

SPORTS

Men's soccer triumphant in weekend action

BY KATHLEEN MATTHEWS

The men's soccer team did not go to New Brunswick with their tails between their legs despite losing two games at home last week. Instead, they beat the Moncton Blue Eagles 3-1 on Saturday and the New Brunswick Varsity Reds 2-1 on Sunday.

The weekend saw the wrath of the rookies who scored four of five goals, complementing the experienced and effective play of the veterans down the middle.

"This weekend was good because on Saturday you could see that our team was coming together," said co-captain Marc Rainford. "Everyone was very positive. It was our best game for communication... [W]e started out strong — we had 23 crosses in the first half compared to our average 16."

"The guys in the middle, Paul [English] and Dave [McFarlane] were awesome — they were everywhere. Jeff Hyles also came in for us", who, despite a mild concussion received near the end of the game, "played excellent. It is nice to see people coming off the bench and performing."

Yet, Moncton struck first.

"We got scored on by a penalty shot," said Rainford. "It was a bad call [against me] for an obstruction... The guy took a penalty shot and missed it but the referee let him take it over again because he said the goalie had moved forward."

The Tigers didn't let this get them down, and came out flying in the second half.

"It was pretty good because in previous games we had bad luck and it sunk our team, where we held our heads down and never recovered, [but on Saturday] we came back very quickly. We were down 1-0 at the end of the first half and we came back in the second half to win."

Women's CC victorious

BY MATT RICHARDSON

Some things never change.

Dal women's cross country team maintained their 10-year unbeaten streak this past weekend at St. FX in Antigonish, with a total of 19 points to Memorial's 64, St. FX's 82 and UNB's 110. The race foreshadows another seemingly unstoppable Dal conference title, the course and competition being the same as the AUAAC Championships taking place in four weeks' time.

Many rookies would have been slightly intimidated about performing under that kind of pressure. If Kristen Lewis was, she certainly didn't let it bother her. She clinched her second AUAAC cross country win in as many races this past weekend at St. FX in Antigonish. A Halifax native, Lewis cruised to a 5km time of 18:29, beating out the nearest independent runner, Nicole Barriault, by six seconds. Following one second later was St. FX's Lavinia Gough.

"You never know who's going to be running well," commented Lewis on the race. When questioned about her role on the team, she responded, "I'll finish where I'll finish. I just love this team."

Three consecutive goals were scored in the second half by Stuart Cochran, English, and rookie Brian Ngyuen.

"Brian Ngyuen's goal was a highlight," said coach Ian Kent.

"He is going to be quite a player in the future," added Rainford.

"We were very strong down the central midfield thanks to Dave McFarlane and Paul English," continued Kent. "The team showed lots of character... they showed that they can come back."

Dal beat UNB, thanks to goals by rookie midfielders Tomas Ernst and Emmanuel Gaopotlake in the 22nd and 59th minutes, respectively.

"We started out OK, but they scored a questionable goal off a freekick. We weren't prepared and they came down fast and scored on us," said Rainford. "It looked like two totally different teams [compared to Saturday]. We were second to the ball and we weren't winning all of our tackles — they beat us to it a lot of the time."

"It was a smaller field and our communication was off. We need more communication on a smaller field because the play is that much quicker. We just didn't have it, but we battled back. This seems to be our common theme this year — battling back. It was a traditional AUAAC battle where you don't necessarily play the game you want to play but you battle, winning crucial tackles and you hope it comes from that."

"Emmanuel [Gaopotlake] played well for us. He has been a very welcome surprise for us. He came late to training camp and he has turned out to be an excellent player."

Dal came from behind for the second time in two days to beat UNB 2-1. Player of the Game honours went to Gaopotlake.

The Tigers have certainly had their share of injuries this season. Though this past weekend saw the return of

McFarlane and Hyles who both played well, one can only wonder what effect so many injuries has had on the team as a whole.

"Originally it had an effect because we had a lot of players counting on those players coming back," says Rainford. "It has ended up being a positive thing [as] we are getting to play younger players who, if these injured guys were playing, people wouldn't think would be starting. We are putting confidence in these young players [and] it has really brought our team together."

"[The team] are not thinking about it," adds Kent. "If anything, they have

come closer together [as a team] to get results."

This weekend saw significant contributions from several rookies, and one can only speculate as to what the rest of the season will bring if the injured players return.

"With all of the good work the rookies have been doing, and knowing how many talented players are not playing right now," says Rainford, "it makes you wonder how good the team will be if everyone is healthy."

"It is going to help us in the playoffs. We are going to have a situation where, if somebody isn't performing, we have

guys on the bench who are willing to step up right away."

Dal is already planning their strategy for the rest of the season.

"We are still looking for consistency over 90 minutes," says Kent.

"You can see that when we play together — even if it is for the 10 minutes, when we play well for those 10 minutes — it is going to be difficult for anyone to beat us," explains Rainford.

Dal is in second place in the East behind St. FX with 12 points and a 4-2-0 record.

Hockey Tigers ready to roar

BY GREG WHITE

Bigger, stronger, faster, and smarter.

While it sounds like a bad advertisement for CFL football, the proverbial descriptions spewed by coaches at the beginning of every season may be more than just empty rhetoric for the Dalhousie hockey Tigers.

Head Coach Darrell Young is entering his 13th season as the Tigers bench boss and during the off-season acquired the biggest trophy of the AUAAC in former Mooseheads captain Jody Shelley. Young will be joined behind the bench this year by former players Kiefer House and Jake Grimes, goalie coach Mike Ritcey, and long time assistant Kim Houston.

Shelley may have been the most heavily recruited player in the CIAU, and could have made an honest run for mayor of Halifax last year. He will be joined by fellow Moosehead alumnus Derrick Pyke. Pyke is a Pittsburgh draft choice and, at 6'2" and 190 lbs, is an excellent checking forward with considerable offensive talent. Young is also excited about the arrival of AUAAC rookie Chris Pittman, a 6'4", 215lb centre from Stephenville, Nfld who played in the Colorado Avalanche organization last season. The addition of these three recruits will add leadership and a physical dimension to complement the returning core of smaller but speedy forwards.

Returning forwards to watch this season include last year's captain David Haynes, senior Marc Warner and sophomore Chad Kalmakoff, who sat out the second half of last season with a broken jaw. David Carson reported to training camp in shape and ready to play while Ted Naylor, an AUAAC All-Star last season, helps to form an arsenal of lethal offensive weapons returning to Dal.

The hockey Tigers have a very

solid group of defencemen trying out for this year's squad led by Martin LaPointe, who will be returning to the Tigers following an impressive National Team camp. Shane Gibbs and Pat Russell are included among some of the blue-liners that coach Young is looking to step up this season.

Between the pipes, both Neil Savary and Fred Corkum return to

country, and this division [Kelly] is probably the toughest division to win."

Young's expectations for this team seem modest but are clearly the first step. "What we expect from this team is that we improve every day... We have got to be prepared to pay the piper every day and not to take any days off. We are so close that [the championship] is reachable but we have to be willing to work for it."

"It's a long season," says Young, "we have to be patient enough to follow the steps to put us in the best possible position come playoffs."

The Kelly Division is comprised of Saint Mary's, St. Francis-Xavier and Acadia. The SMU Huskies have a new coaching staff and rookie coach Trevor Steinburg will ice a very competitive team. If last year serves as an indicator, this cross-town rivalry won't take very long to heat up again. The X-Men finished last year's regular season in second place but have lost some offensive talent with the departure of PJ Stock and Jarrett

Reid. However, St. FX remain solid on the blue-line and are backstopped by one of the top amateur goalies in Canada in Shawn Silver.

Perennial powerhouse and defending Kelly division champ Acadia have lost three of their top scorers in Greg Clancy, Christian Skoryna, and Jason Weaver, but look for a new crop of talented young Axemen to try and fill the void left by Acadia's All-Canadians.

Coach Young feels that this squad is among the most talented to ever play at Dalhousie and, although this posturing and bravado has been played out before, finally Young has the team to back it up.

Those hoping to catch a glimpse of the Tigers will have their first opportunity on Wednesday, October 15 at 7pm as the Acadia Axemen roll into town to challenge the Tigers in the season opener



photo by Danielle Boudreau