

sports

Outstanding weekend in men's soccer

by Angel Figueroa

O.K. fine. So I'm prone to unabashed favouritism and have a tendency to use mouth-frothing superlatives in my raving reportage of the men's soccer team.

But how could I not? Try to imagine a weekend where a two-game road trip amounts to nothing less than a tour of domination — an exhibition of skill, speed, and finesse that leaves the opposition in utter shock and in wonder of what hit them after 90 minutes from hell. (Better yet, imagine Manchester United against Halifax Clippers and then against a

Jamaican farm team. Get the picture?).

First it was a 5-0 rampage over l'université de Moncton on Saturday Oct. 3, then an 8-1 blow-out against the University of Prince Edward Island on Sunday. Both games were played at an exceptional level of soccer that left nothing more to be desired from any one of the Tiger players, who each put in what could've been a World Cup performance. Arguably, it was the best showing by Dal in the writer's memory (which spans three years). Simply put, very solid team-work, a dynamic, creative execution of play, and a fierce work-rate were the driving forces behind

the victories over two dangerous squads capable of upsetting a visiting loud-mouthed team (one thing proven by the wins is that a loud-mouthed team Dal is not.) Dal is now no longer a team of circumstance, but rather one with serious contention, as the wins fortify the stature of the AUAA defending champions in the race for the East Division title against Saint Mary's, which is also reeling from a four-game undefeated streak. While the weekend results proved significant in marking the mid-way point of the 11 game schedule, the hors-d'oeuvre before all this was a more sober 2-0 victory against Saint Francis Xavier on Wednesday

Sept. 30 at Studley field. Here's the recap:

St. Francis Xavier 0 @ Dal 2

Always an undeniable asset of Dal's defensive system, fullback Adrian Ibbetson proved the doubling of his net worth when he posted Dal's first marker against Saint Francis Xavier. Yet his headed goal came very late in the game, at the 86th minute, after a skilful flick by fellow defender Rob Adams from an ever-potent throw-in by Neil Sedgwick (Sedgwick is potent in many ways — just don't sit beside him on a long bus ride). It was a crucial break in the tempo of play, one that was simply lack-lustre attrition between two frustrated teams engaged in bumpy, cramped soccer.

For much of the match Dal was weaker than usual in passing and winning the ball, and showed little pressure in the SFX box. But while SFX was the rougher team, they were still much weaker in team talent, and depended on a tendency to wack the ball about without much direction while crowding the midfield to break down playing space — something crucial to Dal strategy. These two points — SFX's roughness and the cramped midfield — proved to be frustrating, and tempers soared when some rather

dirty SFX fouls went unnoticed by a complacent referee. A silly retaliation got Andy Wheeler, who plays midfield, ejected from play in the 30th minute, and this kept the two teams at an ambivalent par for the remainder of the game.

Not until the 80th minute did Dal finally come together and begin to play up to its standard, and despite being a man short, an all-out blitz of four shots on net in the last ten minutes produced Ibbetson's go-ahead goal. Having cracked the aims of SFX in accruing a draw with a team it knew would be hard to defeat, Dal's insurance goal came not long after, when Rob Sawler capitalised on a well-placed corner-kick by Craig Janc and a clever flick by Sedgwick early into injury time. The score would remain at 2-0, but what prevailed was a sigh of relief that two late goals were better than none at all, for most were quite jittery with the idea of a draw with one of the weakest teams in the league.

Dal 5 @ U de Moncton 0

Composure was the catch-word for Dal's impressive show of strength in Moncton on the following Saturday. Moncton is another squad

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Dal rugby vs. Scots

by Jim Gordon

Dalhousie University Rugby Club played host to Heriot-Watt University from Edinburgh, Scotland last week. The Scottish lads arrived in town tired but looking forward to three days of revelry in Halifax. De-

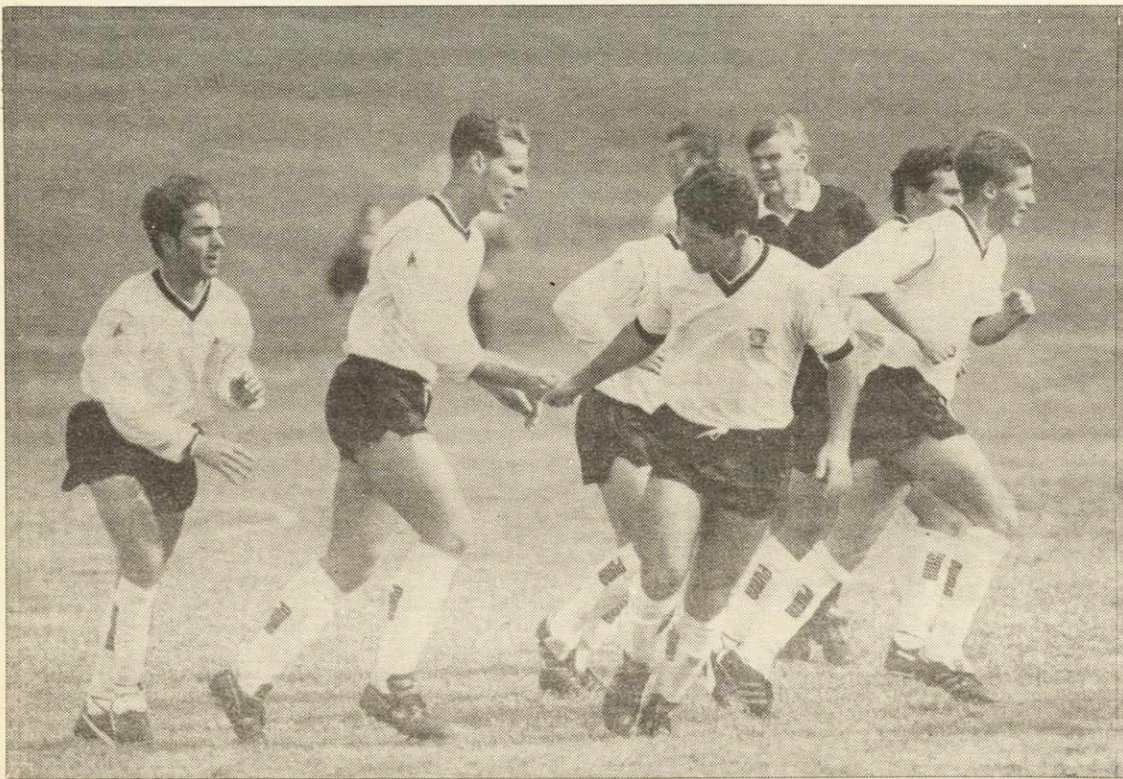
spite being on tour for three weeks, the Heriot-Watt players' first words upon arrival at Dalplex were, "Where's J.J.'s?"

After showing the Scots a fine time for two days, Dalhousie was certain that victory would come their way. However, the Scots proved that if you're born with rugby boots on, the game is second nature, and came away with a 39-36 victory. For rugby purists, the game was sheer delight — lots of offence, bone-crunching tackles and wide open play.

Dalhousie fell behind by 12 points in the early going and it looked bleak for the home team. Undaunted, Dal responded by scoring 17 straight points, compliments of Tony "Bigfoot" Glavin. In total, Glavin was responsible for 26 of Dal's points, while Frank Stanley scored the remaining 10. Both Glavin and Stanley proved that thirty-year-old men can still play rugby. The two "old men" made several magnificent running plays that had the Dalhousie faithful cheering.

The Scots won the day with the play of their forwards. Nova Scotia rugby has never seen finer play by the "pack". The Scottish forwards dominated throughout the game. Controlling the ball with excellent support play, the Scottish forwards constantly had Dalhousie reeling and provided much of their team's scoring.

Despite the loss, Dalhousie was thankful for the opportunity to play Heriot-Watt. There is no substitute for experience and to a man, all Dalhousie players felt they had gained much from the game.



John Richmond is congratulated by Adrian Ibbetson after scoring his second goal in a 5-0 victory over Moncton

Women's soccer defeat St. FX, Acadia

by Derek Neary

The Dalhousie Tigers topped the St. FX Lady Xaverians 2-0 on Sunday October 4th in AUAA Women's Soccer play. That victory followed a 3-2 edging of the Acadia Axettes on Friday October 2nd.

The Tigers ventured to St. FX on an emotional high but lacking intensity, coming off a major triumph over the defending champion Axettes. In their last meeting, Dalhousie pounded the Xaverians 7-0 at Studley field. So when the Dal crew, short on ferocity, arrived at St. FX on Sunday, the Xaverians were probably contemplating a little pay back. That's not how it turned out.

Dana Holmes drew first blood when she fired a penalty kick into the netting at the 10 minute mark.

The Tigers subsequently failed to capitalize on a number of great scoring chances including a Lynne Robertson penalty kick which rang off the inside of the opposing goal post.

It wasn't until the 57th minute that Holmes struck again to put the Dal squad ahead by a 2-0 count.

"It was a nice cross by Nikki (teammate Nicole Webb). I controlled it the first time and shot it - the goalie hesitated a bit," said Holmes.

The Tigers sat on their lead and when the final whistle blew they had maintained the 2-0 advantage. Head coach Darrell Cormier definitely noticed the decline in the team's intensity. "Certainly they played with more desire on Friday than they did today. But they knew what it took to win and they did that," he stated.

Friday's match was of colossal importance. The Tigers had not beaten the Axettes in over four seasons. But that streak was destined to end on this day. In the words of Coach Cormier it was the "elephant off (the team's) back."

It took Dal two minutes to break things open. Holmes pounced on a loose ball and one-timed it past the flailing Acadia keeper. Carla Perry made it 2-0 with a brilliant left foot strike 23 minutes into the contest. Kate Gillespie increased the lead to 3-0 when she connected off a seeing-eye pass from Suzanne Jones.

The Axettes came to life when a few of the referee's calls against Dal

consequently threw the Tigers off their game and thereby opened the door to opportunity.

"We lost a lot of our control in the latter part of the game," said Cormier, "but that had a lot to do with the reffing. It was very frustrating."

**"Our war
isn't over yet
in the
AUAA"**

Marjean Leighton, the spoiler in last year's AUAA finals, closed the gap to two goals when she scored on a penalty kick with 20 minutes left on the clock.

With 12 minutes remaining, Cindy Montgomerie took advantage of a corner kick when she notched Acadia's second marker to pull her team to within a goal.

The Axettes' efforts proved to be in vain because Dal held on to the one goal differential and ended all those years of futility while handing

the Axettes their second loss of the season. The doubts about whether or not the Tigers could overthrow Acadia can now be put to rest.

"Now we know we can (beat Acadia)," remarked Cormier. "Now it is just a matter of concentration and following through every time."

The Dal squad raised their record to 4-0-2. Despite the team's enormous accomplishments a rough road still lies ahead.

"Our war isn't over yet in the AUAA. We've got two big games against St. Mary's, they beat Acadia also," Cormier added.

The crucial home-and-home series against the Huskies may determine who captures top spot in the league's final standings. The first game, at Studley field, was scheduled for Wednesday October 7th. The Tigers will then have a lengthy break to reflect on their performance as the rematch is set to go on Friday October 16th.

Other AUAA scores on Sunday included: St. Mary's 2 UPEI 0; Memorial 0 Mt. Allison 0.

On Saturday it was Memorial 2 Mt. Allison 2.