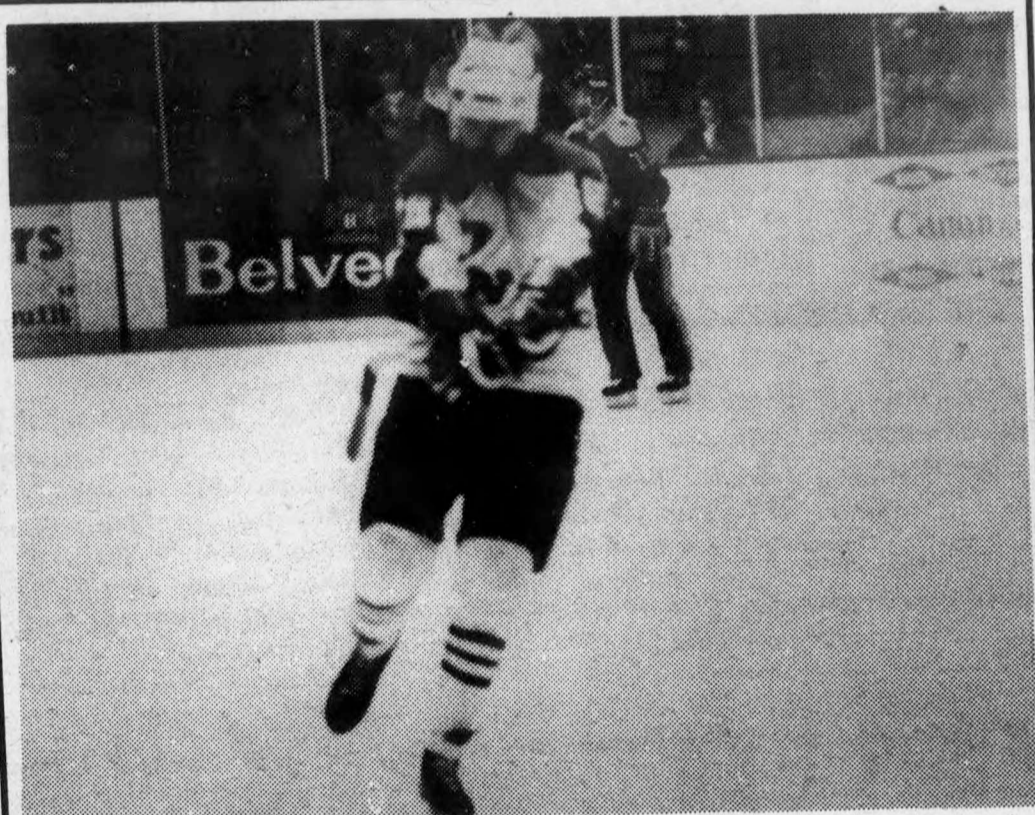


SPORTS

Red Devils win AUAA title



Steve Adams after scoring the go ahead goal struts his stuff with his famous shotgun routine.

Photo by Lisa Burke



George Kelly storms past Jim Clements of Moncton.

Photo by Lisa Burke

By IAN SUTHERLAND
Brunswickan Staff

The hockey Red Devils have made believers out of doubters but they must attempt to do the same thing all over again this weekend when they face University of Toronto Blues in a best-of-three CIAU playoff at the Aitken Centre.

The Red Devils claimed their first AUAA championship in 20 years last weekend by beating Moncton 5-3 to clinch the best-of-three conference final in straight games. UNB had won the first game of the series by a 4-3 score in Moncton on Thursday, March 1.

The next hurdle - and it's a giant one - for the Devils, is the Blues, the team that is ranked number one in the country by CIAU. The only consolation in that fact is that the CIAU also thought more highly of the Blues Eagles last week than they did of the Devils. The first game in the best-of-three is scheduled for Saturday at 8 p.m. with Game Two slated for Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m.. If a third game is needed, it will be played Monday night at 7:30. The winner of the series advances to Trois Riveriere,

P.Q. next week for the four-team national tournament.

Steve Adams was the hero for the Devils last Saturday before a capacity crowd of 3,748 at the Aitken Centre, converting a perfect Dave Mancuso pass into a breakaway goal with just five minutes remaining in regulation play. Mancuso had cut behind his own net, then spotted Adams all alone at the center red line. Adams made no mistake, beating goaltender Danny Berube with a backhand drive that sent the partisan gathering into a frenzy.

Defenceman Paul Murphy nailed the door shut on the Blue Eagles' hopes of defending their conference crown when he scored into the empty net with just 27 seconds left in regulation time. Terry Balcom, Dave Bluteau and Mark Welton also tallied single markers for the Red Devils, while goaltender Kevin Rochford made key stops all day long in the UNB net.

"It's the best feeling in the world", Adams said of scoring the winning tally. "It's the biggest game and the biggest goal of my career, I can tell you that."

Besides the sheer joy of winning the conference title for the first time since 1963-64, the victory for the

Devils was satisfying for the simple reason that most people still expected Moncton to win despite the fact the Devils had won three of four meetings between the clubs this season.

"I think a lot of people expected Moncton to win the series," said Rochford, who had stopped 51 shots during the first game in Moncton to come back and win the series.

As coach Don MacAdam has said all season long, the Devils are not a team gifted with natural goalscorers.

To win, the Devils must invest their energy in plenty of hard work. For Christmas, the Devils' got a sign from a supporter that said: "What's a bit of hard work when it pays off like this?" It's been the club's theme ever since.

"We don't do anything fancy," MacAdam said. "We just kind of plod our way and work hard."

Against Toronto, the Devils are facing a team that boasts two first team all-stars, two second team all-stars and an overall record of 36-5-2. The Blues have not lost a game since the first of January, with the five losses coming against Colgate University, Michigan State, season.

First-team all-star Andre

Hidi counted 41 goals and added 54 assists for 95 points in 43 games while in 24 conference games he managed 30 goals and added 31 assists for 61 points.

Defenceman Mike Pelino also made the first all-star team with five goals and 34 assists in 43 games, while rookie Darren Boyko - with 28 goals and 44 assists for

72 points - was joined on the second team by Don McLaughlin, who tallied 26 goals and added 39 assists for 65 points.

"Toronto has an incredibly strong hockey team," MacAdam said. "But we have the type of team that isn't afraid of anyone."

To help get supporters ready for Saturday's game, The Riverview Arms is spon-

soring both a banner party and a noise night. The banner party gets underway at

12 noon at the Arms, with a \$100 cash prize for the group with the best banner. The banner party continues throughout the day, with

the Arms sponsoring a noise contest at the game that night, with a cash prize of \$100 going to the loudest group.

Food specials all day include steak and stein for \$2.99 and a Merve burger platter and beverage for \$1.99.

CIAU Wrestling

Ron Richard and Murray Reid by winning their AUAA titles got to compete at the CIAU's in Regina on February 24 and 25.

They both obtained great experience with Reid finishing fifth and Richard finishing sixth. Reid lost his first two bouts by pins and

then pinned his opponent in the bout for fifth and sixth.

Richard wrestled a great tournament despite not winning any of his 3 bouts. Richard lost his first bout by a pin then lost two close decisions. He lost 10-7 to the eventual bronze medalist and then lost a 7-4 decision for fifth place.

44
LOHNS
1-4
1-7
8-14
1-7
1-11
12-14
1-11
1-9
325
12-14
1-9
9-12
9-12
13-14
13-14
1-5
1-10
1-10
12-14
1-8
10-11
13-14
1-6
1-6
14
13
11
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