopping 24 of 26 shots. Dal can thank goalie Neil Savary for keeping the score respectable.

Saint Mary's opened the scoring when Kennedy gained

possession of the puck and deked Savary at 6:52 of the second, he almost doubled the margin a minute later as he took a shot from just inside the blue line only for it to be gloved nicely by Savary.

SMU got their second goal a few minutes later as Kennedy found Jim Midgley on the 2 on 1 break, Midgley converted to make it 2-0 and put the Tigers in a hole.

The Tigers finally came to life with under a minute left in the second when Dan Tudin slipped the puck beneath Weatherbie's pads off a scramble to reduce the lead to 2-1 heading into period three.

However, the final stanza was all SMU as the Tigers made many mental errors including the insurance goal where Savary mishandled the puck leaving Alex Halat with the simple tap in.

"Everybody on this team plays for each other," said Halat, who missed most of the final period after a collision with one of his teammates.

"We're like one big extended family, and I can tell that this is a special group, because when one guy goes down, somebody's usually there to pick us up."

While particularly disappointed with the effort of his veteran players, Easter did praise the work of freshmen Johnston and Tudin, both veterans of the major junior ranks.

"Not only have they made the adjustment, they have performed to our satisfaction," said Easter.

"It can only benefit us down the road, team wise."

Acadia 4 Dalhousie 3
(Nov 13)

Dalhousie tied the match with three seconds left, but fell in the shootout 2-0 to give the Axemen the extra point.

With most of the fans heading for the exit, Tiger Ben Gustavson's shot beat goalie Donovan Nunweiler to send the match into overtime.

Scoring for Acadia in regulation were St. Louis, Russell Hogue and Chester Gallant while Tudin, Johnston and Gustavson lit the lamp for the Tigers.

C'est magnifique
Dal captures AUAA soccer championship

BY TERRY HAWES

The AUAA men's Championship between the Dalhousie Tigers and Saint Mary's Huskies figured to be an entertaining contest with lots of intensity and passion.

Neither team disappointed. The final lived up to expectations and then some as the Tigers won 3-2 over the Huskies thanks to a Colin Duffy goal in the first period of extra time.

Dal's victory was their fifth AUAA Championship of the 1990s and left the Huskies still searching for their first title since 1989.

AUAA Final (Nov 7)
Dalhousie 3 Saint Mary's 2

Wickwire Field was jammed to capacity for the AUAA Final, including a large section of Saint Mary's fans who decided to come out of the woodwork, despite very few of them cheering the team to victory in the semi-final win over UPEI the day before.

The Huskies came out strong in the early stages of the match with rookie Mesut Mert shooting wide off of a free kick. However, Dal soon turned the tables and had the majority of the territory in the first half hour.

Dal's patience was rewarded in the 10th minute as Chad Denny unleashed a shot from just inside the box, beating Giovanetti to the top left hand side and setting off celebrations on the Tigers bench.

Saint Mary's battled back and had a good run nullified by a horrific collision between defender Chris Webb and Dal's

Emmanuel Gaopotlake outside the Tigers penalty area. Webb was momentarily knocked out but got up on his own power.

Soon after, Tigers' striker Chris Coxon was carded in the 28th minute for a challenge on Mesut Mert much to Coxon's displeasure. But the free kick was wasted as Mert blasted it well wide of the goal. The Huskies then had their best chance of the half as Chris Devlin went around two Dalhousie defenders and beat goalkeeper Ian Van Zoost with the shot only to have it rattle off the post.

After a barren spell, the Tigers got a break in the 33rd minute when a seemingly harmless kick by Awanen was bobbled by Giovanetti straight to the head of Jeff Hibberts who put Dal up by two.

The second half saw a different SMU team take to the field as they became more aggressive in the attack. Dalhousie planned to sit on the lead and it would prove costly.

Webb was first to go close as his drive from 15 yards out went inches wide of the left-hand post. With most of the play in the Dal end, the Tigers were walking on a tight rope and conceded a penalty in the 67th minute when Mert was obstructed in the box. Mert promptly stepped up and beat Van Zoost with a shot to the lower right hand side sending the SMU contingent screaming with delight.

The Huskies continued to press with Webb connecting on a cross right into the arms of Van Zoost, but SMU were deservedly

on level terms in the 77th minute as a free-kick struck the post only for Atkins to put the rebound in the open net. This led some SMU fans to join in on the celebration, the linesman managed to escort them off the field.

The game went into extra time.

Chances were few and far between in the first 15 minute session, but just when it seemed the game would be decided on penalty kicks, up stepped Duffy to head in the winner off the crossbar off a Chris Coxon free kick.

"It was the biggest goal I have scored in my soccer career," said Duffy. "It was an unbelievable feeling, I was shaking the net and everything."

SMU didn't threaten again and the final whistle started a wild celebration as Dal players mobbed each other in triumph, while the SMU players fell to the ground in disappointment.

Awanen was a deserving winner of the tournament MVP and Hibberts selection as league MVP was also well deserved.

The Tigers celebrated with a brief jog and some pictures, but were relieved to be going indoors, away from the freezing conditions.

Note: Dalhousie finished sixth and last at the CIAU Championships in Victoria, BC this past weekend. The Tigers lost 5-0 on Thursday to Victoria and 3-0 to the Western Mustangs on Saturday night. Western went on to capture the Gold medal defeating Alberta 1-0 in the final.

Your team not here?! Your event not listed?
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