

Men's soccer sweeps weekend

Dal takes first place in AUAA

BY AMIT BATRA

Three Dal wins this weekend, coupled with Acadia's first loss of the season, moved the Tigers into sole possession of first place.

In the opening 30 seconds of the Tigers' match against the UCCB Capers, Jeff Hibberts walked through the defense, cut the ball back to midfielder Dave MacFarlane who one-timed a shot just wide of the net. This set the tone for the rest of the game.

UCCB was able to hold the Tigers off the board for the first 35 minutes of the game but it was only a matter of time as the Tigers attacked the vulnerable Capers defense in waves. Clearly the struggling Capers had to recruit from other varsity sports this year as Mark Ellis was decked by a rugby player at the 34th minute. One minute later Paul English was able to convert off a sweet ball from Ellis and the floodgates were opened.

Before the half was over a Danny Burns corner kick flicked on by English at the near post was converted by Jeff Hibberts. Sloppy defending allowed Ellis to score a goal in the 44th minute and a curious volleyball bump by the Capers' keeper allowed Hibberts to send Dal up 4-0 before the end of the half. The mark was Hibberts' league-leading seventh goal.

Dalhousie coasted through the second half, even letting UCCB's Jason King take his team's opening (and closing) shot on Dal

netminder Trevor Chisholm from 40 yards out. Despite this heart-wrenching moment, the shutout was never really in doubt.

English rounded out the scoring and notched himself a hat trick as the Tigers dined on the expansion Capers 6-0.

Saturday's game against St. F. X. was much more evenly matched but still not a real challenge for the Tigers. Dal seemed to still be riding in neutral after their game from the night before as the defense at times looked sloppy in clearing the ball. Still the Dal fullbacks (anchored by Marc Rainford) did well to cover for each other and so Dalhousie keeper Mike Hudson was rarely tested.

Offensively, the Tigers were creating good chances by exposing the weaknesses in the X defense. MacFarlane led the midfield by weaving through several players and sending penetrating balls through to the wingers.

Dalhousie began the second half as though the game had never paused and were rewarded for their relentless pressure in the 47th minute when the rookie X goaltender allowed a floater to slip through his hands and was punished by Graeme Allardice who tapped the ball in with his head.

Only three minutes later the X defense took things from bad to worse as a defender missed a Mike Ayyash through-ball, allowing Burns to notch his fourth goal of the year.

Dalhousie continued to press in the second half. The lacklustre Xavier defense responded by putting on a little bit of a wrestling clinic. The Tigers maintained their composure, but when Ellis was injured in the 70th minute, tension began to build. Ayyash plowed on, determined to make the X-men pay, but was decked with a brutal body check (obviously the Capers were not the only team to recruit from other sports.) The match ended in a shoving match with Ayyash being booked with a caution for his part in the incident.

Sunday saw the Tigers play the last game of their three game homestand against the visiting Memorial Seahawks. The Seahawks, who came into the weekend with only one win in six games, were surprisingly Dal's toughest opponent over the weekend. Dal was still able to create chances as Ellis was stopped by an alert MUN netminder making a diving grab in the 16th minute. The pressure continued as Hibberts tried to convert a free kick in the 20th minute.

Unlike the previous two opponents, however, the Seahawks did not just absorb the pressure; they created opportunities of their own. The Tigers did well to hold off the MUN pressure with Chisholm coming off his goal line well to thwart any chances.

Ellis was stopped by the MUN keeper in the 39th minute with a great diving one-handed save.



AARON BLEASDALE

MacFarlane, English, and a still aggressive Ayyash all had golden chances but were unable to score.

Like St. FX, the Seahawks escaped the first half unscathed but were punished early in the second. With Ayyash being tended to on the sideline, substitute Chad Denny came in for fifteen minutes and made his mark — scoring the only goal of the game. Memorial didn't give up but was unable to beat Chisholm who was solid in nets for the Tigers.

The team is preparing for its next game during Homecoming Weekend — October 19th at 3 p.m. as they battle the Acadia

Axemen.

Goaltender Mike Hudson had this to say about the #2 nationally ranked Axemen, "We respect their intensity as a team but we relish the challenge to prove we are the strongest team in the league."

So come out and support your Tigers as they drive for another championship.

And in case you're hungry for more soccer you can watch the National Men's and Women's Senior Club Championships in New Minas and Wolfville this weekend while the AUAA takes a break from regular league play.

Women end scoring drought

BY AARON BLEASDALE

After 360 minutes of play without a goal, the women's soccer team salvaged an important weekend with a 2 goal performance against Memorial on Sunday.

Last weekend, they performed poorly against the league's 8th and 9th teams (UPEI and Mt. Allison), scoring no goals and only getting points for a tie. This weekend's home stand against UCCB, St. FX and MUN was of extreme importance. The team needed a win.

Their game on Friday saw them completely dominate the winless Capers, keeping the ball in the opposition's third all day. But the sure hands and good positioning of UCCB goaltender Deanna MacAulay thwarted the tigers again and again.

Dal netminder Lehanne Turner barely handled the ball, but the team's inability to finish the rush left the Capers "Psyched for a friggin' tie!" in the words of one of their players as they earned their first points of the season.

Against third-ranked St. FX on Saturday, the Tigers looked ready to dominate play again, but an unfortunate mishap very early in the game got things off to a

bad start.

Dal goaltender Roxanne Murphy fumbled the ball as she prepared to punt it clear of the Dalhousie third. The ref awarded the X-Women a questionable indirect free kick from inside the Black and Gold's 18-yard box. They capitalized, and very quickly the score was 1-0 for the bad guys.

Dal continued to pressure but one clean break followed by a crisp pass left Murphy alone against a charging St. FX forward, and going into the half, Dal was behind a seemingly insurmountable two goals.

The second half saw much the same offensive frustration as experienced over the previous three games. Dal looked tentative. Again and again, the girls couldn't go that one extra step and score. As balls bounced harmlessly through the St. FX crease, people were starting to wonder. Was Dalhousie missing some of its scoring punch from last year? Could they put the ball in the goal?

Sunday's game against 5-1-0 Memorial answered some of these doubts.

The team controlled play as usual, but they also used space well and pressured the wings all day. Forward Carolyn Fairbairn

drove swaths of destruction through MUN's defense from her right wing position, setting up many of Dal's good scoring chances.

But in the first half, it was Amy Dunphy that finally broke the scoring drought. Fullback Amy Harding took a corner kick just outside the box and put it on goal where Dunphy headed the shot in.

"Just seeing the ball in the back of the net for the first time in weeks is a really nice feeling", Dunphy said after the game. "We were waiting for the perfect opportunity instead of just shooting."

Forward Sara Rush iced the game in the second half as she one-timed a cross from the right wing into the net.

With the CIAUs coming to town, Dal is assured a spot in the nationals, but Dunphy asserts that, "We don't wanna be there just because we're hosting, we want to earn it."

With the team's play on the final game of an important weekend, the Tigers have given themselves something to build on...two glorious goals.

Cover and Centrespread
photos by Danielle Boudreau

Baseball team finishes first

BY VIVEK TOMAR
AND CARMEN TAM

The Dalhousie Baseball Team captured its second straight regular season title on the strength of a 6-5 win over St. Mary's University on Tuesday.

It all came down to the last regular season game to decide who would finish first.

The game, played Tuesday night, was evenly matched. Both teams had records of 7 wins and 4 losses and were up to the task of trying to win first place. St. Mary's (SMU) scored 2 runs in the 1st inning, but Dal battled back to even the score in the 3rd. In the 4th inning, with the Huskies leading 4-2, Paul Reid beat-out an infield single. A few batters later, shortstop Craig Higgins hit a double, scoring 2 runs to tie the ball game. Shawn Woodworth's 6th inning double to the fence scored 2 more runs. The Tigers took the lead for the first time and held on to win the game.

Jeremy Drumm pitched 4 solid innings, striking out 6. Craig Higgins came in for relief and got the win, pitching 3 innings and striking out 4 SMU batters.

The win puts Dalhousie in good position heading into the playoffs. Head Coach Cecil Wright said, "I am thrilled we won. It is a

big accomplishment to win 2 years in a row. The players worked hard, especially considering the weather we have been playing in."

The Tigers played SMU on Monday night as well, doubling them 8-4. The team's Senior League players were dominant. Fresh from his provincial title win, rightfielder Jason Irvine went 3-4 with 2 singles and a solo home run. First Baseman Scott Sturgeon also went 3-4 with 3 singles and an RBI. Winning pitcher Pat O'Leary went 6 innings, striking out 4 Huskies. Trevor Wamback entered the game in the 7th inning, striking out all the SMU batters he faced.

With a successful regular season under their belt, Dal is looking ahead to this weekend's Atlantic Conference playoffs in Kentville. The fourth annual Fall Classic will be held in Memorial Park from October 11th to the 13th.

The playoffs will decide which team will represent the Maritimes at the Nationals. A solid performance could send Dalhousie on its second straight trip to the Canadian Intercollegiate Baseball Association national playoffs

in St. Catherine's, Ontario. Last season, Dal placed sixth at McGill.

Dalhousie plays its first game Friday at 3 p.m. versus St. Mary's. Wish them good luck!