

Sports

Tigers win one against NCAA powerhouse

by Joel Jacobson

(Ed's note: Joel Jacobson, the Marketing and Public Affairs Manager of Dalplex, accompanied the Tigers on their Wisconsin trip.)

The Dal hockey Tigers travelled to Wisconsin on the weekend and split a two game series with the Badgers, a perennial NCAA hockey power.

The Tigers kept the crowd quiet last Friday night as they took a 4-2 win in the opener of the two game series in Madison, Wisconsin. The crowd turned things around Saturday as the home club roared to a 4-1 first period lead en route to a 13-4 win.

Wisconsinites were surprised at the calibre of the Tigers. Last year, the Badgers smashed University of Windsor 20-0 and everyone in the Midwest thought Dalhousie was of the same ilk.

Not so! On Friday the Badgers were forced to play Dal's game, and couldn't free-wheel. Dal kept them bottled up - and with Glenn Ernst turning a superb 30-save performance, the team skated to a 1-1 first period tie and took a 3-2 second period lead. John Cossar scored twice while Brian Gualazzi and Paul Jeffrey had one each. The Tigers were missing their two top scorers, John Kibyuk and Moochie

Friesen, who stayed home because of injuries.

Saturday night, the bands, cheerleaders and a second straight sell-out crowd of 8700 people made the difference. Darren Cossar started in goal with a bad knee following the Providence series, and Dal trailed 4-1 after the first period. The Tigers closed the gap in the second period to 5-3, but before the middle frame was over Wisconsin had opened a 7-3 lead. After this coach Peter Esdale went to Glenn Ernst for the third period.

Esdale, though pleased with the split, was disappointed the second game was a rout. "The guys were tired," he said. "It was a long trip. We were treated to the Wisconsin-Illinois football game on Saturday afternoon and the boys didn't get a chance to relax. But we have no regrets. We beat one of the top five university hockey teams in the States in their rink, before their fans." In a pre-season poll, *Sports Illustrated* ranked Wisconsin 5th among NCAA hockey powers.

One device used by Wisconsin fans that grated many of the Tigers yet pumped up the goalies was the unison yelling of 'sieve' a minute or so after each goal. Ernst didn't let it bother him. "It helped me Friday. I played better, I think." That he did.

He left Badger fans shaking their heads after some excellent saves.

For Esdale and his crew it was an experience. "Just for our players to experience that atmosphere was something. Wisconsin is a hotbed of hockey. The fans, the Arena, the

colour, the pageantry - it's an event," he said.

Esdale was also very impressed with the hospitality of the Wisconsin hosts. "They treated us great," said Esdale. The Wisconsin Athletic department paid the full bill for

Dal's trip including air travel accommodation.

The Tigers' next home game will be on November 4th when the Tigers host the touring Chinese National team.

Tigers end regular season on winning note

by Bruce Galloway

The men's soccer Tigers finished an up and down regular season last weekend on a positive note, beating St. F.X. 2-1.

The Tigers now, on the strength of their 2nd place finish in the eastern division of the A.U.A.A., move on to the playoffs this weekend. Their opponents will be a tough UNB side, winners of the A.U.A.A.'s western division.

Sunday's game, played at Antigonish, started off badly for the Tigers. Just five minutes into the game St. F.X. intercepted an errant Dal pass in front of the Tiger net and drove the ball past the keeper Pete Moore.

Events took another downward turn 10 minutes later when Dal's captain Charlie Fisher was awarded a red card. The Tigers were forced to play the remaining 3/4 of the

game with only 10 players.

In spite of these bad breaks however the Tigers had turned the game around by the end of the first half. They clearly dominated the X-Men in the second 45 minutes of play.

Dal tied the game early in the second half when striker Jim Curry headed a Mike Flynn free kick past the St. F.X. keeper. The game winner came off the foot of striker Manoj Vohra who scored on a breakaway 30 minutes into the second half. On the play, the St. F.X. keeper stopped the first shot but couldn't control the rebound which Vohra put into the net.

Dal coach Terry MacDonald felt the Tigers played well, especially noting the play of Mike Flynn and Ray McNeil.

The Tigers have now won three games in a row, a momentum

which MacDonald feels will give them a big boost going into the playoffs. Explained MacDonald, "We have our act together now, and are confident about the playoffs." MacDonald feels that UNB has a weak back line, something the Tigers hope to exploit in the upcoming playoff game. In their only meeting of the season 2 weeks ago UNB defeated Dal 4-2 in a tough physical match played in Fredericton.

The Tigers meet UNB in the A.U.A.A. semi-final Saturday at SMU stadium at 1:00 p.m. The other semi-final, featuring SMU and UPEI, goes at 3:00 p.m. The winners meet Sunday at 1:00 p.m. to decide the A.U.A.A. championship.

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