

# Tigers basketball

**WOMEN / Tigers lose perfect record, gain focus**

BY ANDREW COOK

The Tigers had an up and down weekend on the road, capped by their first loss in league play.

Dalhousie began the weekend on a high, marching into Antigonish and knocking off the very competitive St. Francis Xavier's (St. FX) women's squad 82-77. The Tigers were upended, however, by a red hot University College of Cape Breton (UCCB) squad on Sunday afternoon by a score of 72-57.

Saturday evening, the Tigers' veterans stepped up and took control late, not allowing the hometown X-Women to pull off the upset. Leading scorer Carolyn Wares continued her strong play with 25 points, while sharpshooter Jackie Flieger dropped in 21 and fourth-year guard Danielle Moe tallied 11.

For the X-Women, who led 41-39 at halftime, Tina St. Amour led the way with 20 points while Cynthia Murphy and Donna Sanderson chipped in 15 and 13, respectively.

With one tough road win in hand, the Tigers rolled into Sydney on Sunday, only to be hit by a Moseychuck. Moseychuck, a 5'11 forward with the first name Janice, riddled the Tigers for 34 points on 11 of 21 shooting from the floor and 11 of 15 from the line.

"UCCB came out looking to get the ball to Moseychuck every time down the floor," said coach Carolyn Savoy. "We simply let them execute their game plan."

With the inspired effort by the pumped up Capers, the Tigers offence never really got into gear. Wares continued her strong rebounding with 14, but struggled to just 15 points. Flieger and Kathie Sanderson were the only other Tigers to reach double figures.

Adding to the Capers' cause were forward Kerrie Pyke, guard Paula Scott, and the Cape Breton referees. Pyke scored 12 and Scott 11, while the officials awarded the Capers 37 free throws to Dal's 11. The Capers, though, should be given all due credit, as they defended their home court in a gritty effort.

While the loss may seem unsettling to many Dalhousie supporters, it is one which can easily be looked upon as a positive.

"The loss is tough, but a price our team had to pay," said coach Savoy. "This is a learning experience for our girls and a chance for them to see that we won't win based on our paper record, but rather on the way we play on the floor."

Refocused and recharged, the Tigers will continue along the road to defending last year's regular season title. Dalhousie now stands 11-1 in conference play with an impressive 30 points. Their chief competition the rest of the way figures to come from Memorial, who check in at 10-2 (26 pts.) in second place, and UCCB, who move into third place at 7-4 (22 pts) with their big win.

**MEN / Return of Plancke fails to spark ailing hoopsters**

BY ANDREW COOK

Shawn Plancke, the AUAA's top rebounder one year ago, made his return on Sunday to a flu-ridden and injured men's basketball team.

Plancke looked good in his first action since November, but couldn't quite lift his teammates to victory. The Tigers dropped their second road game in a week, succumbing to the University of Cape Breton Capers (UCCB) 60-57 on Sunday afternoon.

On the upside, the night before in Antigonish, Dal knocked off St. Francis Xavier (St. FX) by a final count of 82-77.

While the absence of Brian Parker was the story surrounding Saturday's game, the story within the game was the play of all-conference forward Reggie Oblitey. Oblitey was a one-man wrecking crew, slashing his way to 30 points while shooting 9 for 13, including 5 for 7 from beyond the arc. Oblitey's primary help on the offensive end came from Jeff Mayo, who had a season high 21 points, while Christian Currie added 11 to the cause.

Forced to a larger line-up, the Tigers did capitalize in the rebounding department. Led by Dallas Shannon's 12, Dalhousie out-rebounded the X-Men 45-33.

In a losing effort, X-Men seniors Mark Clarke and Merrick Palmer scored 20 and 16 points, respectively.

As per the usual this season, Dal's victory did not come without a cost. Tigers backup guard Kevin Bellamy was lost indefinitely to what is thought to be a torn medial collateral ligament in his leg.

"Kevin is scheduled to see the surgeon on Tuesday," said coach Tim McGarrigle. "And if it's what we think it is, he could be out for up to a month."

On Sunday afternoon, the Tigers stumbled into Sydney to take on the Capers. Dalhousie, despite the emotional lift brought by the return of their captain, came out flat, struggling to a 30-20 halftime deficit. While the Tigers gained enough momentum to retake the lead with just over three minutes remaining, they couldn't hang on, and lost by three.

The Tigers allowed UCCB forward Andy MacIntyre, who only recently joined the Capers, attain a season high 18 points to go along with 11 rebounds and five assists.

Dalhousie's worst offensive output of the season found only three players reaching double figures, with Oblitey and Shannon marking 13 each and Mayo adding 11. The win for the Capers breaks a four-game losing streak and renews what were previously diminishing playoff hopes.

As noted earlier, this weekend's mediocre performance on the court was overshadowed by the Tigers medical woes. No less than five Dalhousie regulars spent time in bed this past week as the flu ran its course through the roster.

As if that wasn't bad enough, Tigers' doctors had Dal's starting point guard sit out this weekend's games as a precautionary measure after Parker suffered a concussion on an elbow from UNB guard Brian Scales on January 21. Parker had been leading the Tigers at a pace of over 17 points per game.

With an active weekend in the Atlantic Universities Basketball Conference (AUBC), the men's standings continue to gridlock as UPEI joined the scrum, creating a three-way tie with Dalhousie and Acadia at the top. The three teams each have different records, but with the AUAA's staggered scoring system, each of the three schools find themselves with 22 points and in first place.



GAZETTE PHOTO BY DANIELLE BOUDREAU

## Road woes nag hockey team

BY SCOTT HEPDITCH

Away from Memorial Arena hasn't been pleasant for the Dal hockey team these days.

Last Thursday, they dropped their second straight road game, this time by a score of 8-4 to the X-Men from St. Francis Xavier.

It looked good for the Tigers at the beginning of the game as they scored very early, but after that it was all X-Men as they cruised to the win, their second in a row over the Tigers.

The team then had a two day break before their next match-up, which took place at Memorial

Arena Sunday afternoon against the University College of Cape Breton (UCCB) Capers.

The Capers were looking to upset the Tigers as they jumped out to an early 2-1 lead, but soon after that the more talented Tigers took over the flow of the game and cruised to an 'easy' 9-3 win. It was the second time this year that the Tigers scored nine goals in a game against the Capers.

Leading the offensive attack for Dalhousie were Dan Holmes and rookie forward Rob Soja, who each had five points. Holmes had two goals and three assists, while Soja had a goal and four assists.

Other scorers for the Tigers were Martin Lapointe with two, while David Haynes, Rick Findlay, Jeff Letourneau, and Tim Hill each added singles.

The Capers got goals from Mark O'Donnell and Cory Cox, who had two.

This game served as shooting practice for Dal as they fired 48 shots at the Capers' goalies. UCCB only managed 17 shots on Tigers' goalie Steve Pottie.

The next game for the Tigers is tonight as rivals Acadia are in town. Also this weekend, the Tim Hortons AUAA All-star game will take place at the Metro Centre on Friday night.

It should be a very exciting game with the best talent in AUAA hockey together on the ice.

The Tigers will be well represented in the game with four players (Greg Dreveny, Martin Lapointe, Keifer House, and Corey MacIntyre) in the Kelly Division lineup.

For all Howe Hall alumni, there will be a game this Friday afternoon between Howe Hall and the Howe Hall alumni. All proceeds will go to the IWK Children's Hospital. It should be a lot of fun, so come out and support a good cause and watch a hard hitting game.



GAZETTE PHOTO BY SHANNON MORRISON

*The Tigers upped their record in AUAA play to 12-0 with a win over St. Francis Xavier last Wednesday. This Sunday, Dal hosts the Université de Moncton at 1 p.m. With only four regular season matches remaining, the Tigers are looking to capture the AUAA crown and head off to the Nationals in Toronto, Ontario.*