

"Mean machine" ready to win in '75

by Greg Zed

After a well programmed training camp, coaches Pierre Page and his assistant Dr. Bill Shannon have arranged ample opportunity to examine their homework in action. Some sixty hopefuls were screened thoroughly and the outcome is the 1975-76 edition of the "Mean Machine" alias Dalhousie Varsity Hockey club.

In speaking with coach Page, it was quite clear that this year's team appears to be better than last year's, however, the key factor will be experience. How are the rookies going to react to college hockey? After expressing this concern Page went on to discuss the club's roster. Hal Davidson, Bob Lewicki and Rick Hooke make up one line that is certainly impressing the coaching staff but balance is inevitable with this club. Paul Finlay, Earl Theriault and Al McNaulton certainly are showing signs of a great forechecking line. Certainly the return of Finlay will add the vital experience necessary for great forechecking. The club also has the "doughnut line" of Dan Flynn, Jim Shatford and Darrell MacGregor. Flynn accounted for twelve goals

and thirteen assists last year in his rookie year whereas "slimbo" Jim Shatford scored seven goals and assisted on nine others. Darrell "disaster" MacGregor had eight goals in his third year. Certainly this line, who accounted for over a third of the entire Tiger's scoring punch will be the standstill of the club. Greg Nickerson, Ron DelPino, Tom Mann and left winger Bob Kerr round out the forward lines that will see action this weekend. Gerry Beck joined captain John Gillis on the sidelines as his injury should keep him out for at least ten days.

The Tigers who are continuing their emphasis on the defensive game will have the strongest corps in the league. Rick "rocket" Roemer joins John Mallowney. Coach Page made mention of this grouping saying that this is a fine example of balance - Mallowney is certainly one of the most improved returnees and should really show his true colours. Jack Gray will team up with Don MacGregor - certainly another great pair. The final pair of defencemen include Mike Gilbert and Robert Riopel, two fine rookies.

Brooks Atkinson, Jim Palmer and Mel Bartlett are the three remaining goalies. Certainly three hopefuls that are capable of filling the shoes vacated by Vince Desjardins and Greg Lynch.

All in all, this club does look better than last year's roster. The morale is great, the dedication is there the ability is there, however, enthusiasm still lacks around the campus. It is beyond my comprehension why a University of seven thousand students **CANNOT** support a hockey club. Last year the Tigers fought their way into the playoffs and certainly made Dalhousie affiliates proud of them. Tonight the Tigers play a very interesting hockey club - Concordia University. This squad is a combination of Sir George Williams and Loyola Universities. They were ranked No. 2 in Canada last year and pre-season reports suggests that this club will dominate the Canadian Intercollegiate Hockey Division. Friday the Tigers will face St. Francis Xavier X-Men. This club lost one more game than the Tigers last year however, they scored one hundred and four goals which was

the third highest in the league. This game could prove to be important with regards to pre-season morale. Sunday the Tiger's Lair is the scene of the big match-up of the year. Two well-blanced clubs who both had 12-6-0 records last year will meet face to face. This marks the return of Pierre Gagne but is also marks the battle of science. This of course refers to the two strategies which will be so obvious when the Axemen meet the Tigers.

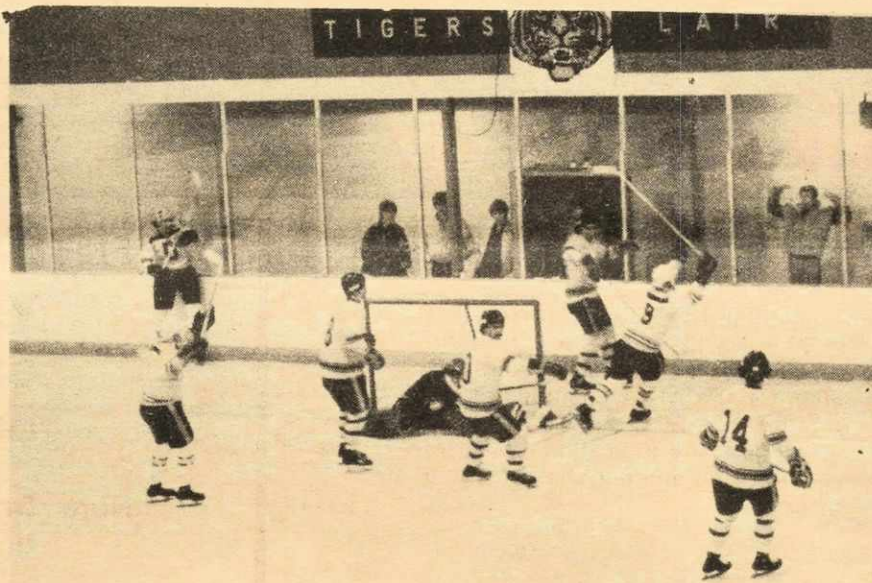
So here is a chance to see hockey at a pre-season preview. Fans will be treated to the best caliber of college hockey which includes the likes of Concordia University. How will the Tigers fare? Will inexperience show in the early goings? Will the Tigers pick up where they left off last year? More important than any question will **YOU** make it to the games to show you support **YOUR** Dalhousie Tigers?"

Thursday, October 23rd-7:30 p.m.-Dal vs. Concordia
 Saturday, October 25th- 2:00 p.m.-Dal vs St. F.X.
 Sunday, October 26th-2:00 p.m.-Dal vs. Acadia
 See you at the Tiger's Lair!!!

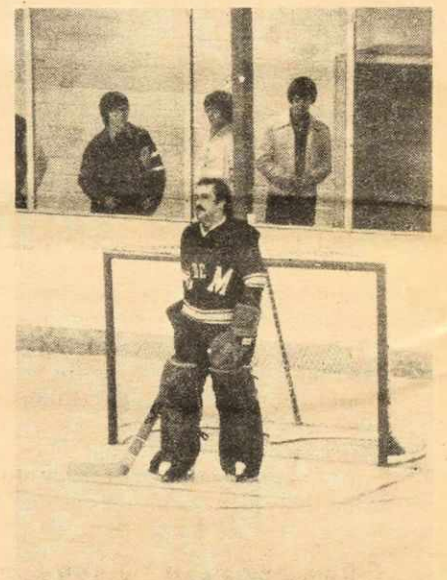
Close call for Dal hockey Tigers

October 17th was the day - The Dalhousie Memorial Rink was the place and without a doubt some four hundred fans were treated to what was termed by some spectators as the greatest game of hockey played in the Dal rink in two years. Two well balanced teams battled it out for a full sixty minutes and when the smoke cleared Moncton Blue Eagles were leading four to three. At 7:03 mark of 2nd period Dal opened the scoring with a goal by Bob Lewicki from Jim Shatford and Dan MacGregor. A sprawling Vince Desjardins had no chance on the close range "flick shot". Paul Cormier evened the score 8:58 of the 2nd period on a "close-in" back hand that beat Jim Palmer on the stick side along the ice. Rick Roemer literally blasted a shot threw Desjardins pads to put the Tigers out in front at 11:18 of the second period. Assisting on Roemer's goals were Shatford and Rick Hooke. Rick Halpin tied the see-saw battle on a blast from the face-off mid-way through the second period to create the deadlock, however, Dan Flynn's break-away goal with thirty-seven seconds put the Tigers out in front: 3-2 after two periods.

The third period was all Monc-



Bob Lewicki [9] scores Dal's first goal.



Vince Desjardins

ton's. The Tigers certainly exhausted from the tempo of the game and suffering from what both coaches felt "inexperience play" saw Blue Eagles score two third period goals to take the victory home to the hub city of New Brunswick.

At last **Gazette** was able to speak with Vince Desjardins after the

game and was informed that he is enjoying his new home in Moncton and feels that he is in for a good year. Although he made mention of the clubs great enthusiasm he took nothing away from the Dal squad. "They played a great game and it could have gone either way. We got a few breaks and capitalized on a few defensive mistakes and that's just the way it went." Moncton's biggest test is October 23-27 when

they host a tournament featuring St. Mary's University Huskies and two Universities from Ontario.

All in all it was a great game and certainly made for an entertaining evening. With due respect to Dalhousie fans one could term it another quiet evening at the Dal rink, however, an evening well worth the price of admission. Don't
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People's Republic of China representatives viewed the match-up.