

Penalties kill Dal Soccer

Tigers lose heartbreaker

BY DAVID FINLAYSON

The Dalhousie Tigers played their hearts out on Sunday before a packed house of over a thousand people, only to lose 5-4 in penalty kicks to Acadia.

The Tigers, ranked second in the nation, had numerous near misses during the game, while the Axemen stuck to their defensive game plan and limited the Tigers to outside opportunities.

The game was so cold that ice was being used to stop harsh winds from blowing the ball away on corner kicks.

"The wind really played a factor in the game, dividing it into two tactical halves," said midfielder Paul English. "We won the toss and elected to take the first half against the wind and try to hold the other team knowing our record for scoring goals."

The game was closely contested as both keepers were forced into key stops, especially on some dangerous crosses.

Dave McFarlane and Jeff Hibberts had shots denied by the keeper, and Dal was not able to dominate in the air as they had all season. Danny Burns and Graham Allardice had long range shots miss just wide.

Chad Denny had a good opportunity at the end of the first half, but missed by inches. This came after Marc Ellis successfully deked past four defenders and cut the ball back.

The game went into overtime. In extra-time, Tiger frustrations culminated in Burns being

ejected for a late tackle after a second bookable offense. "We didn't really play our controlled game of passing to feet. We were getting frustrated and started to try to play the ball as close to the net as possible," stated English.

Dal went into penalties, unhappy to be tied at 0-0 during regulation, but with Trevor Chisholm in goal, they had reason to be confident. "Now we have to do this the hard way," remarked Marc Ellis.

Dal and Acadia both scored on their first two attempts, with neither goalie coming near a kick. The Axemen scored on their third try and then midfielder Mike Ayyash, who was subbed-in late in the overtime, stepped up to take Dal's third kick. The crowd fell silent and watched as Ayyash sent his kick straight at the keeper. The shot was stopped.

After that save, Dal converted their last two and as Axeman Steve Wynne stepped up to clinch the game, a hush fell over the crowd. Cheers erupted from the Acadia fans as the shot hit the underside of the crossbar and came down over the line. The dreams of Dalhousie repeating as national champions were over.

Tears were flowing freely from many of the Dal players as Acadia celebrated their first CIAU trip in many years. Ayyash was inconsolable.

Dal's Marc Rainford, McFarlane, Hibberts and Ellis were named to the all-star team, while Paul English took the league MVP title. This was little consolation

for the Tigers, however, who had beaten Acadia 3-0 during the regular season.

On Saturday, Dal pummeled UPEI 5-1. Chad Denny scored in the first minute of play as UPEI's first touch of the ball was the keeper picking it out of the net. Dal used constant pressure to force mistakes by the defense. Burns seemed intent on winning the game by himself, accumulating at least five shots in the first half. English beat the keeper in the seventh minute but hit the post, and then Matt Serieys hit the keeper from 35 yards out.

Ellis used some neat twists and feints to beat a couple of defenders and score while being held by one player. It was one-way traffic in the first half. It seemed like UPEI had forgotten their soccer team and brought their hockey team as they continually fouled the Tigers, to the delight of the Island fans.

Defensive highlights of the half included some good ten yard slides by Denny and Serieys to knock Panther players over. Chisholm in the Dal goal was really only tested once or twice and performed well. Hibberts played perhaps his best game of the season as he created five great scoring chances in the first half only to miss the net or hit the keeper, who made some fine saves throughout the game.

In the second half, UPEI looked more like a team and drew a penalty within five minutes. Glen Miller beat Chisholm on a penalty shot, but English scored off of a header just two minutes later. The

referee was very lenient in not ejecting two UPEI players, one of whom hauled down Ellis on a breakaway, after Ellis beat him three times on the same play. The other tried to make Burns' shirt ten sizes larger.

In the 70th minute McFarlane scored off a pretty pass from Ellis. Stephen Cormier rounded off the scoring for the Tigers in the 79th minute, finishing off a goalmouth scramble. Dal emptied the bench to avoid injuries to starters as Ayyash, Sam Ramsden, Mike Kwak and Geraint Morris came in and performed admirably.

Chisholm had this to say: "We had a really good regular season and played well in the playoffs. Against Acadia we played really hard and left everything on the field. The good thing about this team is that we are so close that we win or lose as a team."



Striker Jeff Hibberts fends off Acadia's Jay Robinson in Sunday's AUSA final.

This was an excellent season for the Tigers, and although they are not going to the nationals, they acquitted themselves more than admirably, and showed that they were gracious in defeat. Thanks for a great year lads, it was memorable to say the least.

Women lose semi-finals Still qualify for Nationals

BY AMIT BATRA AND
AARON BLEASDALE

The Dalhousie Tigers looked ready to capture their fourth straight AUSA title this past weekend, but were sunk on penalty kicks by a determined Saint Francis Xavier squad.

In Saturday's semifinal, the Tigers dominated much of the game with their sound defense and good ball control. Actually putting the ball in the net was proving to be a little tougher, but mid-way through the first half of play, Dal's pressing paid off.

Saint F.X. goalie Laura Kelly went up for a ball and crushed a hard charging Natalie Lindthaler in the process. A penalty kick was awarded, but fourth year midfielder Karen Hood's shot hit the far post and left the score tied 0-0.

The game headed into overtime. The Tigers continued to control play, and once again were awarded a penalty kick. Third year back Sue Hunter lined up for the shot that could have sent Dal to the finals. But she, too, hit the post and overtime ended with the

two teams still in a scoreless tie.

In penalties, Kelly continued her stellar play and guided her team to a 4-2 win.

Though the loss was disappointing it did not mark the end of the season for the Tigers. Dalhousie will be able to go for its fourth straight CIAU medal this weekend at Wickwire Memorial Field. The Tigers qualify as hosts of the tournament and will be joined by AUSA champions Acadia.

Coach Neil Turnbull admitted that his team are "underdogs," but went on to say that he didn't mind that role.

Of note is last weekend's return of midfielder Kelly Larkin who has been recovering all season from ankle injuries. Her presence can only strengthen the team for CIAUs.

On Friday, the Tigers overwhelmed the fifth-ranked Memorial Seahawks 2-0 to qualify for semifinal play. The Seahawks were barely able to get the ball out of their own half.

Tara MacNeil capitalized on a weak clearance by a Seahawk defender and ripped a beautiful



Midfielder Karen Hood struggled from the penalty spot, missing both her penalties against St. F.X. on Saturday.

shot by the Memorial keeper while giving the crowd a clinic in shooting. MacNeil then tore down the field, arms raised, giving the crowd a clinic in celebrating. Karen Hood finished off the scoring for the Tigers when she caught the Memorial keeper out of position and beat her to the far post.

Turnbull points out that the team is entering CIAUs this weekend with "sixteen 1st or 2nd year players on a squad of twenty-one." This bodes well for the future. At the same time, the coach said his club knows that "the future is now."

this week's games:

Friday, November 8

Soccer (women) CIAUs @ Wickwire Field (until Sunday)
Basketball (women): Subway Tournament @ Dalplex (until Sunday)
Basketball (men) @ Assumption (Boston)

Saturday, November 9

Cross country CIAUs @ McGill
Hockey @ UPEI, 7 p.m.
Volleyball (women) @ St. FX, 8 p.m.

Sunday, November 10

Basketball (men) @ UMaine

Friday, November 15

Volleyball (men) @ UNB, 7 p.m.

Saturday, November 16

Swimming vs. UNB @ Dalplex Pool
Volleyball (men) @ UNB, 2 p.m.
Hockey @ Mt. Allison, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 17

Basketball (women) vs. UPEI, 6 p.m. @ Dalplex
Basketball (men) vs. UPEI, 8 p.m. @ Dalplex
Swimming vs. Mt. Allison @ Dalplex Pool
Hockey @ UNB, 2 p.m.

Wednesday, November 20

Hockey vs. SMU @ Memorial Arena, 7 p.m.

If you have an event that needs posting, call the Gazette at 494-2507 and ask for Aaron, Sports Editor and all-round nice guy. Really.