

Blazers drop opener

By MARY SCOTT
Brunswickan Staff

There are always question-marks at the beginning of any season in any sport, women's hockey, and the defending N.B. Senior champion UNB Red Blazers are no different. When the Blazers lost their season opening game to a combined team of F.Y.H.A. Bantam boys some of the questions were answered.

The biggest was the question of the goaltending. When last between the pipes goalie Wendy Dickinson, who Blazers coach Mike Power has gone on record as labeling "the best in Canada, bar non", was suffering from a very sore back. Sunday the popular third year veteran was sensational kicking out 50 of 55 shots sent her way as the Blazers dropped a 5-3 decision.

The contest had the makings of a long game when the bantams were up 2-0 ninety seconds into the first period, but Dickenson settled down and closed the door for the rest of the period, and that's the way it ended.

With only 11 skaters, and no chance to use set line combinations it took the Blazers quite some time to pull together, and early in the next

frame Alan Macloon put the boys up 3-0. Then UNB came back. "Boom-Boom" Cox scored the team's first goal of the season, with a wrist shot on the lip of the crease after being set up by France Thibodeau and Cindy Campbell. Cox, who skated and handled the puck well all day came right back to set up centre Joanne Gillies in the slot, and last year's leading goalscorer narrowed the score to a one goal margin to end the period 3-2.

The biggest question was the goaltending.

Early in the third period Matt Thorne put the boys up again by 2 with a screened shot from the point. In this period the bantams took the physical game to the girls, who were already tired from being shorthanded, but thanks to the goaltending of Dickinson the score never changed. And, when winger Alison Lee dug the puck out of the corner and slid it across to Carlo Allport at the side of the bantam net UNB had again pulled to within one. They would get no closer with a few breaks it could have gone the other way. They also had a number of key

players out of the lineup and that is sure to make a difference in the future.

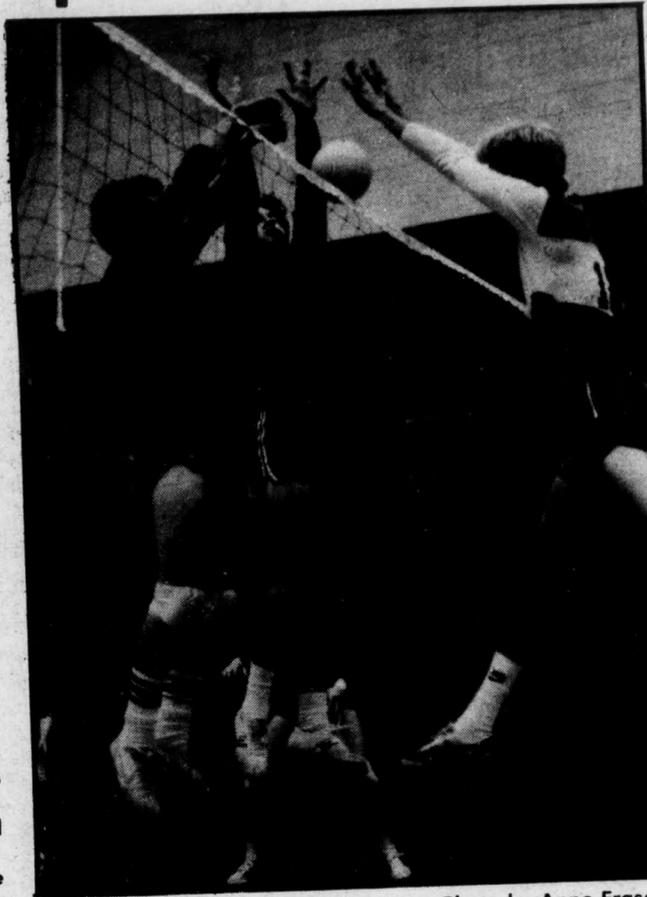
The play of "Boom Boom" Cox.

however, and a late goal by Scott Nason put the game out of reach and made the final score 5-3 for the bantams.

The Red Blazers were quite satisfied with their showing, as they had their chances and

Among the other questions that were answered: the play of "Boom-Boom" Cox answered one, she showed that she could carry the puck and stay out of the penalty box, although she did take the first minor penalty of the year, at times the second year forward controlled the play with here puck-handling. One big question still remains however. Who will be the backup goalie to Dickinson? Last year's other goalie, Sue Keirstead has now retired to become the team's trainer, and no one has come forward to take her place.

The next home action for the blazers will be on November 10th at the Aitken Center when they will again host a Bantam team.



UNB Red Rebels on the attack Photo by Anne Fraser



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A SPORTING CHANCE !!!

Let's hear it for UNB Sports. The first semester is barely half-over and already the teams have come one game away from grabbing another AUAA title for the Red and Black.

The Red Sticks rolled right into the championship last Sunday after dowing Dalhousie 2 to 1. In the final, the Red Sticks played their solid game but the force of former Olympic team member Darlene Stoyka showed why St. Mary's scored 68 goals in 12 games. However, let's remember that St. Mary's virtually walked over every team they played and the Sticks deserve applause for their excellent performance against the Belles.

The other team that deserves congratulations is Gary Brown's soccer Red Shirts. Dropping 4 games without scoring a goal the Shirts came back and made a race of it, finishing 6 points behind the Panthers in the West Division. The Red Shirts disposed of the St. Francis Xavier X-Men in the semi-final on Saturday and set the stage for a re-match with the Panthers. Previously, the Panthers and the Shirts had played two scoreless ties here at Chapman Field but destiny was not with the Shirts. The Panthers showed why they were the AUAA powerhouse all year and walked away with a 5-2 victory over the weaker UNB squad.

The main concern on campus this year though, has to be the Red Devils. The team opened the season last weekend and dropped both games; 8-7 to Moncton in overtime and 6-3 to Mt. Allison Magpies. This caused some talk around campus that this year's team is not as good as last years. To a certain extent that might be true, since work-horses like Bluteau, Mancuso, and Rochford are gone, but if those in doubt would come to the Aitken Centre and watch the team play, they would realize the potential of the team. Sure, the defense may be a little weak right now, but the offensive power and goaltending are solid and with a little work and a few more games, the defense should start to come around.

Once again, I would like to congratulate the Red Sticks and the Red Shirts for their fine performances last weekend. Hopefully, this is just the start of what promises to be another successful sporting season at UNB....WITH A SPORTING CHANCE!!!