

UNB Ironmen suprised in pair of games

by The King

Last Saturday, Sept. 19, the UNB rugby teams ran into surprise opposition from both the Loyalists B team in Fredericton and the St. F.X. team in Antigonish.

At Loyalists field a very large and experienced B team overcame two UNB tries from Scott Good and beat the Ironmen by the conversion difference. The final result was Loyalist B, 12 - UNB B, 10.

In Antigonish N.S. the Ironmen, after the 7 hour drive, emitted from their cars to absorb the wrath of the X men. Dave O'Keffe, a potential Canadian player scored 14 of the X men's final tally of 21. UNB scored two majors and a convert, but could not overcome the X men's determined play. Final score X men 21 - UNB A, 10.

On Wednesday nite, Sept. 23, the UNB B team again took to the pitch against hillside rivalry STU. The Ironmen were ready and determined to redeem themselves, and no better time than this was foreseen. The scoring opened in the first half when the backrow combination of Irwin and Robichaud executed a perfect penalty play for the first try. The first half saw excellent forward play from many newly installed players who rucked and mauled the ball away from STU and constantly threatened to score. Midway through the first half the pressure finally exploded with scrum-half Mike Reeves going under the posts unmolested

for the second UNB major. The first half finished with the UNB back field moving the ball all through the back ranks and falling just short of the fry line, but good follow up support saw Greg Hughes end the half with the third Ironmen try.

After the five minute half time break and 4 substitution by UNB the game re-started in earnest. Most favorable play from the forwards and good defense on behalf of the backs maintained the shout out bid. The only scoring in the second-half saw Ron Robichaud touch down for his second of the game wide on the outside after good second phase play. The final tally and a much deserved one, UNB B, 20 - STU, 0.

Saturday, Sept. 26 drew the Ironmen "A" side their most formidable foe. The Trojans of St. John, the reigning Provincial champs and the core of the New Brunswick provincial side hosted the UNB "A"s for a 3 p.m. kickoff. A very well coordinated and highly experienced Trojan team relied on their heavy pack to over power the Ironmen, who utilized a lighter, swifter pack in hopes of outrunning the Trojans. Alas, the heavy pack gave up very little ball from the set scrums and the Ironmen never really got the chance to run. The Trojans got try's from the forwards and the backs and succeeded in beating the swifter Ironmen to the ball. In the end the Trojans came out on top of a

33-13 score. Good aspects of the game saw determined play from the Ironmen who never gave up the pursuit. In fact, late in the game the Ironmen went on a 95 yard run, endzone to endzone for their only try of the game, touched down by Shimpel, initiated by Clarke. Undoubtedly these two will battle it out through the remainder of the season and clash again in post season play.

The "B" team traveled to Woodstock to challenge a mystery side of mostly unknown players. Unfortunately those unknowns made their presence felt enroute to a 17-10 victory over the Ironmen. A much larger pack than expected met the UNB Ironmen and pushed them backward repeatedly. However, the Ironmen did succeed in winning some ball and ran well when it moved across the backline. Woodstock opened the scoring on a defensive breakdown by the Ironmen. The response came when UNB moved the ball wide on a penalty deep inside the Woodstock zone and touched down in the far corner.

The first half saw many chances to score squandered, and Woodstock took advantage of mental breakdowns and poor tackling to increase the score to 12-5 at the whistle.

The second half saw play tighten up and a battle of technique ensued. Frustration set in on the part of the Ironmen who

fought to win ball in the scrum only to have it dispossessed in the backfield. The "B" team must tighten up defensively in order to regain their status as contenders in the division. Final result in Woodstock was, them 17 - UNB 10.

This week's matches see the "A" team hosting the UNB Old boys Wednesday nite, 6 p.m. at College field. Then on Saturday,

the "A"s once again are in action at College field, this time hosting cross city rivals the Loyalists, at 3 p.m. The "B" team is in action at 1 p.m. Saturday hosting an entry from St. Stephen who sit atop the division with an unbeaten record. Find the time to support the UNBRFC and enjoy what will be some very entertaining rugby.

**A RUGBY PHOTO
WAS GOING TO GO
HERE UNTIL
SOMEONE CAME
AND STOLE THEM
ALL.
NEXT TIME ASK.**

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