

The Tiger hockey roll on a whisker

by Gordie Sutherland

The Dalhousie hockey team came within a Tiger's whisker of winning all three of their games last week.

Dal 6, SMU 3

Dalhousie's first game of the week ended on a high note with the team winning their first 'road' game of the season.

The first period ended in a 1-1 tie but Dalhousie scored the only goals of the second period to open up a 3-1 lead. The Tigers added three more before the Huskies battled back with a pair late in the game.

Winger Craig Morrison scored twice to lead a potent Tiger offence which fired 34 shots at Huskie goaltender Marc LeBlanc. Morrison had six points in Dal's previous game against the St. Thomas Tommies. Tiger head coach Darrell Young compared Morrison to football quarterback Joe Montana. "When you watch football, Joe Montana comes through with the big plays when you need them. He leads by example. Craig is like a Joe Montana type of player," said Young.

Other Tiger scorers included Alan Baldwin, Brian Melanson, Wade MacNeil and Mike Griffith.

Jon Fargo, Don Pitre and John Gladiator replied for the last-place Huskies.

The game between the two rival schools provided some intense action. Referee Dave Stone called several penalties during the highly spirited affair. Coach Young, a former Tiger player, said, "The players' faces have changed, the coaches' faces have changed, but the schools haven't changed. It is still a love-hate relationships between Dal and St. Mary's."

The turning point in the contest came at 17:26 of the second period, when Mike Griffith notched his fifth power-play goal of the season. Griffith's marker gave the Tigers a two-goal lead.

Special teams were a big factor in the game, as each club scored twice with the man advantage. Dalhousie was 2-6 in the power-play department.

Dalhousie goaltender Pat McGarry made 27 saves to back-stop the Tiger victory.

Dal 3, UCCB 1

On Friday night, the University College of Cape Breton Capers came out flat and the Tigers capitalized with two goals in the first period of play.

The game was played before a quiet crowd of about 500. The Tigers outshot their guests 31-29.

Dalhousie was all over the Capers for the first ten minutes of the game. Alan Baldwin registered on the scoresheet first with a goal at 1:09 of the opening frame. Baldwin came racing across the Caper blueline to glove down the puck on a Cape Breton clearing attempt. He then released a quick cross-ice pass that redirected off a Caper skate and into the net.

Just over six minutes later, Tiger Wade MacNeil wheeled into the Cape zone before dropping a pass back to Greg MacIntyre, who was positioned just inside the blueline. MacIntyre took a hard slapshot that went between the legs of goaltender Darren Nixon.

Dalhousie upped the score to 3-0 at 3:06 of the third period. Nixon gave up a big rebound on a shot by Craig Morrison. Mike Griffith came flying down the wing and one-timed a bullet that found the top left hand corner of the Caper net.

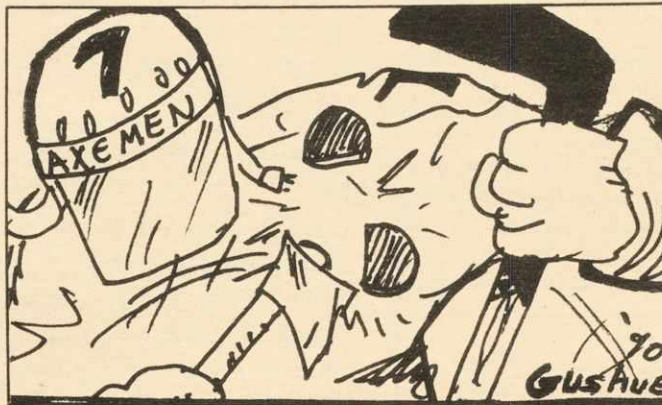
Tiger netminder Pat McGarry

was named player of the game. The Ottawa native stopped 13 shots in a busy third period. "I thought I played pretty good," understated McGarry. "It was tough in the third period with only four shots, but I stayed in

evening.

St. FX 5, Dal 4

Dalhousie was ahead for much of the contest, but in the end the X-Men handed the Tigers their second home loss of the season.



there mentally so I didn't find it too bad."

McGarry's shutout bid was ruined with less than two minutes remaining in the game. Cape Breton's scoring leader Bruce Campbell picked up the loose puck and took a weak shot from about fifteen feet out. The puck rolled on its edge and eyed its way through the pads of McGarry.

Tiger forward Wade MacNeil played one of his best games of the season. The inspired MacNeil collected a pair of assists on the

Peter Dermastza paced the X-Men with a goal and two assists. Former Buffalo Sabres draft pick Alan MacIsaac scored a single for St. FX. Craig Benning, Ben MacIntosh and Jeff Boucher rounded out the X-Men offence.

For Dalhousie, Scott Meek scored his first two goals of the season, while George Wilcox and Scott Anderson added one apiece.

The score was close throughout the game, and Coach Young thought the Tigers had ample opportunity to win. "It was a

game where the momentum swayed back and forth, but territorially we outplayed them in the first and in the third," he said. "When you outshoot a team 32-18 you expect to win."

Although Dalhousie netminder Pat McGarry only stopped thirteen of the eighteen shots, it was not a case of weak goaltending. Coach Young, a former Canada Games goaltender, explained the situation. "We broke down into a zone coverage and we left McGarry all by himself. He can't do anything about that. Of the eighteen shots, he probably made ten big saves.

The game was Dalhousie's third in four nights, and clearly fatigue was becoming a factor. The Tigers, who have played fewer games than any other team in the league, have never played so many games in such a short span.

Dalhousie now sits in second place, four points behind the Acadia Axemen. The Tigers have two games in hand against the first-place Axemen. The surging X-Men have played one game more than Dalhousie and trail the Tigers by two points.

The Tigers play two games on the road before returning home to play St. FX on January 31.

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Students (CFS), also spoke at the news conference. Morris said, "Dalhousie is usually a leader in tuition fee increases", and concluded Dalhousie students could be the most affected by the administration's announcement that tuition fees at Dalhousie will be 110 per cent of the Nova Scotia average.

Morris said the maximum student loan in Nova Scotia is \$5360 and at the same time the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission has estimated that it now costs \$7000 to attend university for one year. Responding to the administration's proposal of increasing student loans and bursaries, Morris said, "the elitism we are trying to get rid of is still going to exist. If there are students from lower income groups who can't come (to Dalhousie)

because of financial constraints, your education is hurt."


The press conference was followed by an open question period. The number and diversity of questions coming from students suggests there is still much confusion about the proposed hikes. Responding to a question about a DSU counter-proposal to the administration, Shannon said, "we are not entirely against tuition fee increases", adding that they should rise according to the consumer price index to meet inflation.

In response to a statement made by a student that if there is an increase in student aid there is no need to worry about accessibility, Shannon said, "no study shows that aid helps accessibility... to the contrary, loans and bursaries seem to help middle-income students more."



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