

# Vote to decide new Varsity name held

by Bruce Denis

This week marked the beginning of a major facelift for the UNB Athletic department. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday allowed us to practice our voting rights before the constitutional referendum. Students selected the new common name for all varsity sports teams. The unofficial *Brunswickan* tally found the Varsity Reds as the most popular choice, however the official results will not be released until next week.

The committee decided to add the name "Red Mariners" to the original three which are the Falcons, the Red Lions and the Varsity Reds, however few students were aware of this. Though few students showed interest in donating a loonie to the sports department and did not vote, most had strong opinions about the change.

Scott Demmons, a graduate Phys. Ed. student, manned the booth at the Lady Beaverbrook Gym on Tuesday and the booth at the Student Union Building on Wednesday. "At the booths I've been working at, the Varsity Reds has been the most popular choice. It's hard to say what it's been like at the other booths though," says Demmons who voted for the Varsity Reds himself. "The name will allow the teams to keep their former nicknames and crests and incorporate them with the new logo and new name. It will make a lot of people happy from that respect."

Darren Comeau, Varsity Mania coordinator, agrees with Demmons' choice and reasoning. "The Varsity Reds is a very generic name. it isn't sexist or biased in anyway. And it allows the varsity teams to stay with their old nicknames if they want to. It's a good compromise." Comeau also notes that the name will encourage UNB's marketing ability. "If it can be marketed properly, the university can make money off of it. That is the main aspect; it will help varsity athletics in the future."

Marketing and selling the school logo is commonplace among North American universities. UNB is the exception. With a different name and logo for each team, it is too costly to sell sports apparel. All this will change once the new name is chosen.

Lady Beaverbrook Residence sports Rep. Neil Unsworth voted for the Falcons. "To me it's the most appealing name." He also praises the idea of a name change. "I think it will give UNB more recognition and we will become more visible throughout the CIAU by using only one name. No one has ever heard of the Red Shirts or Red Devils unless they play the sports."

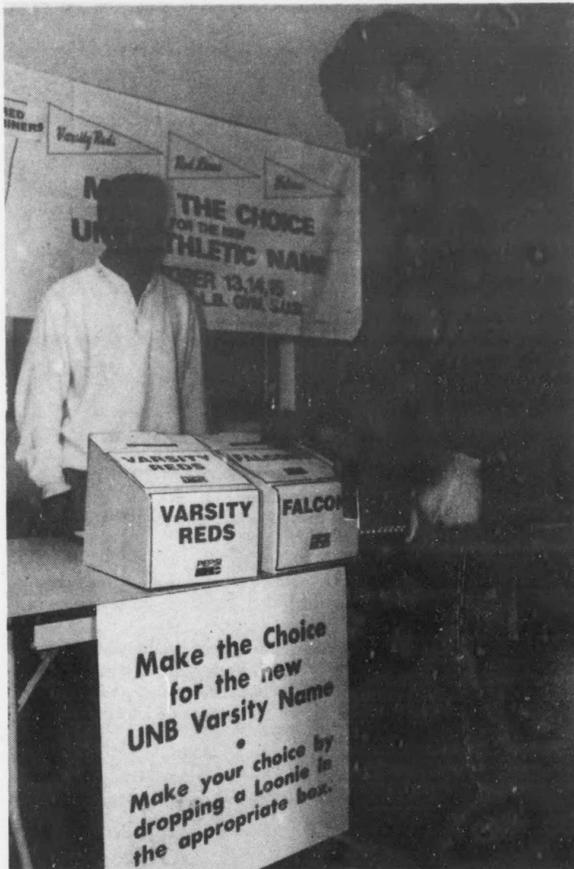
3rd year Arts student Vicki MacKenzie agrees. "I like the Falcons. By converting to a single name, UNB will establish a common identity not only amongst the students but throughout the CIAU. If the sports program is to progress it must establish a grass roots

identity and unity. This should merely be the first step."

This ideal seems common throughout the university community, however few students actually took the time and the money to act on their beliefs. Voter turnout was sparse at best. Despite this, the name change is inevitable, much to the chagrin of some traditionalists.

"Even though I've been at UNB for one year, you tend to associate Red Raiders with basketball and it has been that way for along time," says last years Red Raider rookie of the year Marc Aube. Though each team name carries a certain tradition, Aube thinks the change could be positive. "It would certainly bring some degree of unity to UNB and varsity athletics. Actually I think the Red Raiders would be a great name for all the teams."

Evidently, the Varsity Reds looks like a sure bet but the Falcons will challenge. No matter what the people of Fredericton chose, the change will mark a new era of athletics at UNB, a new identity for Varsity athletes and, hopefully, consistent revenue in athletic clothing to further fuel the varsity program.



An unidentified student deposits loonie into bin while Scott Demmons looks on Wednesday Kevin G. Porter photo



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