

Some comments on the CFL



Overtime
MARK ALBERSTAT

THIS PAST WEEKEND WAS A great one. The Atlantic Bowl featured interesting college action and the Grey Cup could have been better but wasn't all that bad. All in all, the football over the weekend was what was expected.

The point this *Overtime* raises is that the Canadian Football League, along with many other sports leagues, has its problems. However, the CFL gurus are trying to rectify them.

The CFL has of late been losing fans to the more exciting NFL, left, right and up the middle. Recently the league has come up with several ideas to revitalize it; some are discussed here.

The first suggestion is an 18-game season. As it now stands, the regular season has 16 games, as does the NFL. Most CFL clubs recognize that to make money they must get people in the stands, and those two extra games will do just that. These extra matches will be carved out of the exhibition season. The only imaginable problem with this proposal is that player salaries will have to go up slightly and there would be a reduction in the time to prepare in training camp, unless they're opened even earlier.

The next suggestion is probably the most controversial and unquestionably the one that will meet with the most opposition. It is restrictions on the number of imports on defense.

As it now stands, most defensive lines in the CFL are made up of hulking Americans who can't quite make the grade in the more competitive defenses of the NFL. A restriction of imports on defense would weaken defenses and strengthen offenses; this would probably make for more exciting football; however, the games would also be higher-scoring.

Another proposal I like is roster deadlines that will prohibit lineup changes after early September. Although this suggestion may seem useless to some, let me explain why it is wanted. Many

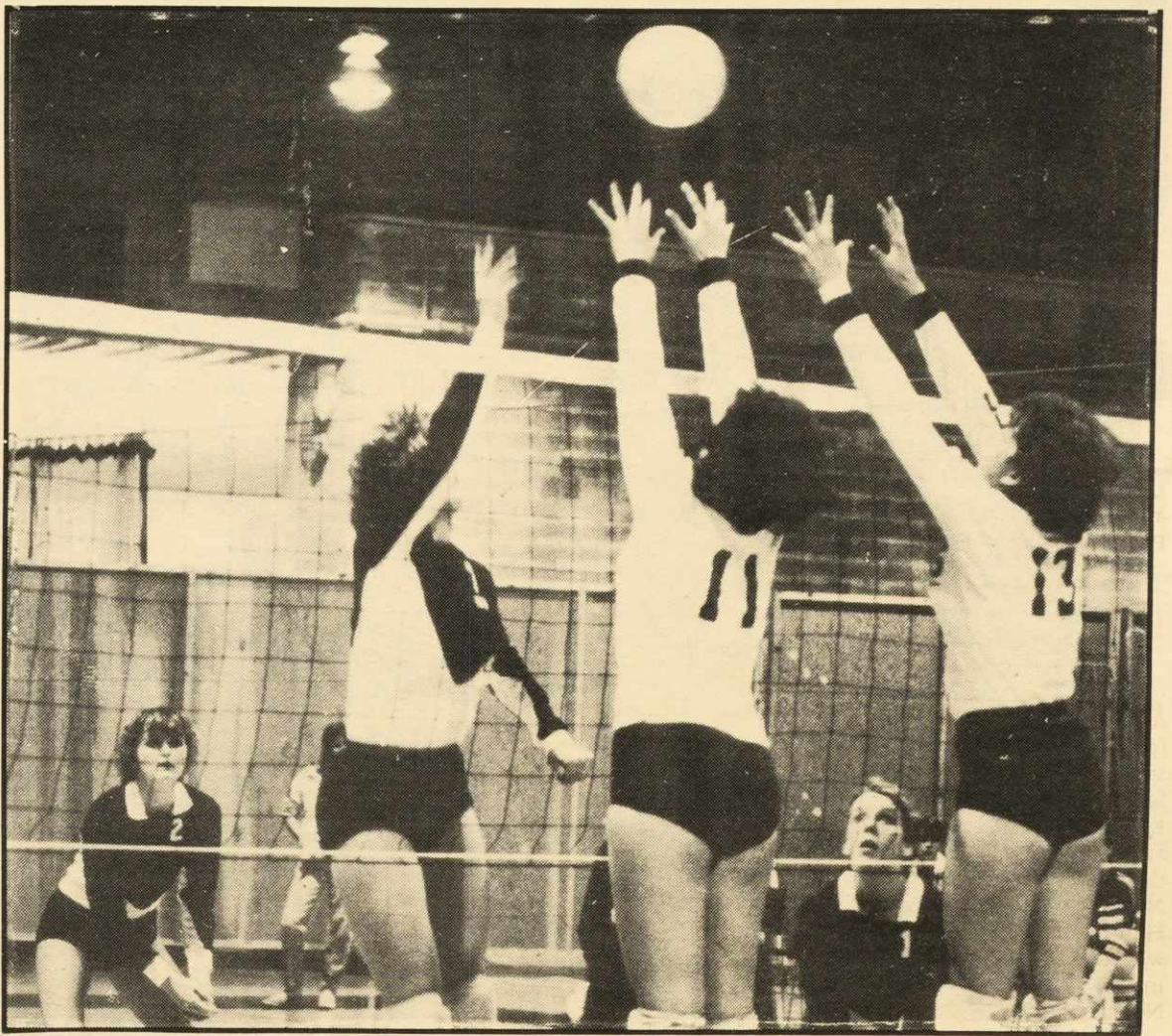
CFL coaches build up their teams in early September with rejects from the NFL. These big young players come running to the CFL after tasting the dirt fields of the NFL. The coaches love them because they're bigger than some of the Canadians and they have excellent college experience. One of the biggest fans complaints is that there aren't enough recognizable players because they all keep changing during the season. Well, this suggestion will put a near end to that nonsense.

A new playoff format and new qualifications to make the playoffs have also been suggested. The main reason for this proposal is that in the Eastern division, three of four teams make the playoffs. The only controversial part of this amendment is whether they should eliminate the "best" of the East meeting the "best" of the West in the Grey Cup. The new format would allow the best two teams in the league to play for the trophy; this would not, however, be very popular with the fans, or so a recent poll told us.

Another proposed revision to the league is the use of overtimes. I do not believe they mean the reading of this column before games, but a time designated after the regular play is over and the score is tied. Overtime was in fact proposed by the league last season but has yet to be implemented. Don't ask me why not. On average there are two ties in the league per season; it shouldn't make much of a difference.

Since I am running out of time, there are a few other proposals: the elimination of television blackouts, a move to smaller end-zones, a new collective bargaining agreement with the players that would emphasize security and not money.

All in all these suggested changes to the CFL all seem obvious and will hopefully help the league in years to come. One change I did not see suggested is the ludicrous idea that teams should get a point for missing a field goal. Only in Canada, Eh? Believable.



The women's volleyball team placed fourth in a weekend tournament in Sherbrooke but they are in first place in league action with a record of four wins, no losses. Photo by John Chan, Dal Photo.

Women's volleyball Tigers finish fourth in Sherbrooke

THE DALHOUSIE WOMEN'S volleyball Tigers finished fourth in the Sherbrooke Green and Gold Tournament held this weekend in Sherbrooke, Quebec, losing a close match to the College de Sherbrooke Volontaires in the bronze medal round.

In round robin play, the Tigers topped Vielle Montreal 15-7, 15-5, 15-2 and UNB 15-1, 15-9, 15-3 before losing to Universite de Sherbrooke 4-15, 8-15, 4-15.

In semi final action on Saturday, the Tigers lost to Laval 4-15, 6-15, 14-16. The Tigers then met the Volontaires in the bronze medal match. After opening up a two-game lead, 15-10, 15-9, the Tigers lost the next three 9-15, 11-15, 3-15.

Freshman Maureen Sweeney was outstanding for the Tigers, with three stuff blocks, 24 service points and four ace serves.

Veteran Karen Fraser had 54

kills, 20 stuff blocks, 19 service points and three ace serves, while Dal's Sandra Rice played a key role for the Tigers, coming off the bench to start in the bronze medal final. Rice recorded 11 stuff blocks, playing in only two matches.

The Tigers will travel to the University of Moncton this weekend to compete in the two-day Universite de Moncton Invitational.

Hockey Tigers split weekend games

THE DALHOUSIE TIGER men's hockey team split a pair of weekend contests in New Brunswick and as a result now have a record of 7-3.

The Tigers defeated the University of New Brunswick Red Devils 8-5 Friday but lost to the Saint Thomas Tommies 6-3 on Saturday.

Against UNB, Jamie Jefferson, Kevin Quartermain and Terry Crowe all tallied twice to lead the Tigers to victory. Gord Reid and Greg Royce added singles. UNB's five goals came from John Leblanc, David Goodland, Peter Thorne, Bruce Carroll and Mike Kelly.

The Tigers led 5-1 after the first

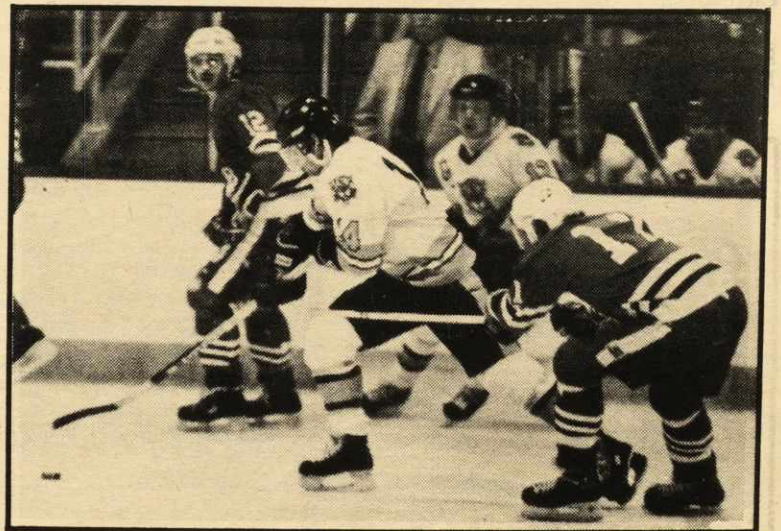


Photo by Sean Forbes, Dal Photo scored twice for the Tommies while singles came from Jim Somers and Phil Huckins. Dalhousie scorers were Kevin Quartermain, Kevin Reynolds and Jerry Scott. Peter Abrie and Terry Wickham played goal for the Tigers and Tommies respectively while Dalhousie outshot the Tommies 44-38. Tommies led after the first period 3-1 and after the second 5-2.

period and 7-3 after the second. Rick Reusse played the entire game for Dalhousie while Kevin Foley replaced Dean Frost after the first period in the UNB goal. Shots on goal were 39-27 in favour of the Tigers.

On Saturday, the Tommies took a commanding 5-1 lead midway through the second period and held on for the 6-3 win. Bob Brown and Steve Adams each

Tigers Sports This Week

Date	Sport	Against	Place	Time
Nov. 28	Basketball (M)	St. F.X.	Away	8 p.m.
Nov. 29	Volleyball (M)	MUN	Home	7 p.
Nov. 30	Volleyball (M)	MUN	Home	1 p.m.
Nov. 30	Swimming	Acadia	Home	2 p.m.
Nov. 30	Hockey	St.F.X.	Away	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 30	Basketball (M)	Acadia	Away	8 p.m.