

# Raiders Playoff Bound

By JOHN GEARY  
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It would be really nice for Raiders' fans, if it could be said that the team played flawless basketball over the break, and that they'd come out of that five-game stretch undefeated.

Unfortunately, that is not the case. UNB went 3-2 during the break, looking excellent in spots, but looking ordinary in others. And two of those three wins came in exhibition matches against Husson College and the University of Maine Presque Isle. Still, the Raiders did win the game they had to, and got into the play-offs as a result.

Going back two weeks, the Raiders were in Charlottetown to play the UPEI Panthers in a 2-game series. A split would give them a very good shot at making the play-offs, and a sweep would clinch a spot for them. On the other hand, they could not afford to lose both games. With those thoughts in mind, they keyed up for the Friday night game, mustering for an all-out effort to take the one.

UNB led at the half, but the Panthers roared back in the second twenty minutes, and UNB's record stood at 88-72. So, not looking at it as an easy should really have won the once again, the Raiders found themselves in a "must-win" situation.

They responded with a 101-94 win over UPEI, improving their AUAA record to 9-6. Scott Devine led the way with

26 points. He felt that it was a real important game, we're in said when it gets down to the ten minute stretch of real solid our own home court, and we're defence by UNB in the second going to go right after them. Of course, a win might boost it up. Well, nobody put it up, dropping for us. But we're gonna get 'em again Friday, and we'll play a lot better then."

"The game was a little more than having to face the first-wide open," he commented. "But in the second half, Tony Walker came in, got some season-long trend, defence going, and did a good job on the boards. And our whole defence tightened up the first half, but they fought their way back to tie the game, there - and I think that was the real key to the game."

So once again, the Raiders had won a game when they had to. The big question remained, though: how often are they going to be able to do that, before it catches up with them? They had an easy enough time of it during the week, in regulation time, UNB had making the play-offs, and a pair of wins over the two Maine schools already mentioned. Then they faced the first place St. Francis Xavier X-Men, in their final regular season AUBC game. Following the UPEI game, Devine had talked about that game - a game which did not really have much impact on UNB's play-off picture. "We're thought that his charges game," he explained. "We'll see 'X' in the play-offs, and we might see them in the eastern regionals, and we know we can play with them in that situation is just disastrous. We work on things like that, and we've always

It was close all the way in the second half, and UNB took a 59-57 lead (their first of the game) with 11:03 left. That was short-lived though; however, with the score tied at 61-61, just 40 seconds remaining in regulation time, UNB had a possession, and a golden opportunity to salt away a win. But they failed to get a shot away before the shot clock expired, and it looked like they had given the ball game to the X-men. St. F.X. returned the favour though, missing a pair of shots in the final 10 seconds, which sent the game into overtime. UNB Coach Don Nelson thought that his charges had won the game before it went into overtime. "We had a chance to win it in the dying seconds," he commented. "Not getting a shot in that situation is just disastrous. We work on things like that, and we've always

The Raiders, following their outscored 10-4, giving the X-Men a 71-65 win. That meant UNB finished in fourth place with a 9-7 record. Coach Nelson was disappointed, not just at the loss, but also at the team's inability to play up to their potential. Those sentiments were echoed by UNB's Chris MacCabe. "We played a terrible game," the big forward commented afterward. "X played really well; they

The overtime period was not kind to the Raiders, as they course, the first round of the AUAA championship tournament. If the Raiders are more aggressive on offence, and Coach force the play on X, they could very well come away with a berth in the final. But they have to play up to their potential for a full 40 minutes - or more, if necessary. As Devine put it, they have a way of coming up big for the big games. Let's hope they do it in tonight's game.

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## Reds AUAA Champions

The University of New Brunswick Reds women's volleyball team will be on their way to Vancouver, British Columbia to compete at the Interuniversity National Championships. The Reds earned the right to attend the Nationals by winning the Atlantic Zone Championships for the first time since 1957-76.

The women's competition had four teams participating at l'Universite de Moncton this past weekend. Along with the Reds the Dalhousie Tigers, Memorial University Beothucks and the St. Francis Xavier X-ettes played in the semi-finals. The Reds played the 4th place X-ettes. The match did not last that long. "The girls have to play with a lot of intensity, in preparation for the finals," stated coach Sonny Phillips, who was named as AUAA coach of the year by his fellow coaches. The Reds defeated the X-ettes convincingly 15-0, 15-4, and 15-7 in a best of five matches. The X-ettes had not scored a single point until late in the second game, where the Reds had a 10-0 lead.

Outstanding players for the Reds were Alice Kamermans with 15 kills, Sue Woods with 14 kills, Brenda Johnston with 5 ace serves and Sherry Martin who played well.

The semi-finals between the Dalhousie Tigers and the Memorial Beothucks, unfortunately it was never played,

because Memorial was stranded in Newfoundland and was unable to play. So Dalhousie advanced to the final.

"It was the most entertaining volleyball match I had ever seen" exclaimed ass't coach Paul Belanger. The stands were full as the match began. Each game of the best of five matches was intensive and very close. The Reds came through to defeat the former National Champions 3 games to 1, with scores of 15-2, 11-15, 15-8 and 16-14 to win the Atlantic Interuniversity Championship for their fourteenth time since the early 60's. Top performances came from Alice Kamermans with 34 kills and Sue Woods with 32 kills. After the final the AUAA all-star team was announced and two members of the Reds were named, both for their 5th time. Sue Woods and Alice Kamermans who also was named the AUAA most valuable player.

The coaching staff would like to congratulate every player on the UNB Reds who have worked towards the championships since early September.

The Reds now advance to the National Championships and will meet the Quebec champions, probably the University of Sherbrooke and the host team University of British Columbia in the preliminary round, which will begin March 10th.



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