

Soccer Tigers repeat as Champs

by John Manley

The Dalhousie Tigers Soccer Team have won the Atlantic Championship for the fourth consecutive year. They retained the AUAA title with a 3-2 victory over UNB last weekend.

After completing an undefeated season in regular play, Dal advanced to the Championship play-offs in Fredericton as firm favorites. In their semi-final game, the Tigers defeated Mount Allison 2-0 in a hard fought encounter. Dalhousie dominated the early stages, with Hill missing an easy scoring chance. However, a corner kick by Coleman was stabbed home by Macdonald, after a Doyle shot had been blocked. Dalhousie began to mount an overwhelming attack, and it came as no surprise when AUAA

leading scorer Dave Riddell rose like a salmon to head home a corner by Hill.

In the second half, Dalhousie eased off and the enthusiastic Mounties tried vainly for a goal. Good defensive work, particularly by Warren and Dahn, held the Mounties at bay, and the game ended 2-0.

In the other semi-final, the much fancied home team UNB defeated a lethargic Memorial squad 4-3 in a very exciting tussle.

The final game between UNB and Dalhousie took place on Sunday in perfect conditions in front of a large partisan home crowd. Both teams started cautiously, with Dalhousie forcing two early corners which came to nothing. With Graham and Doyle blotting out the UNB striking

power the battle was fought in midfield. Vickery had an off-day and UNB gained a lot of possession in this part of the field. At half-time, the fascinating struggle remained 0-0.

After the half both teams strived for a goal, and the defences continued to dominate. At one end, a shot by Primeau was saved by Dalhousie goalkeeper Forbes, while at the other, Hill and Riddell both squandered scoring opportunities. As time ticked away, the uninviting prospect of extra time seemed the only outcome possible. Neither team dominated and both looked strong. After 90 minutes the game ended and 30 minutes overtime was to follow.

The game continued in the same mould as regulation time, although UNB was feeling the effect of a hard, gruelling game more so than Dalhousie. Riddell had good opportunities to score, and UNB break-aways were foiled by Dalhousie's solid defence. The extra time period failed to produce a winner and unfortunately, the biggest game of the year had to be decided by penalty kicks.

UNB scored their first, and

Vickery missed for Dalhousie. UNB missed the second and third, while Dal's Hill and Hill scored. The crowd was now all around the field and excitement ran at fever pitch. UNB scored on their fourth, and Coleman converted Dal's fourth. The score was now 3-2, and Dal had only to score their final penalty to win. Fortunately for Rick Warren, the last Dal penalty did not have to be taken, as UNB's fifth penalty was brilliantly saved by Forbes, and Dal won the game 3-2. An exciting finish to an exciting game!

The Tigers now venture to Waterloo, Ontario for the National Finals this weekend, hoping to continue their unbeaten streak. All credit goes to the players who have worked hard all season. They should feel very proud of their achievement.

As an added recognition, Forbes, Graham, Doyle, Coleman and Riddell were nominated AUAA All-Stars 1977. Forbes had the best goal-keeping record in the Conference, with 8 shut-outs, and Riddell was conference top goal scorer with 10 goals. Congratulations to Dalhousie's most successful team of the 1970's!

Varsity whips Alumni

In a surprising runaway, the 1977-78 Tigers defeated a talented alumni 116-66. The alumni had rebound depth with players such as John Cassidy, Don Robertson, Gary Montle and Mike Flinn and back-court aces such as Al Slaunwhite, Bill Burns, and John Driscoll. However, the lack of playing together took its toll and the varsity led each half with identical 58-33 scores.

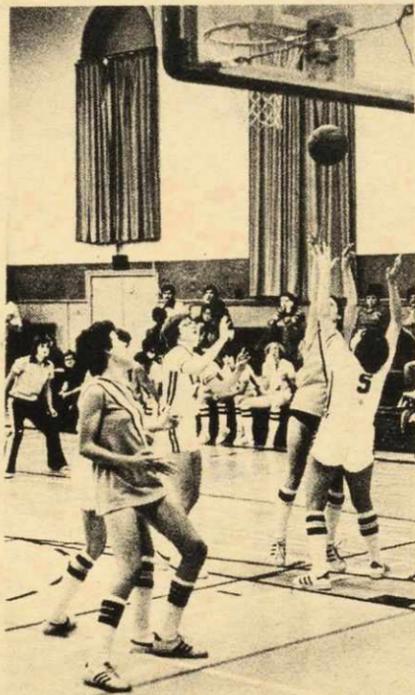
The happiest note for the Tigers was their balanced scoring. Last year Bob Fagan was the only consistent scorer as he led the AUAA in that department; in many

games he encountered stacked defenses. Fagan threw in twenty-three Friday night and had excellent support from frosh Murray Steeves with a game high of twenty-six. Mike Donaldson had twenty-one, Ken Fells, sixteen and Peter Fougere, fourteen, as well as contributing many assists.

With the scoring capabilities of Alastair MacDonald, who was out with an injured ankle, Phil Howlett, who is adjusting to a new position and Tim Crowell, who led all scoring in an earlier game with Mid-Town, the century mark should often be reached this season. If the Tigers can develop a consistent team defense, Dalhousie fans are in for an exciting year.

The conference opener at Dal is on Wed., Nov. 16, at 8:00 p.m., with the St. Mary's Huskies providing opposition. Rumours from SMU are that they are awesome, with virtually a new team that has national title aspirations. Coach Al Yarr is unwilling to make a prediction, but claims "the biggest bumps on the road to the nationals are often in the Maritimes; this year we will be a contender."

In preparation for this key contest with SMU, the varsity will journey to Maine on the long week-end. They play two University of Maine schools, at Fort Kent and Presque Isle, before playing Ricker in Houlton, Me. on Sunday. This is a key trip in preparation for AUAA wars. Dal meets SMU, Acadia, St. F.X. and UPEI all before Christmas. A perspective on the season will soon be at hand and the fans should have much to cheer about.

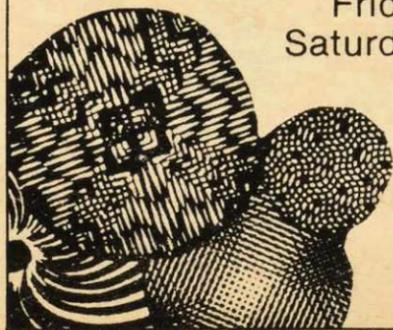


Dal Photo / Grandy

THE CARLETON HOUSE

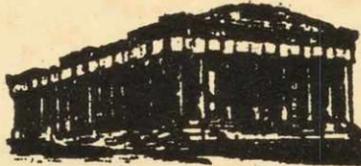
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