

Dal Soccer teams make playoffs

AUAA Championships this weekend

BY TERRY HAWES

The Dalhousie men's and women's soccer teams both qualified for the upcoming AUAA Championships this weekend after difficult weekends on the field.

The women failed to clinch home field for the tournament when they tied St. FX 0-0 and fell 1-0 to Acadia in a game that had no playoff implications. The women finished fifth overall and will play UPEI in the first round on Friday in Antigonish.

The men just managed to get in the playoffs after drawing 1-1

continually, but no fewer than five chances were wasted by poor finishing or bad luck.

With 15 minutes left, Kelly Larkin sent Mary Beth Bowie in alone only for her shot to carom off the cross bar. Late in the half, Natalie Lindthaler went down the left side and crossed to a wide open Katherine Fast, but her shot sailed well over the net.

The final whistle was met by screams of delight from the St. FX bench. Xavier coach Kim Hickox never envisioned hosting the AUAA's in her first year behind the bench, but is optimistic nonetheless.

Acadia 1 Dal 0 — In a game that meant little in the standings, Susan Leung scored in the 54th minute to give Acadia (4-9-0) the victory. Karry Mailes picked up the shutout. 1998 marks just the second year since women's soccer became an official AUAA sport in 1987 that the Axettes will miss the playoffs.

Men's Soccer

St FX 1 Dal 0 — The air of disappointment remained at Wickwire Field as the Tigers dropped their third in a row to a St. FX team desperate to keep its playoff hopes alive.

Nathan McCunn scored from 25 yards out in the 55th minute and X goalkeeper Jackie Chisholm shut Dalhousie down the rest of the way to pick up the shutout.

Striker Ed Thomson said the team knew what was on the line.

"Although our chances are remote, we knew Dal was struggling and we came out knowing the consequences if we didn't win," Thomson said.

"The game today and Sunday [at UPEI] are really our playoff games. Since the playoffs are in UPEI, that game will be treated as a playoff game, no doubt about that."

Dal 1 Acadia 1 — Jeff Hibberts scored his eighth goal of the season with 14 minutes left to give the Tigers the draw. Seth Jernigan opened the scoring for Acadia in the 18th minute.

As it turned out, if Dal would have lost the game, they still would have qualified for the AUAA's as St. FX lost 2-0 in Charlottetown against the UPEI Panthers.



photo by Mike Davenport

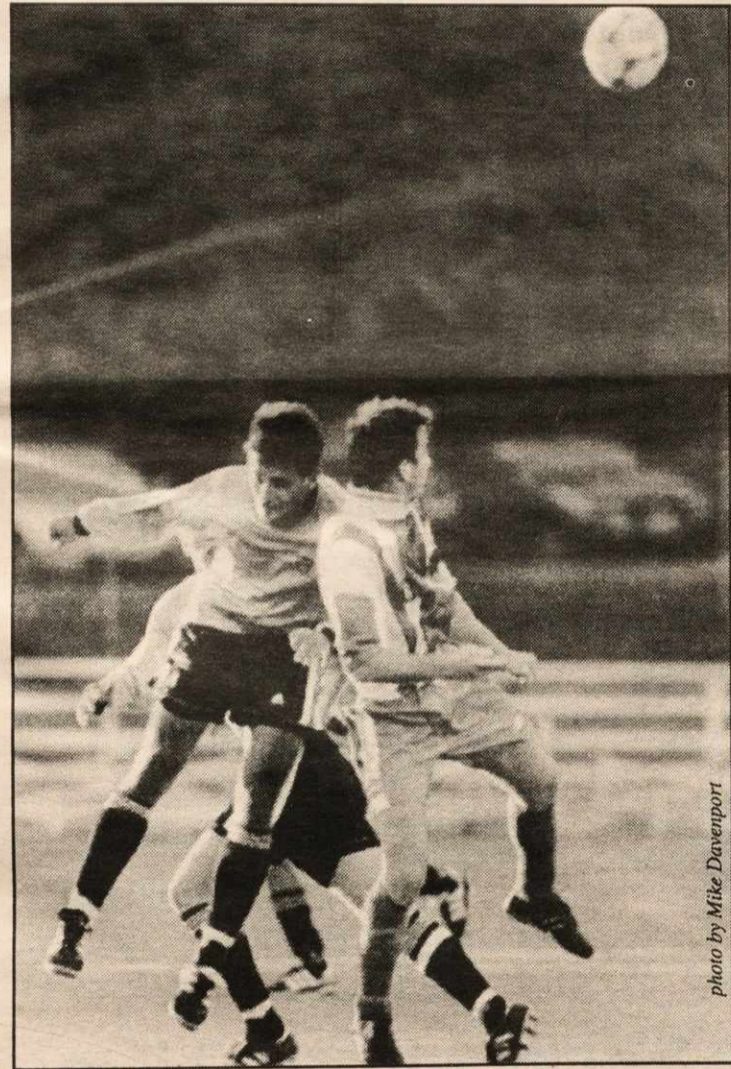


photo by Mike Davenport

with Acadia on Sunday. The Tigers finished fifth overall and will play SMU on Friday in Charlottetown. The teams have played twice this year, with Dal tying 1-1 and losing 1-0 to their crosstown rivals.

Women's Soccer

St. FX 0 Dal 0 — The X-Women clinched home field advantage for the AUAA tournament despite a brave second half effort from the Tigers.

Dalhousie will feel that justice wasn't served as they dominated play throughout the match, keeping the X-Women on the defensive.

The first half was evenly played, with both teams not willing to concede space. As the match moved into the second 45 minutes, it was clear that Xavier were sitting back, hoping to get out of town with a draw. Dalhousie pressed forward

"Realistically, we were hoping to make the playoffs and see what happened," Hickox noted. "However, the last few games we all realized we had a chance to host the AUAA's and the girls really worked hard."

"Now that we have accomplished this feat, we look ahead to the playoffs. Any team can win it but it's nice to see that we have the advantage over everybody else."

Rookie Meredith Cameron agreed that the concentration level will have to increase if the X-Women are to be successful.

"Dal controlled the play in the second half and that's something that just has to be worked on," Cameron said. "I don't feel it was because certain Dal players were 'blowing by us', we just have to concentrate every second and not every minute."

AUAA Soccer Playoffs Schedule

AUAA Men's Tournament (in Charlottetown)	AUAA Women's Tournament (in Antigonish)
October 30 New Brunswick vs Memorial Dalhousie vs Saint Mary's	October 30 Memorial vs Saint Mary's Dalhousie vs UPEI
October 31 Acadia vs lowest seed UPEI vs highest seed	October 31 Mount Allison vs lowest St FX vs highest seed
November 1 AUAA Final	November 1 AUAA Final



photo by Mike Davenport

Despite a lacklustre weekend, Dal's men's soccer team made it into the playoffs.