

Basketball tigers make good initial showing

by Rob Cohn

Last Wednesday night the Dalhousie Varsity Basketball Tigers played their first game in what was to be a six game stretch in a period of five days.

The Budget Rent-a-Car Raiders, featuring players of yesteryear such as Mickey Fox, Doc Ryan, and Bob Fagan, managed to best the Tigers 99-84 in a closely matched scrimmage. Alastair Macdonald was high scorer for the home squad with 16, while Phil Howlett added 14, Pat Slawter 12, and John Macdonald 10. The Tigers showed promise, especially in the fourth quarter when they outscored the Raiders by a 24 to 4 margin.

On Thursday morning the Dal squad boarded a plane for Ottawa where that night they played the Ottawa Selects, a local Senior team. Dal's assistant coach, John Cassidy, played for the Select team for nostalgia sake (Ottawa is his home town). The Tigers came out flat in the first half and went to the dressing room at halftime down by 14, 48-34. Doc Ryan's charges came out shooting in the second half and fought back to take a 78-74 victory.

Phil Howlett had 21 for the Tigers, while Alastair Macdonald added 14 and John Macdonald (no relation) 12. Bill Coveney scored 13 for the Selects, while Dave Schuthe and John Cassidy each added 12.

On Friday night the Tigers played their opening game in the Ottawa University Tip-off Tournament against Sir Wilfred Laurier University. The Black and Gold put ten players on the scoreboard in the first half while building a 33-30 halftime lead.

In the second half Alastair Macdonald took control for the Tigers, and aided by two clutch hoops by John Macdonald, managed a 73-72 win. Alastair Macdonald scored 20 for the victors. Kenny Russell added 12 and Phil Howlett 10. Leon Arendse had 24 for the Golden Hawks.

Saturday proved to be a day of misfortune for the Dal team as they dropped two games.

The first was to eventual tournament winner, Brock Badgers, by a 65-45 margin. From the opening tap both teams had trouble scoring and midway through the first half Brock lead by a 13-4 margin. The Tigers then began to claw their way back and managed to go into the dressing room tied at 21-21.

The first five minutes of the second half spelled defeat for the Tigers as Brock took a 37-24 lead and never looked back. Alastair Macdonald was high scorer for Dal with 15, Roger Jones added 10 and Phil Howlett 9.

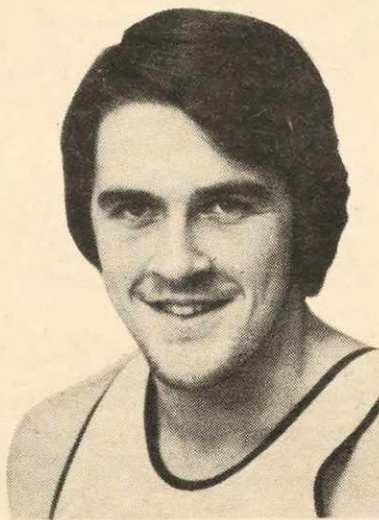
That night the Tigers came up against an inspired Ottawa University team that came out shooting. Dal shot back and took a 41-38 lead into the dressing room at halftime. In the second half the Gees Gees came out running and ran up an 89-76 score that shocked the visitors. Alastair Macdonald was once again high scorer for the Tigers with 17, while John Macdonald added

16, Phil Howlett 12, and Roger Jones 9. Once again ten scorers figured in the Tiger attack. Steve Huck lead the way for Ottawa with 22.

The Tigers then flew back to Halifax on Sunday to take on the Husson Braves of Maine in an evening contest in the Studley Fieldhouse. The Tigers were obviously feeling the effects of the road trip as the Braves ran up a 60-41 halftime lead.

The Dal squad ran into trouble early in the first half when seven minutes into the game Alastair Macdonald twisted his ankle. At this point the Tigers were leading by 4. By the time he could return to the game Husson had run up a 14 point lead. In the second half the home squad outscored their American visitors 35-34 to take a 94-76 loss. 10 Tigers again contributed to the Dalhousie attack, lead by Phil Howlett who scored 19. John Macdonald added 12 and Eric Haughn 10. Ernie Burchill was high scorer for the Braves with 23.

After the game Husson Coach Bruce Macgregor said "I am impressed with their



John Macdonald

shooting (64%) and they caused us a lot of problems, especially when the offense was set properly. They tried to run with us which caused turnovers and cost them the game.

"I see a team that plays with desire and they have a good year ahead of them."

Coach Ryan agreed that running with them may have cost the game. "Over the six

games we had some surprises. I was disappointed at not winning the Ottawa tournament, but some good things happened on the court.

"John Macdonald played exceptionally well and Roger Jones is playing better every day. Kenny Russell also was a big help.

"We have a good team that is going to be a force within the conference, the playoffs are not out of sight."

The Tigers overall did have a good road trip, ending up with a 2-2 record. What is more important, if they are to survive the tough AUAA schedule, is that they are playing as a unit and their confidence and desire has begun to emerge.

The key to this has been the play of the forwards. 6'4" John Macdonald and 6'4" Roger Jones have both come alive offensively and are beginning to pile up the points as well as pull in the rebounds.

In the backcourt the inexperience of the guards is showing. Alastair Macdonald has been the only consistent performer. The absence of

promising freshman Larry Gaudet (6'0") does not help. Gaudet has a cracked bone in his finger and could be out for another three weeks. The trip was a success in that it provided CIAU calibre competition for the freshmen. Coach Ryan played 11 men all game, every game.

Around the league both Acadia and St. F.X. won their own tournaments. Acadia had an easy time as their strongest competition came from Mt. A., while X had to deal with SMU who they defeated by 6, 85-79.

As more information piles in, it looks as though X may be the team to beat. They are lead by a pair of freshmen from the Big Apple.

Closer to home, the Tigers take on Athletes in Action Canada on Monday night in the Dalplex. Tickets are only one dollar for Dal students so be there to cheer on your Tigers. Last week AIA Canada lost to the Yugoslavian National Team by three. The Yugoslavs were silver medalists at the Montreal Olympics. You won't want to miss this one.

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For recipe booklet write: Tia Maria (S), P.O. Box 308, Station B, Montreal, Quebec H3B 3J7