

Red Shirts undefeated

The UNB Red Shirts soccer team fielded only five starters from the 1984 edition as they opened the AUAA season at home last weekend vs. Saint Mary and Acadia. Worries about the team's inexperience were put to rest at least temporarily by an impressive 2-0 victory over the Huskies on Saturday afternoon. This was followed by a 1-1 tie with the Axemen the very next day.

Not returning this year are such notables as Mike Foley and Tony Rollinson (who'd been to the national championships with the team,) along with Chris Hornibrook, Steve MacCaig, David Rouse, Lloyd Kennedy, Mike McNutt, and David Brown, who was lost due to an injury. Also on the injury list is first sting goalkeeper George Lucas who suffered a broken cheekbone while preparing for the Canada Summer Games. As a result of the large turnover, the Red Shirts were a largely unknown entity before the weekend.

The new players all had the necessary skills, according to Head Coach Gary Brown, but playing well as a team, so important in soccer, would only come with game experience, he noted. New arrivals at halfback this year were Neil Valsanghar, Alex Scholton,

and Tom Hanley. They joined returnees Pat Sweeney, who played for New Brunswick's Summer Games team, and Dave Dempsey, who was plagued by injuries last year.

Returning at striker are David Foley (also a Summer Games player,) Steve MacKay with Paul Antle in reserve.

The back line played solidly on the weekend and featured veterans Peter Hilger at left fullback and Andy Wilson at sweeper. Joining them were Fredericton rookie Sean Grondin at right fullback and centerback Steven Harris, a new arrival from Liverpool, England. Backing them up was John Johnson.

Coach Brown expressed concern about the teams' depth while he still has many players in camp who could step in, any injuries could be costly. One area where depth isn't a problem is filling in for Lucas. Until he returns, Geoff Harvey and Ralph Manning will split the chores on the Weekend. Vincent Woo is also in the wings.

The weekend provided two picture perfect days, with the exception of a gusting wind on Saturday; a factor in the Saint Mary's game. Despite the wind in the first half, the Huskies came out strong offensively, but sure tackling by UNB

sweeper Andy Nelson, centerback Steven Harris, and strong play in air by right fullback Sean Grondin snuffed out their early attacks. The Huskies forwards then turned their attentions to griping at the referee and amongst themselves and were never very effective after that. UNB soon picked up their own attack and almost cashed in numerous times. Especially on two indirect kicks from mid-field which Wilson directed into the box beautifully for his forwards to attempt to head into the net.

This pressure led to a scuffle along the Huskies end-line which resulted in Red Shirts striker Steve MacKay being issued a red card, ejecting him from the game and leaving the Red shirts a man short for the remainder. The Huskies, however, failed to spread their attack out to utilize this advantage. Mid-fielders Pat Sweeney and Dave Dempsey, along with Harris, got the better of the match-ups in the center of the field and UNB's offense continued almost unhindered.

They finally broke through past the midway point of the half when Harris tackled the ball away just inside the Huskies half of the field. He then dribbled well, drawing

the defense to the center before feeding a pass on the wing to Sweeney. Sweeney sent a good ball in front to striker Dave Foley, who cut across to the left of the goal before sending a shot back against the grain to the inside of the right post, past Saint Mary's keeper Cameron Brown. Only two excellent saves by Brown off shots by Dempsey and Foley kept the score 1-0 for the rest of the half.

UNB added an insurance goal about 15 minutes into the second half when outside

halfback Tom Hanley found Foley with a pass behind the Saint Mary's left fullback, (who was caught out of position). Foley roamed unmolested down that side until he was finally intercepted just outside the left post by the keeper and centerback. He then slipped a pass through to Paul Antle who was parked in front of the net for an easy chip-in and a 2-0 lead.

The score remained that way due to continued aggressive play by UNB's back line. This was highlighted (or lowlighted, however you look at it) by left fullback Peter Hilger being issued a yellow card after an over-zealous attempt to extract the ball from a Saint Mary forward.

Keeper Geoff Harvey picked up the shut-out, although he wasn't tested too severely. Foley played an especially strong game; consistently creating havoc and finding the open spaces in the offensive end. He also made his presence felt in the defensive half breaking up a Huskies threat at one point with a tackle all the way back near his own end-line.

The tie on the following day was worse than kissing your sister as both sides failed to finish off many scoring bids which could have given the victory.

Acadia opened the scoring early in the first half on a fine play off a direct kick from the outside right of the penalty area. The ball was hipped over

the Red Shirts' Wall and Axemen forward Fred Godfrey cut in and timing his leap perfectly, headed the ball into the net.

UNB controlled the play the remainder of half and came close to tying the game more than once. Acadia keeper Mike Boden repeatedly got off poor kicks to keep the pressure in his own end while his counterpart for the Red Shirts, Ralph Manning, kicked long and accurately, consistently aiding UNB's attack throughout the game. Perhaps UNB's best scoring chance of the half came on an innocent looking rush by Harris; he sent a shot in which Goden caught but somehow allowed to squirt free into traffic in front of the net. Steve Mackey pounced on it but Boden managed to block his shot and an Axemen fullback cleared it.

The Red Shirts finally got back on even terms into the fourth quarter point when another weak kick from Boden was picked up by halfback Alex Scholton inside the offensive half. He then sent a pass to Foley who maneuvered his way for a shot which Boden should have covered. He allowed Tom Hanley to jar it loose and MacKey was there to knock it into the net. The score remained that way despite several agonizingly close attempts at both ends but especially around the Acadia net.

UNB notables were Foley and MacKey who spearheaded the offense, and sweeper Andy Wilson who was solid on defense and again deadly accurate on his individual kicks.

The next game is Saturday 21st at home vs. Memorial.

Interview with Don Nelson

by TOM HENDERSON
Brunswick Staff

Question 1: Could you give us a brief assessment of last year's season in retrospect?

Nelson: Last year's won-loss record of 6-22 sums it up. That's probably one of the most dismal records we've had in all the years I've been here.

That's not to say there weren't any bright sides as the team was made up of freshmen and

sophomores of whom eight will be returnees. That's the payoff for last year. During the year the team kept together—no one left.

Question 2: How successful were your efforts this summer in terms of recruiting?

Nelson: We started scouting in October of last year. The

talent level in New Brunswick wasn't sufficient to improve us dramatically so we had to go further afield to find the talent to improve. Our emphasis in recruiting has moved from the states due to the implementation of the foreign student fee differential which put UNB out of the competition there. We are now concentrating our outside activities in Central Canada and the rest of the Maritimes: This year we started with nine potential recruits but after we lost some

to academic difficulties and others to other Colleges and Universities we have brought in three rookies. It's difficult to predict whether or not they'll make a major immediate contribution without seeing them in practice but they will help our cause in the long haul.

Question 3: What else do the Raiders require in order to compete successfully in the AUAA?

Nelson: We were only blown out of 2 games of the 28 played last year. It's basically just a matter of talent—we need more height, size, and quickness. Last year's starters were sophomores who now have a year of good experience but we still require the talented offensive players who can act



Don Nelson

as game breakers to win the close matches for UNB.

Question 4: When do

scrimages begin and what does your exhibition schedule look like?

Nelson: Due to AUAA regulations we can't start practices until the first of October and our first conference game is on Friday, November 15th against Mt. A at UNB. There are 6 exhibitions scheduled between those two dates starting October 18 and 19 at Trois-Rivieres. The Raiders will be travelling with UNB's Men's hockey team to play against the University of Quebec at Trois-Rivieres.

On November 1 and 2 we will be going on our only major scheduled trip to the Lakehead Tournament at Thunderbay Ontario. It's a four team tournament featuring Lakehead, the University of Wisconsin at LaCrosse and Laurentian. November 9 and 10 the team will be playing against Hussian College in Maine, Hussian being perennial powers in their state.

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