

SPORTS

Women's soccer headed to Quebec for CIAUs

BY RACHEL JONES

Not even the dismal, wet New Brunswick weather could douse the jubilation of Dalhousie's women's soccer team as the referee's whistle signalled a 4-1 victory over the Memorial Sea-Hawks, the 1997 AUSA crown, and the right to represent the AUAA at the CIAU championships next weekend in Laval, Quebec. Parents of Dalhousie players and fans who had braved the weather to travel to UNB and watch the final on Sunday were compensated, as the Dalhousie Tigers battled to a well-fought, well-executed and well-earned victory.

Dal's first goal came early in the first half from a corner kick headed in by Tiger veteran Amy Harding, with yet another key goal for the Tigers.

"I think we came out a little flat," said Kelly Larkin, another veteran who played an outstanding game in the midfield, "but we picked it up into the middle of the first half, after we scored the first goal. I think that gave us some steam."

Moments into the second half, another header that found the mesh, this time from rookie Julie Pigozzo. And then again came the Tigers — a third goal with Larkin connecting beautifully off a cross curled to the far post by Natalie Lindthaler, who played her usual strong role on Dal's right wing.

The Tigers continued to dominate the second half, with only a sprinkling of Memorial plays making it into Dalhousie's defensive end. But the Tigers refused to let up the pressure, and Mary-Beth Bowie's constant encroachment into the Memorial 18-yard box eventually paid off, as she worked her way in, took on the defenders and fired the ball low and into the corner of the net, for the Tigers' fourth.

"We knew that MUN was going to battle and that Acadia was going to battle regardless of what the score was," said Coach Dara Moore. "We came off our victory yesterday [3-0 against Acadia] and came prepared to play. I think the players have a lot of heart and

they came out and fought hard."

"We came out and set the tone like we said we wanted to," says Bowie. "It's always harder when the ground's wet and [the ball] is skipping. You come to the ball and you've got to be a little more careful on where your first touch is. So it takes a bit more time and, with a team

like this, that's right on you and going to hit hard, you just have to make sure, you can't panic, maybe put your first touch into space rather than bringing it right down in front of you."

"We had possession for the most part of the game and we controlled the ball, got it out of our feet, put the ball back to our

midfielders and finished on our opportunities," reflects Pigozzo. "It's a great feeling, really good."

As for their next challenge, competing at the CIAU Championships, the players seem excited, a little apprehensive of the new experience, but definitely

confident in their abilities and in their team.

"We worked hard all year and hopefully we'll be able to represent the conference well," said Larkin.

"I've never seen the other teams really," admits Bowie, "but I feel we handled this conference pretty well. Just as long as we work hard, I think we're going to be as competitive as anyone else."

"There's some really strong teams, particularly from the Quebec conference, but I think we have a really good team and if we go and we are prepared to play, I think the Championship is there for the taking," predicts Ontario native Pigozzo.

AUAA All-Star honours were awarded to midfielders Amy Gillespie and Amy Harding. Dalhousie also captured Rookie of the Year accolades for goal-scoring machine Mary-Beth Bowie.



Photo by Rachel Jones

Dal men take AUAA soccer title

BY KATHLEEN MATTHEWS

All of those doubters who wondered if Dal would make the final cut have been silenced this weekend, as Dal won their second men's AUAA soccer title in three years. Dal had an impressive weekend, trouncing Memorial 5-1 Friday, UPEI 2-0 Saturday, and St.FX 2-1 in overtime in Sunday's final. At the end of it all, Dal had the AUAA soccer title and three AUAA All-Stars to their credit.

Dal started off the AUSA playoffs Friday in Antigonish with a 5-1 romping of Memorial University (MUN) in quarter-final action. The game would prove to be another physical match-up, just as when the teams met during the regular season.

Dal began the offensive onslaught with a goal by Paul English at the five-minute mark of the opening half. Joey Fraelic would add another to round out the half with Dal up 2-1. Dal got another opportunity when MUN was called for a take-down in the box at the opening of the second half. Stuart Cochran was successful, scoring Dal's third off the penalty shot. Minutes later, Emmanuel Gaopotlake scored Dal's fourth and Cochran the fifth as Dal ran away with the game.

The physical match against MUN

was nothing compared to Saturday's brawl with the UPEI Panthers in semi-final action. Dal took the game 2-0.

Dal was up 1-0 for most of the game thanks to a goal by Richie Tobin. However, things got ugly in the second half. The UPEI keeper was given a red card for intentional ball-handling outside the box on a sure-fire scoring opportunity for Dal. Minutes later, another red card, as UPEI's team captain was called for an illegal tackle. In anger, a teammate hit a Dal player, resulting in more violence. Three more Panthers were carded for violence and the use of foul language towards the officials. In total six Panthers were ejected while Dal received no cards.

Tobin responded with his second goal, netting one in the final minute of the game. Dal won the contest 2-0 to move on to the final against St.FX on Sunday. The conduct of the UPEI players will be investigated, most likely after CIAUs, by the AUSA with the possibility of disciplinary action.

Dal beat their season-long rivals, St.FX, 2-0 in overtime to take the AUAA soccer title on Sunday. Losing once and tying another, Dal was behind St.FX in points the whole season, but the Tigers were not about to let them take this one.

"Over the weekend, especially Sunday's game, we showed our true colours," says Tobin. "We played with one hundred per cent heart and intensity. It was a great effort by all."

There was no score during regulation play, but this did not discourage Dal from coming up with a couple of "world class" goals in double overtime.

"During the season, Ian [Kent] focused a lot on fitness," says Tobin. "I think this played a large part in us scoring two goals in double overtime."

Cochran got his third goal of the weekend with a shot in the upper right corner at the fifteen-minute mark, and Fraelic got another with a diving header near the end of overtime. The score could have been higher if it wasn't for the excellent play of St.FX keeper Jackie Chisholm, and some missed scoring opportunities in the dying minutes of regulation time.

"Generally, we carried the game but their keeper played extremely well," says coach Kent. "They had chances as well, but we kept them scoreless and in overtime the team pulled together and came up with two world class goals by Stuart Cochran and Joey Fraelic."

"The whole team stood out and that's what you want. They found the

will to win and with that you can win anything."

With Sunday's victory, Grant Spence registered his second shutout of the playoffs. The only negative note is the loss of Dal's Dave McFarlane to a knee injury. He may not play during Nationals.

Once again, Dal saw its players awarded All-Star honours for 1997. Midfielder Tomas Ernst was awarded AUAA Rookie of the Year, while midfielder Paul English and defender Mark Rainford were named to the AUAA All-Star team for the third consecutive year.


Dal carries great momentum into this weekend's CIAU Championship. If the Tigers continue to play with the same skill and energy used to win AUAA's, fans can expect further success to come their way.

"We need to carry that intensity into the weekend," says Tobin. "Now we know we have it in us to play well the whole game."


"We wanted to prove to the Conference that we were the best team, that we deserve to be in the National championships," says Kent. "Being handed a spot on a silver platter meant nothing to us, we showed it this weekend."

"If we can take that will to win to Nationals then we have as good a shot as anyone in the tournament."


AUAA ALL-STARS




ANDREA GILLESPIE




AMY HARDING




MARY-BETH BOWIE
AUAA ROOKIE OF
THE YEAR



MARC RAINFORD



PAUL ENGLISH



TOMAS ERNST
AUAA ROOKIE OF
THE YEAR