

editorial

Support sports Come out and cheer!

Ah, High School hockey. The rink resounding with the cheers and shouts of many students out to support their team. I have seen by coming to UNB that this is not the case here; I was really disappointed by the lack of fan support at the hockey games. Some people have given as reasons that they are tired of seeing the Red Devils lose. This is a mistake, any one who attended the games on the weekend against St. Mary's and St. F.X. saw good, fast-paced hockey that resulted in a tie with SMU and a big win over St. F.X.

I am also told that the same is true for most varsity sports. Fan support is virtually non-existent. My question is, what changes from high school to university? Do people who followed sports and even played sports lose all interest, or maybe they feel foolish or don't know anybody going to the games? What better way to meet people than at a sporting event? What better way to entertain yourself inexpensively? Is the problem a lack of publicity and if so what can be done to improve the information available? The Bruns tries to maintain a watch on upcoming events in the Upcoming column of the paper. Sports events are usually posted on bulletin boards all over campus.

Picture this, a Saturday night at about 5 p.m. and nothing to do but wait until dinner is over and then maybe watch TV or go to the tavern or Social Club. Why not check the sports listings in the Bruns or call the Sports Update line at the Gym (453-4578). Just think, if the team wins it would be a much better party at the tavern or the club.

Sporting events are a great release for tension. Nothing beats yelling at referees or just cheering. On a personal note, I have never seen quieter fans at hockey games. They seem to sit on their hands and they must all have laryngitis. For anyone who attended the games last Friday and Saturday nights at the Aitken Centre the most outspoken fan was the Manager of the Team, Jeff (Bear) Irwin. Irwin tried in both games to get some cheering started but all that

resulted was a very sore throat. At least, that's what he whispered to me.

At any university other than UNB which I have attended a varsity event, the place was usually full. I attended an NCAA basketball game in Dallas, Texas a couple of years ago that saw Southern Methodist University Mustangs play Rice University. The place was absolutely packed. In the local area I have been to football games at SMU, Acadia, Mt. A, UPEI, as well as hockey at

the above mentioned schools and all had really good fan turnout. Nothing bolsters a team's spirits and gives them the drive to win than the sound of the fans in the background. Anyone who has ever played sports of any nature knows the value of the boisterous fan.

Next week is the rival game - St. Thomas against UNB at the Aitken Centre Tuesday night. Come out and support the next AUAA hockey champs; the Red Devils!

