

# SPORTS

## Hockey Tigers open with a victory

BY STEVE MILLS

The opening of Dal's hockey season this past weekend witnessed a team greatly changed from last year's finalists. The team leaders of captain Craig Morrison, plus assistant captains Derek Pringle and Brian Melanson are all gone. Add to this list Alan Baldwin, Scott Meek, Todd Mondor and Brian MacDonald and you have a team in the rebuilding stages.

Coach Darrell Young, knowing he would be losing these key players, spent the past year recruiting talented players and has come up with what he believes to be a better team.

Greg Smyth joins the Tigers after playing three years at UWO, during which time he went to the national finals.

Bill Loshaw won the Ontario championship twice as captain of the Laurier team, and won the

memorial cup as assistant captain with Guelph.

Mark Myles was captain of the OHL's Peterborough Petes and this year attended the Detroit Red Wings training camp.

Trent Gleason played for the Detroit Ambassadors, also of the Ontario Hockey League.

With this influx of talent, coach Young says he has acquired some players "who are good leaders and who have been there before."

Some important players returning from last year are newly appointed captain Gord Reid and assistant Kelly Bradley, plus Joe Suk, Ken McDermid and the goaltending team of Pat McGarry and Kevin Stairs.

As this is a bigger team than last year, Young hopes the team will be more intimidating, more physical, and with more experience, that it can surpass the achievements of last season.

period, and the score was 1-0 at the end of one.

The second period saw more of the same with numerous penalties and a lot of rough play. Eventually tempers flared and a brawl broke out in front of the Acadia bench. The Axemen scored twice in the second, going ahead 2-1, but Kelly Bradley responded for the Tigers,

**"countless and careless penalties detracted from the momentum of the game"**

and the score was 2-2 at the end of two.

Third period action began in a much more disciplined fashion with Dal on the power play, but Acadia killed the penalty and then went ahead at 4:30 on a goal by Duane Dennis.

Dal again responded, this time

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## Cross country undefeated

BY SATISH PUNNA

The Dalhousie Tigers cross-country team did it again this weekend in Antigonish.

Both the men's and the women's teams continued their undefeated streaks in AUAA competition.

Rookie David Ruggles pulled in the best individual time for the men with a third place overall finish. He led the men to an overall point total of 27, edging out arch rivals UNB by one point. James

Cliff finished fourth and Paul Smith fifth, as the Tigers placed five men in the top ten. Smith's finish was one of his best all season.

The women won with emphasis once again, placing four runners in the top five, and six in the top ten the winning time, followed by Dorianne Mullen in third, Shari Boyle in fourth, and Heather Ostic in fifth. Ostic edged teammate Rayleen Hill into sixth in a duel that saw them finishing just one second apart.

The excellent results this week-

for a point total of 18, almost trifled by second place UNB's 53.

Veteran Anne Marie Farnell had end come neat the end of a long, tiring training cycle. As the athletes start to taper in the two weeks that remain before the AUAA championships, performances can only improve. Watch for more great results in the countdown to the CIAU national finals in November. Local action sees the team at the Dal Classic in Halifax this weekend.

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## Men's soccer playoff bound, best in AUAA

BY ANGEL FIGUEROA

Entering the last leg of the men's soccer season with two wins and a tie this past week, you couldn't be more satisfied with the team's results, as the Tigers sit atop their division with the best record in the AUAA at 6-1-3, a top-5 national ranking in the CIAU, and an early berth into the Final Four at the Atlantic play-offs that begin on November 2.

Defeating Saint Mary's 3-1 on Oct. 8 at Husky stadium, the victory was part of head coach Ian Kent's aim to "begin to develop the proper mindset for the play-offs." What followed was a 6-0 rout of winless Saint Francis Xavier on Oct. 15, and then a tough, scoreless draw with Moncton (3-4-2) on Saturday.

### DAL 3 SMU 1

Two early goals in the 4th and 9th minutes of play set the tempo for the win against SMU, in a game harassed by strong winds and an unforgiving astroturf. Halfback

Craig Janc scored the opener with a header after a cross by Jamie Sawler. Shortly after, fullback Rob Adams cracked a shot within the 6 yard box, only to be deflected during a scramble in front of the net, where Andy Wheeler then nailed it in to blitz to a 2-0 lead.

Adams later scored on a skillful set-play by halfback Neil Sedgewick, only to be disallowed because of a foul by the scorer himself. Another foul gave SMU a penalty kick in the second half, but the shot was wasted in a manner that aptly describes the very arduous season that SMU has been plagued with. Pressing on with a vengeance, a great scoring opportunity in the 59th minute was negated by an all-star save by Dal keeper Phil Samyn.

Wheeler scored again in the 72nd minute after a free kick was drawn when Sedgewick on a breakaway was taken down by a defender. Sedgewick placed a beautiful cross that found a well-placed Wheeler to head a one-timer for his fourth record-breaking goal of the season (Wheeler usually doesn't score, you see).

Shortly after, SMU capitalized

with an interception on a serious defensive error while trying to clear the ball. A quick pass to an open attacker then scored, yet it barely scratched the nature of Dal's domination on the field. Still, it was a defensive mistake which mustn't be repeated in the upcoming play-offs, where such a blunder would be utterly unforgiving.

### DAL 6 SFX 0

More defensive mistakes were evident against SFX, who were playing better than their winless record would have suggested. Early in the game, they kept Dal under frantic pressure, and a thankful defensive save by Wheeler prevented an early lead by SFX at the 19th minute mark.

Their momentum died however, as Ian Clark, Tim Hall, and John Richmond put in a number of great plays for near scoring chances, but it was Brit captain John Amis who started the scoring binge in the 27th minute. Clark passed to Sedgewick at centrefield, who took it diagonally to the right corner by

deeking three defenders, then gently chipped it for Amis to knock it in behind the keeper.

Fullback Adrian Ibbetson earned a six-pence after a throw-in by Sedgewick in the 37th minute, flicking a header into the net. Shortly after, an SFX error enabled Hall to intercept, scoring with a well-placed grounder to go up 3-0. SFX then began to fall apart, and another defensive miscue scumbled to the British terror, as Wheeler hit a stray ball outside the 6 yard box in the 52nd minute.

The magic intensified, with skillful play and great passing by Sedgewick and Clark, who became the cornerstones for the victory. The pressure was so intense the ball seemed magnetised to the SFX goalposts. In the 78th minute, Sedgewick picked up a loose ball at centrefield, quietly dribbled it a couple of steps, deked twice, then blistered a World Cup shot that was so hard it bounced off the keeper and ricocheted into the net.

Rods and cones ended the day in the 88th minute, when Bob Hathaway and Chad Thorpe came up with a play that belies their

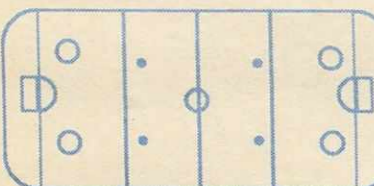
bench-warming commentary. Chad to Richmond, then off keeper, deflection to Hathaway, very nice chip to Richmond (who, relentless in trying to score all day, finally delivers) and into net. Rods and cones, see?

Clark, with a brilliant game albeit no goals to show for it, won player-of-the-game, and was modest of the honour. "We're pretty deep," he said. "Everything comes together when you have confidence in your fellow team-mates."

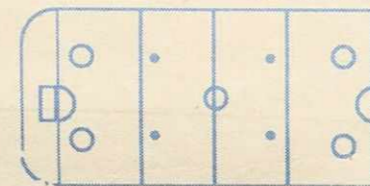
### DAL 0 UDM 0

Next on the itinerary was Moncton for the home-coming game, but their rather aggressive nature turned it into a mud-fest not unlike a rugby match in the middle of English winter. A scratchy first-half left it scoreless, as the Tigers seemed to lack any hunger, and the style of play was even, if not dirty. Arbitration seemed blind and stupid, and not even a fraternising parley with the

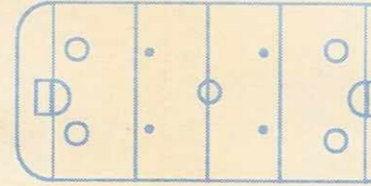
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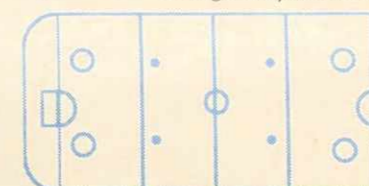
## NHL PREVIEW



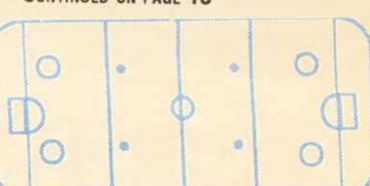
## NHL PREVIEW



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BY STEVE MILLS AND SUZY KOVINSKY



**NORRIS DIVISION CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS:** Last year's leaders Jeremy Roenick, Steve Larmer and Michel Goulet are off to an excellent start with Roenick so far leading the league in points. Defensively, the Hawks excel as not one member of the Blue line posted a negative +/- rating last year. With veterans Doug Wilson, Dave Manson and Bob McGill all gone, Chris Chelios plus vets Steve Konroyd, Trent Yawney and Steve Smith will be the heart of the defence. Goalie Ed Belfour is holding out for \$1 million a year, but rookies Jimmy Waite and Dominik Hasek are solid between the pipes.



**ST. LOUIS BLUES:** The Blues could have trouble generating offense this year, having sent forwards Cliff Ronning, Sergio Momesso and Geoff Courtnall to Vancouver, Rod Brind'Amour to Philly, and losing captain Scott Stevens to New Jersey. Hull and Oates will undoubtedly have a superb year, and Brendan Shanahan will take some pressure off the dynamic duo. The team has a strong defense which will be helped by newcomers Murray Baron and Rick Zombo, though management must have a lot of faith in goalie Curtis Joseph to have sent Vincent Riendeau to Detroit for Zombo.



**DETROIT RED WINGS:** Captain Steve Yzerman, with the help of Sergei Federov, Kevin Miller and Jimmy Carson, will provide most of the Wings' offense. Sophomores Paul Ysabaert and Johan Garpenlov will certainly improve on their 60 points of last season, and Keith Primeau may come of age this year. Defense will revolve around Yves Racine and veterans Doug Crossman and Brad McCrimmon. The addition of Vin-

cent Riendeau will allow the Wings to give Allan Bester the boot and have a solid goaltending team with Tim Cheveldae



**MINNESOTA STARS:** Despite their supremely ugly new uniforms, the (North) Stars will continue to play the type of hockey displayed in last year's finals. They are a team that truly has "no-stars", but relies completely on team effort. Dave Gagner, Brian Bellows, Brian Propp, Neal Broten and Mike Modano all had over 60 points last season and over 20 points each in the playoffs. The addition of Todd Elik will not hinder this scoring nucleus either. Defense is strong, and Jon Casey is an excellent goalie who has a solid backup in Darcy Wakaluk, who had a 3.33 average in 16 games with Buffalo last year.



**TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS:** With Grant Fuhr in net and Wendell Clark brandishing a "C", Toronto began the season with a vengeance. The moment Wendell got hurt (again) though, the bottom fell out. Goaltending isn't a problem for the Leafs, but once again defence is. Excepting Rob Ramage, who is gone now, all Toronto defencemen posted a negative +/- rating last year, and goals-against will be the team's downfall. Offensively there is potential, but with the exception of newly acquired Glen Anderson, all forwards must greatly increase their points totals to make anything happen here.



**SMYTHE DIVISION LOS ANGELES KINGS:** The Kings have all the right ingredients to cook up a winner. The line of Gretzky, Kurri and Sandstrom should, theoretically, be the strongest in the league, and the second line of Granato, Robitaille and Kudelski is also a big threat to opponents. Defense, fourth best last year, will be even stronger with the addition of Charlie Huddy and Jeff



STEVE'S PICKS	SUZY'S PICKS
<b>NORRIS DIVISION</b>	<b>NORRIS DIVISION</b>
1. Chicago Black Hawks	1. Chicago Black Hawks
2. Minnesota North Stars	2. Minnesota Stars
3. Detroit Red Wings	3. Detroit Red Wings
4. St. Louis Blues	4. St. Louis Blues
5. Toronto Maple Leafs	5. Toronto Maple Leafs
<b>SMYTHE DIVISION</b>	<b>SMYTHE DIVISION</b>
1. Los Angeles Kings	1. Calgary Flames
2. Calgary Flames	2. Los Angeles Kings
3. Vancouver Canucks	3. Vancouver Canucks
4. Edmonton Oilers	4. Edmonton Oilers
5. Winnipeg Jets	5. Winnipeg Jets
6. San Jose Sharks	6. San Jose Sharks

Chychrun. Goaltending is strong with Kelly Hruddy and Daniel Berthiaume both being excellent netminders.



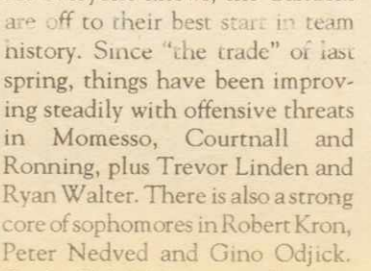
**CALGARY FLAMES:** The Flames are a team that seems to get better every season. Fleury, MacInnis, Niewendyk, Gilmour, Makarov, Suter, Roberts: it's all there, both offensively and defensively. Sophomores Stephane Matteau and Robert Reichel are both fitting in well with the team's chemistry, and both led the league in rookie +/- ratings last year with +17. Mike Vernon and Rick Walmsley are both top-notch goalies who often come up with the big save in order to save the big game.



**EDMONTON OILERS:** Glen Sather's "out with the old and in with the new" approach will give the Oilers something to strive for: the greatness that existed until last year. Esa Tikkanen and Craig MacTavish will be the team's leaders in what will certainly be a rebuilding year. Defense will be shaky with Charlie Huddy and Steve Smith gone, but the blue line has talent and will become a strong force in the second half, or maybe next year. Goaltending will be the only constant as Bill Ranford is one of the NHL's best, and Peter Ing has the potential and ability to be a star.



**WINNIPEG JETS:** Yet another team plagued with minuses, the Jets had the fourth worst +/- rating last year. The defence, headed by Randy Carlyle and Phil Housley, will have to consistently clear the zone and cut down on goals-against. The Jets' strength this year lies in their young goaltending team of Bob Essensa and Stephane Beuregard, who are both exceptional. Centre Thomas Steen had 67 points in 58 games last year and, with the help of Housley, Ed Olczyk and Pat Elynuik, will generate most of the team's offense.



ing a GAA of below 2.00 and backup Troy Gamble is a hotshot as well.



**SAN JOSE SHARKS:** The Sharks' record this year should be typical of expansion teams: a losing one. Defense will improve fast with Bob McGill and Doug Wilson coming over from Chicago to lead the way. Offense, on the other hand, will be scarce with the exception of Brian Mullen and rookie Pat Falloon. Tony Hrcac and Kelly Kisio represent the remaining players with any real NHL experience, and beyond that it's green, green, green. Brian Hayward and Jeff Hackett are both decent in net, but don't expect any Vezinas to be coming their way. Artur Irbe, formerly of Dynamo Riga and Red Army, is considered the best Soviet goaltender, but has yet to play with the team.

Well there you have it, hockey fans, a completed NHL preview and forecast. As indicated by last year's Stanley Cup finals anything can happen in this league. Both the Norris and Smythe divisions will be hard fought battles throughout the year. Teams like Chicago and Calgary will be avenging early playoff exits, and teams like Winnipeg, Detroit and especially Vancouver will be desperately trying to overcome past mediocrity. Only one thing is for sure, and that is that San Jose will be last. As for the rest of the league, only time will tell.