

Tigers build late season momentum

by Gordie Sutherland

It took two overtime periods, but the Dalhousie Tigers defeated the Acadia Axemen 6-5 to repeat as champions of the General Motors Lobster Pot Hockey Tournament.

Last Wednesday night's game was played in front of a mere 850 fans. The attendance in the spacious Metro Centre resembled a classroom on a Friday afternoon. The fans that were there witnessed an exciting contest between the division's top two teams.

Scott Meek and player of the game George Wilcox each scored twice for the Tigers. Alan Baldwin and Brian Melanson were the other Dalhousie marksmen.

Captain Kelly Kolke spearheaded the Axemen offence with a pair of goals. Steve MacIntyre, Darren Colbourne and Jeff Carter rounded out the Axemen attack.

Acadia led 3-2 after one full period of play. Dalhousie tied the game at 3-3 with a goal early in the second frame. Tiger Mike Griffith picked up a loose puck and wheeled from his own blue-line to create a two-on-one break. Griffith slid a pass to Alan Baldwin, who neatly tucked the puck past Acadia goaltender Chris Churchill. The two teams traded

goals over the next fifteen minutes to end the second period in a 4-4 tie.

The Axemen came out strong in the third period, outshooting the Tigers 7-2. Dalhousie took a 5-4 lead at the 9:11 mark before Acadia came back with the equalizer just under six minutes later. The Axemen had several scoring opportunities over the last five minutes of play, but Pat McGarry stood tall in the Tiger cage. The two teams ended regulation time locked in a 5-5 tie.

Tiger right winger Scott Meek ended the marathon thirteen seconds into the second sudden-death overtime period. Dalhousie defenceman Bill Wiseman made a pass to Scott Anderson, who managed to feed the puck to Meek. The speedy Meek took a low backhand shot that beat a sliding Churchill.

The championship did not count in the league standings, but the Tigers felt the win was important in building late-season momentum. "We have been in every game but tonight we put in a full 65 minutes and 13 seconds," said head coach Darrell Young, obviously delighted with the victory. "Hopefully this is the turning point. From tonight there are two weeks before playoffs and hopefully there are good things to

come."

The Tigers placed three players on the six-spot tournament all-star team. Dalhousie's Scott Anderson joined Acadia's Darren Colbourne and St. Mary's Wayne Morrow to form the all-star forward line. Tiger assistant captain Brian Melanson paired with Acadia's Kevin Stover to claim all-star readguard honours, while Pat McGarry was selected by the media panel as the tournament's top goaltender.

Defenceman Brian Melanson was presented with the tournament's Most Valuable Player Award. Melanson had seven points in Dalhousie's two Lobster Pot games. "What can you say about Brian?" asked teammate Scott Anderson. "He is one of our leaders out there, he has been a leader all year, and he will lead us right into the playoffs."

The Weekend

The Dalhousie players were hoping that last Wednesday's Lobster Pot championship would represent a turning point in the season. Playoffs are just one week away and early indications seem to suggest that the Tigers are indeed beginning to peak.

The Tigers left for Antigonish on Saturday morning for a two-

game road trip and returned Sunday with their first road (games outside of Halifax) points of the season.

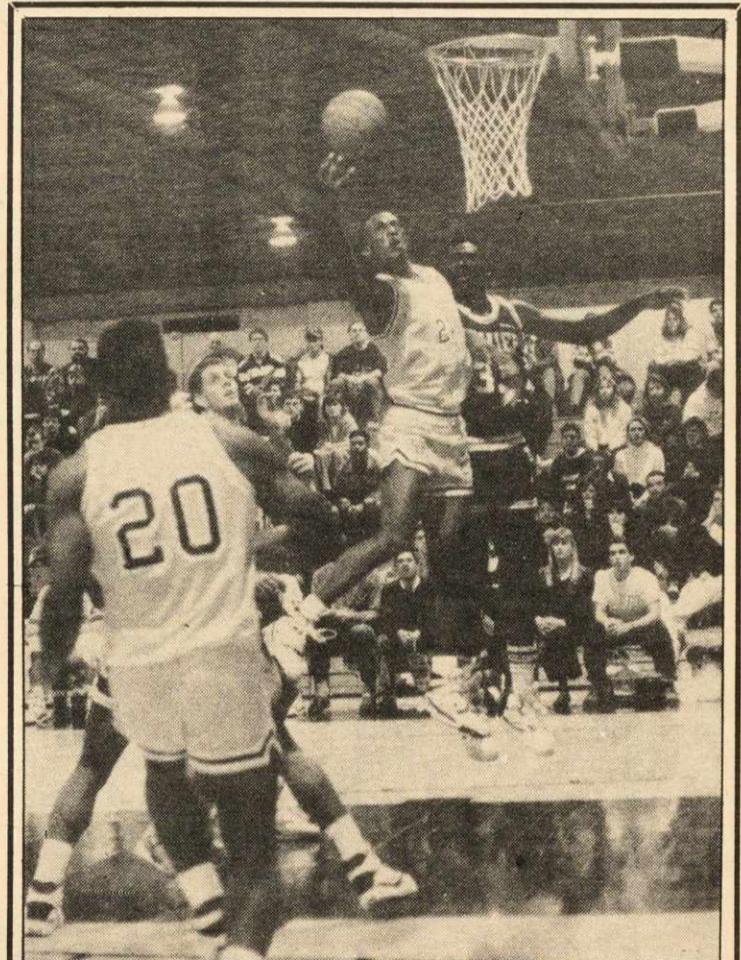
On Saturday night, Kelly Bradley contributed three goals as the Tigers earned a tie with third-place St. F.X. (8-10-1). Derrick Pringle added the other Dalhousie goal.

Ottawa native Ben MacIntosh led the X-Men with a pair, while Steve Pascoe and Allan MacIsaac chipped in one each.

On Sunday the Tigers travelled

to Cape Breton to play the Capers in an afternoon affair. The Black and Gold blasted the last-place Capers 5-0. Cape Breton's record dropped to five wins and 14 losses.

Acadia (15-5-0) has wrapped up first place in the Kelly division with 30 points. The Tigers (9-8-2) are in second place with 20 points, just three points ahead of the X-Men. Dalhousie and St. F.X. both have two games remaining in the regular schedule.



Paul Riley, power forward, goes for hoop as (No. 20) Andrew Meritt waits for the rebound.

photo: Bill Jensen

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Time to start crunching

by Brian Lennox

better on Friday.

The Dal Tigers men's basketball team has been struggling of late. Two weeks ago, the Tigers were 6-3 in conference play, but after three consecutive losses the Tigers are 6-6. The panic button should not be pushed yet. The Tigers remain in excellent position to make the playoffs.

On Friday night, the Tigers will face the number-two ranked team, St. Francis Xavier's X-Men. The game will be held at the Metro Centre as part of an AUAA double-header. Organizers of the double-header expect between 5,000 and 6,000 fans. The last time the Tigers faced the X-Men, they were blown out at the Dalplex 95-64. The Tigers that night were very flat, and there is no question that they will have to play much

The X-Men bring possibly the most balanced team in the country. Two weeks ago they lost the services of point guard Augy Jones, but Danny MacFarland has stepped in as a starter and the X-Men continue to win. For Dalhousie, through, the key will be to stop Wade Smith. Smith, a certain all-Canadian this year, is the key to the X-Men's attack. Dalhousie can match up to the X-Men better than anyone in the AUAA.

With six games left in the regular season, it is down to crunch time. The Tigers have to forget about the recent slump and play the way they are capable of playing. Dalhousie will also be in the action on Sunday against the Acadia Axemen at the Dalplex, which is another critical game.