

SPORTS

Tigers slam Huskies, head for finals

BY DEREK NEARY

The Dalhousie Tiger's hockey club is on its way to the Kelly Division finals after an uphill triumph over the St. Mary's Huskies. The Tigers took two out of three games from their formidable crosstown opponents to advance to second round action.

The best of three series began over a week ago at St. Mary's. In the opening game, the Tigers allowed the Huskies to claw their way back into the game after trailing 5-1. The contest ended up in overtime where Craig Teeple scored the winner to lead St. Mary's to the 6-5 upset victory.

Keifer House, Greg Smyth, Joe Suk, Mike Griffith, and Corey MacIntyre each contributed a goal for the Dal squad.

Saturday evening saw the rivals move into Tiger territory where a capacity crowd was on hand to watch the home team force a third game.

Dal got on the board first when Ken MacDermid poked a Greg Smyth rebound under the unsuspecting St. Mary's netminder, Jamie McGuire, who was outstanding in the opening period.

At the first intermission the score remained 1-0 in favor of the Tigers.

It didn't take the Huskies long to even things up in the second period — 1:14 to be exact. Tim Gilligan's low blast from inside the blue line made it a 1-1 game. Dal quickly regained the lead as George Wilcox

scored on a feed from Kevin Meisner less than two minutes later.

The Tigers never looked back at this point. The home team opened up a two goal lead when Trent Gleason converted on a set-up from Wilcox.

Dal did open the door for St. Mary's late in the second frame when they were hampered by a number of penalties, but goaltender Pat McGarry repeatedly bailed them out with a string of incredible saves. McGarry established his presence throughout the rest of the game and went on to earn Player of the Game honours, turning aside 34 of 35 shots.

Leading 3-1 in the final period, Wilcox stole the puck and notched a short-handed tally after a mere 27 seconds had expired on the clock.

Rearguard Kevin Meisner then jumped on the offensive bandwagon, firing a bullet which lodged just under the crossbar at 7:39 to make the final score 5-1.

The Tiger win set the stage for the third and final meeting on Sunday evening, and the Dal squad were well prepared in this "winner take all" affair.

The Tiger powerplay went to work early and they made the most of the opportunity as MacDermid opened the scoring just over three minutes into the game. The next goal came at 18:13 when Kelly Bradley beat the Huskies's goalkeeper on a centering pass from George Wilcox who was streaking down the left wing.

Sparked by the goal, the home



team ignited the red light again 29 seconds later on a tally by House, and held a solid 3-0 lead after one period.

The Dal troops continued to roll on the second frame as House and Bradley each netted their second goals of the game while MacIntyre, Scott Milroy and Greg Smyth added additional markers to put the Tigers on top 8-0.

St. Mary's finally got on the board at 5:57 of the third period as Dave Brooks spoiled McGarry's shutout bid.

The final goal of the game came off the stick of Gord Reid to lift the

Tigers to a convincing 9-1 victory.

George Wilcox picked up five assists and was awarded Player of the Game honours.

"We played a very solid game and worked hard on both sides of the puck," stated Dal head coach Darrell Young. "We showed great discipline tonight."

The Tigers did take fewer penalties and clearly turned in their best performance of the series, and Young knows his team is going to have to play the same way to defeat the Acadia Axemen in the next series.

The coach contended, "We have

to play intelligently, avoid the unnecessary penalties, play physical and set the tone."

It sounds like a tall order but the Tigers proved they were capable of all these things against the Huskies.

The best of three Kelly Division final will have started Wednesday at Dalhousie and winds up Saturday, Feb. 29 and Sunday, March 1 (if necessary) in Wolfville.

The MacAdam Division finals will be decided between the UNB Red Devils and the UPEI Panthers.

9-7 record not enough to make the playoffs



BY KEN HWANG

The Dalhousie women's basketball team may have had a slow start to their season, but surprised their opponents in the new year by winning 8 of their last 12 games, including four road victories. The Tigers had a very tough schedule in February, playing eight games in 16 days.

The Tigers split their double-header at Memorial University, on the weekend of Feb. 8. On Saturday, both teams shot below 40 per cent from the field, but the Sea-Hawks had a significantly higher shooting percentage from the free-throw line and held on to win 72-68. Jennifer Clark scored 30 points for Dal, and Libby Curry led the Tigers with 11 rebounds.

On Sunday, the Sea-Hawks led 39-26 at the half but could not secure a victory. The Tigers outscored Memorial 38-25 in the second half, and dominated the overtime period. The Sea-Hawks shot below 30 per cent from the field, and only 50 per

cent from the line. Jennifer Clark shot 87 per cent from the free-throw line, and led the Tigers with 24 points. Both Angie McLeod and Libby Curry had 8 rebounds.

The Tigers next hosted Acadia at Dalplex on Feb. 12. After just twelve minutes, Acadia led 24-6. The Tigers stormed back in the last eight minutes, outscoring the Axettes 20-4. Early in the second half, Sarah MacDonald's layup gave the Tigers their first lead of the game, 33-32. MacDonald went on to score another 10 points in the half, and the Tigers won the game 52-50.

The victory was the Tigers' fifth in their last six games. "The shots weren't falling for us in the beginning, but we overcame the frustration and started to play tougher defense. The whole team showed a lot of character," said Tanya Fader.

On Feb. 15, the Tigers travelled to Sydney to play the Capers. Dal led 33-24 at the half, and cruised to a 78-47 victory. The Capers had only nine players on their roster, and starting

guard Lee-Anne MacDonald was injured in the first half.

Jackie Hebert led the Tigers with 18 points, while Jennifer Clark had 15 points and Angie McLeod scored 10 points and led the team with 6 rebounds.

"We adjusted our defense, cut off the baseline, and forced them to shoot from the perimeter," said assistant coach Kevin Hayden. "At the same time, our perimeter offense started performing, forcing their post players to come up. Losing MacDonald hurt their team. She is their leader on the court, and she's one of their better shooters."

The Tigers travelled directly to Fredericton from Cape Breton. Dal led 30-29 at the half, but UNB came back to win the game 66-56. The Red Bloomers shot 46 per cent from the field, and out-rebounded the Tigers 37-24.

Jennifer Hale and Laura Swift each scored 16 points for UNB, and Kara Palmer led the Bloomers with 15

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

The Dal Gazette needs people to write photo cutlines.

DAL PHOTO: MARIA PATRIQUIN