

SPORTS

Overtime

By JOANN SHERWOOD

de Wit an Anomoly

Rod Proudfoot, business manager of de Wit Enterprises, stretches his long legs out in front of him during what appears to be a rare break in the regimen of organizing a professional boxing card which Proudfoot predicts will be "the best fight card here in six years."

The phone at fight headquarters in the Hotel Nova Scotian rang frequently Monday once it was announced that Willie de Wit was in Los Angeles recovering from a bout with the flu. As a result, Monday's scheduled fight between de Wit and Lower Sackville's Cedric Parsons for the Canadian heavyweight title had to be postponed a week. There were some tense moments because of the delay. As Proudfoot explains, "Boxing is a one on one sport and this could have jeopardized the whole card but luckily everything is still intact."

De Wit, who will now be arriving in town early next week, resumed light workouts on Tuesday and Proudfoot expects him to recover his strength quickly: "Willie is very strong. He goes through about 4500 calories of exertion a day and has to eat a lot to maintain his strength."

Outside of his awesome conditioning, which Proudfoot feels ranks Willie associates in the top five per cent of fittest boxers. De Wit is attracting interest outside the traditional boxing circles because of his boy-next-door image. Successful boxers are often viewed as having to be Black, street-wise, and unschooled but Willie defies this concept. He hails from a close-knit, well-off white Canadian family. He was planning to attend the University of Alberta on a football scholarship and study law when he discovered boxing. He knew right away that he wanted to be world champion.

"Willie's belief in himself and his determination is an asset to

him," observes Proudfoot. "He fights because he loves the sport and the money is not most important."

Proudfoot likens Willie's impact on the boxing community to that of "a Black Wayne Gretzky from Alabama who started playing hockey at 15. The odds were against him in the beginning."

According to Proudfoot's estimate, boxing is a sport in which 95 per cent of boxers don't make enough money to live on. De Wit has been extremely successful so far and is expected to be the first or second live boxing drawing card this year in North America. By having his own corporation, de Wit and his associates feel they can better control his career and revenue.

Despite criticism that has frequently surfaced in the media, both de Wit and Proudfoot are happy with their pace and feel that he (Willie) has learned a lot and improved as a pro. Criticism has been directed towards management changes and a lack of challenging opponents in his early pro fights. Proudfoot observes that, "boxing in the late 80's is undergoing a tremendous resurgence. The dinosaurs are being forced out as the young turks take over."

The electricity of the boxing scene and Willie's easygoing attitude is attracting "untraditional" fans like women, Yuppies, and university students to his fights. Proudfoot's goal in this area of the country is to recruit fans who will continue to support Willie in his quest for the world heavyweight championship belt.

The Monday, October 10 card at the Metro Centre promises to be an excellent opportunity to view world-class boxing action along with a strong undercard featuring local talent. Sites and dates of public sparing sessions between de Wit and Parsons will be announced later this week.



Tiger's Number 4, Martin Bouliane, former national team member, eyes the goal in Sunday's game against UPEI. The Tigers lost to the Panthers 5-2. Photo by Sean Forbes.

Tigers Split Weekend Games

By CRAIG MUNROE

THE HOCKEY TIGERS OPENED the AUAA regular season last weekend (Oct. 25&26) with a pair of games at Dalhousie Arena. On Saturday, the Tigers downed the University of New Brunswick 7-2. On Sunday afternoon, the home team was defeated by the UPEI Panthers 5-2.

Cheered on by a boisterous crowd, the Tigers jumped into an early lead against New Brunswick in their season opener Saturday. From the opening face-off the puck was fired deep into the UNB zone. Red Devil goaltender, Steve Dattersall cleared the puck around the boards where Tiger defenceman Brian Melanson, was waiting to sweep the puck past the out of position goaltender. The Tigers had the best of the first period but were unable to score again despite their aggressive play. With only 16 seconds left in the first period Tiger Phil Priddle clashed with the Red Devil's Mike Sutherland. The two had to be pried apart by both linesmen and each player received a game misconduct. Priddle, not known as a "policeman", got an extra two minutes for instigating the fight.

Dalhousie came out flying in the second period with two early goals. Derrick Pringle and Paul Herron scored within two minutes of each other to put the Tigers ahead 3-0. New Brunswick finally hit the scoreboard late in the second period with a goal from Bruce Carroll. The Tigers exploded in the third period with two goals from Kevin Quartermain and singles from Whitney Richardson and Gord Reid. Ed Trail scored New Brunswick's second goal late in the third to make the final score 7-2. The

Game Stars were Dalhousie's Gord Reid and UNB's Dave Goodland.

The Dal/UPEI contest had all the makings for an intense and exciting battle as it was the first meeting between the two teams since last year's AUAA semifinals. In last year's playoff the Tigers upset the Panthers two games to one in the best of three playoff series.

Sunday's game started where last year left off, but after two well played and fast paced periods, in which the scored was tied at one, the Tiger's forwards stopped skating. Three straight third period Panther goals foiled the Tiger hopes of winning their second game in as many days.

Randy Muttart gave the Panther's the lead at 12:56 of the first period. Craig Morrison tied the game with a powerplay at 5:08 of the second period. The Tiger's AUAA Player of the Game, Greg Royce, was awarded a penalty shot at 19:59 of the first period but his attempt to fire a wrist shot between UPEI goaltender Rob Brown's pads was off target and hit Brown's pads. The Panthers took a 2-1 lead at 1:46 of the third period on Randy Muttart's second goal of the game. The Tigers tied the score at two just 17 seconds later, when freshman Martin Bouliane released a weak slapshot from just inside the blueline that fooled Brown. UPEI's Steve Fluton netted what proved to be the game winner at 4:15 of the third period on a Panther powerplay. The Panther's Dean Cullen put the Panther squad ahead 4-2 at 6:35 and Ron Carragher, UPEI's AUAA player of the game, scored, the final goal at 10:52.

Although the Tigers were only outshot 12-8 in the final period the Panthers controlled the final twenty minutes of play as the

Tiger forwards seemed to be standing still. This reversal surprised the 400 spectators who had enjoyed the fast paced, hard hitting opening forty minutes. "We were not ready (for UPEI)," said Tiger's head coach Darrel Young. "We should have been able to wear them down. They had to travel this weekend." The Panthers had played at Acadia on Saturday evening. Young also said that the Tiger's faceoff alignment system broke down and this resulted in three of the five Panther goals.

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