

## Raiders close out season

By JOHN GEARY  
Bruns Sports Staff

The 1982-83 basketball season came to an end for the UNB Red Raiders last weekend at the CIAU Eastern Regionals held at the Aitken Centre. They ended their season with a pair of losses which were typified by the same troubles which had plagued them all season long - their inability to play a complete game of basketball for 40 minutes.

While the Raiders have nothing to be ashamed of as far as their overall performance is concerned, it's safe to assume that they would rather be packing their bags for a trip to Waterloo, than hanging up their sweats for another year. Unfortunately, the York University Yeomen also had plans for a trip to the Nationals, and UNB was one team they had to get past to realize those plans. And they disposed of the Raiders in one of Friday's semi-finals, downing the home side 74-61.

The Raiders went into that game hoping for a chance to redeem themselves for a shellacking they'd suffered at the hands of the Yeomen last December. They wanted to prove to York, as well as the UNB fans that the squad that was embarrassed then, was not the real Raiders' team.

For the first 20 minutes it looked like they might just be able to pull it off. They played very well, staying with York for most of the first half. The lead switched hands a number of times as both teams put on a very entertaining display of basketball. The Raiders let up just a little in the closing minutes of the half, and York built their halftime lead to seven points.

The second half started off disastrously for the Raiders. They came out of the dressing room shooting very poorly, and that, combined with some sloppy execution during the first five minutes, allowed the Yeomen to surge to a 15-point lead. As has been the case all year, that big deficit seemed to spur the Raiders on to a better effort; however, as was the case the week before in Halifax, it was a matter of too little, too late as the comeback fell short. The Raiders' Scott Devine, who led UNB with 17 points, felt that they just didn't play a complete game of basketball. "You can't get down 13 or 17 points like we do - and I don't really know why we put ourselves in that position. We've been doing it all year, and getting burned, but we still do it," he commented. "We seem to hit a flat spot for about a four or five minute stretch which is

the main reason we lose ball games. We only play 30-35 minutes of basketball, and it's those five or seven minutes we don't play that kill us."

So all that remained for the Raiders was the consolation game against the Brock University Badgers. Brock has been beaten 87-75 by the St. Mary's Huskies in the other semi-final game played Friday night. Both UNB and Brock would be playing for pride, as both their seasons were, for all intents and purposes, over.

Of larger consequence for UNB was the fact that they would be losing one of the most outstanding athletes to ever wear the "red and black". That person is, of course, Scott Devine, who graduates this spring along with teammates Paul Holder and Ted DeWinter. "That's one of the things that'll help me get up for this game," Devine said, prior to his last outing as a Raider. "Hopefully, seeing it as it is my last game, it'll be a hard-fought but enjoyable game of basketball, both for us and the fans." He also added that he wanted to thank the UNB fans who had supported the team throughout the year. "I hope they keep on coming out and supporting the basketball team, as they showed they can, last night."

The game itself turned out to be a very entertaining one; the Raiders had the lead a number of times, but once again it was another bad



The CIAU all star team.

ANN KENNERLY Photo

Doug Fast (Brock) Scott Devine (UNB)

Enzo Spagnoulo (York)

John Christensen (York)

stretch of five minutes during the second half that did them in, as they lost 91-88. This same trend plagued them all year, and it was almost as if they had to find themselves way behind in the second half before they'd start to play the type of ball they're capable of. UNB's Chris McCabe commented on that after the game. "It certainly seems that way, at times, but I don't really think that goes through our minds. We seem to take some bad shots, and we don't get any breaks, and we end up in a position where we have to really work to get some good shots and get

back in the ball game. But by then, of course, it's too late."

Despite the loss, Coach Don Nelson was not entirely displeased with the game. "The boys played a good game, and it was a real team effort. We managed to get almost everybody into the game, and I feel that's important in a game like this. We would've liked the win, but I'm certainly not disappointed with the team's effort."

In the championship game between the Huskies and the Yeomen, it was a matter of the St. Mary's squad overpowering the York team in-

(Continued on page 23)



No. 20, getting his well deserved award.

ANN KENNERLY Photo



SMU, winners in the CIAU tournament this past weekend.