

SPORTS

Bloomers capture top spot Host AUAA's

It was meant to be.

At the beginning of the 1982-83 season for the University of New Brunswick Red Bloomers head coach Coleen Dufresne was stating rather bluntly that her squad should have no close opposition inside the AUAA. Well, last weekend her charges proved her right as they swept a pair of games, giving them the AUAA regular season championship for the first time in four years. But it was not so much this, but the fact that in doing so they have virtually assured themselves of an unblemished record, having only one game left, that being against the University of Prince Edward Island Pantherettes this coming weekend.

Last weekend opened in a fairly regular way, with the Bloomers thrashing yet another team, this time the sacrificial lamb would be the Acadia Axettes, who are fighting to stay out of the cellar, a position they had been sharing with the Mt. Allison Lady Mounties up until a couple of weeks ago. The Bloomers opened a 34-14 halftime lead and simply cruised in low gear the second half as they overwhelmed a disheartened Axettes 68-42.

The Bloomers were led by rookies Sue McMaster and Jennifer George, both of whom played strong games, hooping 14 points apiece, while guard Jill Jeffrey added 10. Acadia veteran Angela Van Barnevald was the only Axette in two figures as she scored 10 in the losing cause.

About the only notable point in that game was not the game itself but the setting, the Aitken University Centre. Most of the Bloomers had never played there before, and the general consensus was that it would be nice to get back to the gym on Saturday against the Dalhousie Lady Tigers.

Saturday was just another day for most people, but for the Red Bloomers and the Tigers it was the day they had both been waiting for since November 14th, the date of their last encounter. Neither team had been satisfied with the outcome of that game, the Bloomers because they had only beaten the Tigers by 2, the Tigers because they had lost to the Bloomers at home in the Dalplex.

Most people put their parts on one leg at a time that morning, but rumour has it that the Bloomers just floated into

theirs, especially veteran point guard Jill Jeffrey. Jill played what possibly could be classed as her best game this year to lead the Red Bloomers to a 71-53 taming of the Tigers. Jill scored 11 points, most of them in the second half, but it was not so much this, it was more through the leadership, both offensively and defensively, that she provided the team.

Don't get the idea that it was a one person show however, as it was a total team effort on the part of everyone that gave the Bloomers the spark. Sue McMaster played a strong game, especially in the first half, as she led the Bloomers on the scoreboard with 20 points. Jennifer George had another great game, hooping 18 points, as well as playing strong defensively with a pair of blocked shots and a handful of steals to boot. Laura Gillespie, who had been dry the first half, came on in the second, scoring 9 points.

Sandy Hill and Jackie Mooney deserve credit, they being the ones assigned the unenviable task of guarding Anna Pendergast, who scored her 1000th career point in the contest, making her the only woman in the history of the CIAU to score over 1000 points. Mooney also added 10 points for the squad with some good offensive work inside.

"It was a super team effort, when someone was hot we went to them and they got it, at the end of the second half, whoever got it was putting it in," commented Gillespie, "it was just a total team effort, it was great."

"In the second half we came together a bit more, I think we were hustling a bit" comments Jeffrey, "the first half I don't know if we were intimidated or we were just holding back a bit, but we came together, especially on the defensive boards in the second half."

The Bloomers had started out slowly in the contest, actually falling behind by as much as eight points early, but then started to come on as they battled back to even take the lead at one point in the first half. The teams went to the dressing rooms with the Tigers holding a slim 33-32 lead, but that was all they were going to be able to muster. The Bloomers came out flying, outscoring the Tigers 24-11 in the first eight minutes of the second frame, to take a very commanding

lead, never looking back from there, as the large crowd on hand cheered them on to the win. At the end of the game the crowd, estimated at about 800 people, stood and cheered for almost a minute as the girls huddled at centre court, basking in the glory of their win.

So as the Bloomers are rounding out their season this weekend on the island, their thoughts will most certainly be on the AUAA Championships to be held here February 25 and 26. Dalhousie will most

certainly be back, and most likely St. Francis Xavier and St. Mary's, although Memorial also has an outside chance at knocking off one of those final two teams. But the memories of last year on the island still linger, so the squad will most likely be out to thump the islanders.

"I think this win over Dal will just keep going, and we're on a high right now", comments Jeffrey, "so we're going to keep it that way, we're going to try and go undefeated but more importantly we've got to

look to PEI, we lost there last and that's not going to happen again."

With next weekend's win added to their 13-0 record the team will head into the AUAA Championships as the definite favorite, a position they rightly deserve, as they are by far the best team in the Atlantic Conference. Coleen Dufresne's confidence in September was not unfounded, just as her confidence in the team right now is not unfounded.

It was meant to be.

Devils collar Huskies

By HOWARD MACKAY

After a weekend of upsets last week the Red Devils showed their true colors as they humiliated the St. Mary's Huskies in a 10-1 win on Saturday night. It was not one of the most exciting games seen at the Aitken Centre this season, but the result left everyone satisfied. Both teams looked sluggish, but SMU showed the effects of a 10-1 loss the night before to Moncton as they appeared lifeless. Throughout the whole game the Huskies always seemed to be one step behind the Devils, in the Moncton game St. Mary's lost three players, but that is no excuse for the poor game they played. The Red Devils consistently found the empty space in the St. Mary's net and totally deserved the win.

UNB opened the scoring at the 2:18 mark when Al Lewis put in the first goal of his hat-trick. Not two minutes later he notched his second goal on a power play. The Red Devils' Bill MacDonald got the third UNB marker of the period at the thirteen minute mark. With just under three minutes left St. Mary's finally beat Kevin Rockford, but that was their only goal of the night as the Devils defense took over and shut the doors on the Huskies offense.

The start of the second period saw both teams come out flat, but UNB still managed to put the puck in the net another four times to give themselves a secure 7-1 lead going into the third period. The goals seemed to come in pairs as Kurt Rugenius and Vaughan "Porky" Porter each put in two goals.

In the third period UNB got goals from Al "Lou" Lewis, which completed his hat-trick,

Don "Ted Green" Cameron and Jim Somers. St. Mary's was showing the effects of a drive from Moncton combined with five periods of poor hockey as they showed no power defensively or offensively in the third period. The win for UNB was their first lopsided victory all year. With only two games

remaining in the regular season UNB is still solidly in the play-off hunt. Victories over SMU and Mt. A. may still put the Red Devils in the playoffs. The final game against Mt. A. on Saturday could very well be the game to decide who gets the final playoff spot.



ATTENTION ALL VARSITY ATHLETES COACHES, TRAINERS, MANAGERS - 1st Annual Varsity Curling Bonspiel

The first annual varsity curling bonspiel will be held Sunday, March 13 at the Fredericton Country Club on Golf Club Road. No experience is necessary. Instruction will be provided that day starting at 11:30. Curling will start at 1:00 and the finals will be played at 5:00.

So let's see which sport has the best curlers. This is a unique opportunity as it will allow the varsity teams to meet on

the same common battlefield. Applications can be picked up from Stella Keyes at L.B. Gym and \$14.00 must accompany application. The entry fee will include, curling, soup and sandwiches for supper and the curlers are invited to a dance at the Capital Winter Club later that night.

Entries should be turned in as soon as possible to allow organizers to plan the schedule for that day.