

— WOMEN'S BASKETBALL —

Varsity Reds earn a little respect at CIAU's

by Curtis Pashelka
Special to the Brunswickan

CALGARY, ALTA. - Not much was expected out of the University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds at last weekend's CIAU women's basketball National Championships. Hey, when you play in the AUAA all year against relatively mediocre competition, it doesn't really earn you a whole lot of respect on the national scale.

So the Reds had to go out and earn their respect. And after a slow start against the University of Toronto, they did just that.

After losing to the Varsity Blues in the opening round 77-44, the Reds played with a tremendous amount of heart and determination in defeating the host team, the University of Calgary Dinosaurs, 82-54.

"I think that the pressure was off of the athletes (Friday) who seemed to be very tense and stiff," stated Reds' head coach Pauline Lordon. "Today, we talked about that and we said, 'Hey, yesterday we just got blown out, and let's face it, the worst has happened. So let's just go out and play the way that we know how.'"

There were no excuses for the way that Calgary performed against UNB on Saturday. But after playing and losing a very emotional first round game against Laurentian University, it became obvious why Calgary just wasn't interested in playing the Reds.

"We were tired. We layed it all on the line (Friday) and it made it look like we weren't trying. It wasn't that at all, we were just

tired," suggested Dino head coach Donna Rudakas. "It's not because we were out of shape and our conditioning wasn't good this year. If you look at the minutes that our starters played last night, they obviously were going to be very tired today. It was not from lack of trying, but we could hardly stand up."

Laura Swift paced the Reds with 35 points and 10 rebounds while shooting 71 per cent from the floor. Krista Foreman chipped in 15 points while Jackie Flieger added 14 to account for the majority of the Reds' scoring. Topping the Dinosaurs' attack were Erin McAlister with 15 points, Lisa Bacigalupi with 14 and Marijana Melicevic with eight.

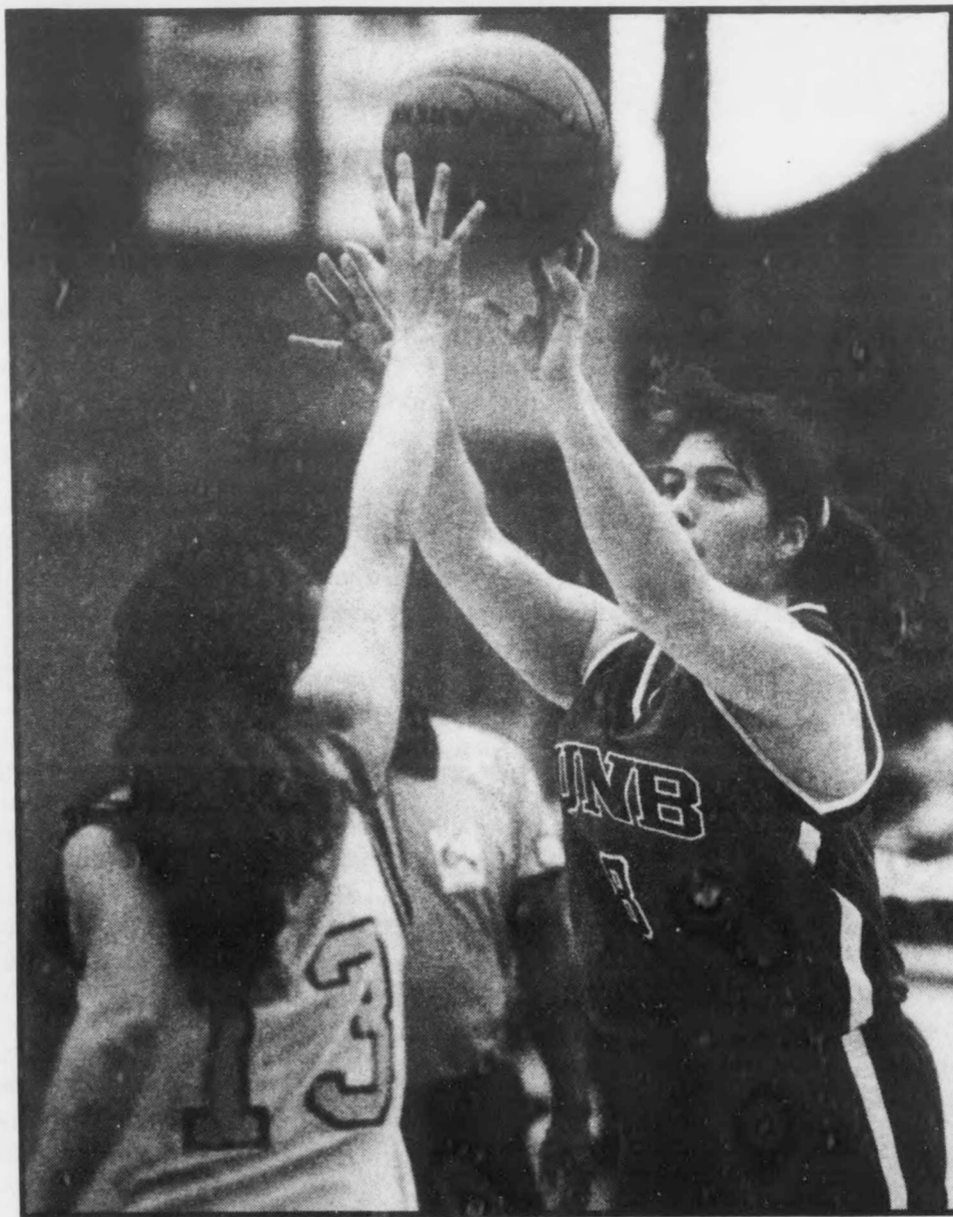
All in all, UNB outscored Calgary in the second half 46-24.

From there it was on to the consolation final Sunday morning against QSSF champion Concordia. The Reds once again put up a gutsy effort, but fell just short to the Stingers, 68-60.

Earlier in the week, Laura Swift was named CIAU All-Canadian at the annual awards banquet. She led the AUAA in scoring this season and was honoured with the AUAA MVP award just prior to the league championships.

So the Reds finished sixth overall here at the CIAU National Championships. But more than that, they earned some respect from other teams, proving to everybody that they were not to be taken lightly.

And that bodes well for the future of this program.



Nick Devlin/the Gauntlet

Jackie Flieger launches a three point attempt against the Concordia Stingers during the CIAU consolation final last weekend.

— HOCKEY —

Reds close season at hands of Acadia again

by Maria Paisley
Sports Editor-to-be

The UNB Varsity Reds ended their 16-9-1 season by losing to the number one ranked Acadia Axemen for the second straight year in the AUAA Hockey Championships in 2 games.

Acadia won the first game of the series at home 5-3 on March 2. The Reds matched the Axemen throughout game two of the series at the Aitken Centre, much to the delight of the 2500 fans on hand. The teams entered the third period tied at three before Acadia opened the game up to secure the title by a score of 7-3. The Reds had goals scored by Rob Knesaurek, Derek Cormier and Mike Cavanaugh. Acadia advanced to the CIAU Championship in Toronto.

Derek Cormier captured the AUAA Rookie of the Year award. Cormier had 29 goals and 17 assists during the regular season and added 8 goals and 2 assists in only 7 playoff games. He was also nominated for CIAU Rookie of the Year.

The Reds will be losing captain Ken Murchison, Clyde Simmons, who was interim captain while Murchison was injured, Rob Boldon and goalie Greg Reid. Both Trevor Boland and Karl Taylor have one year left in eligibility and will be back next year.

In Toronto, the U. of Lethbridge Pronghorns topped Guelph 5-2 in the CIAU final to win the University Cup. This is the first year Lethbridge has qualified for any post-season action.

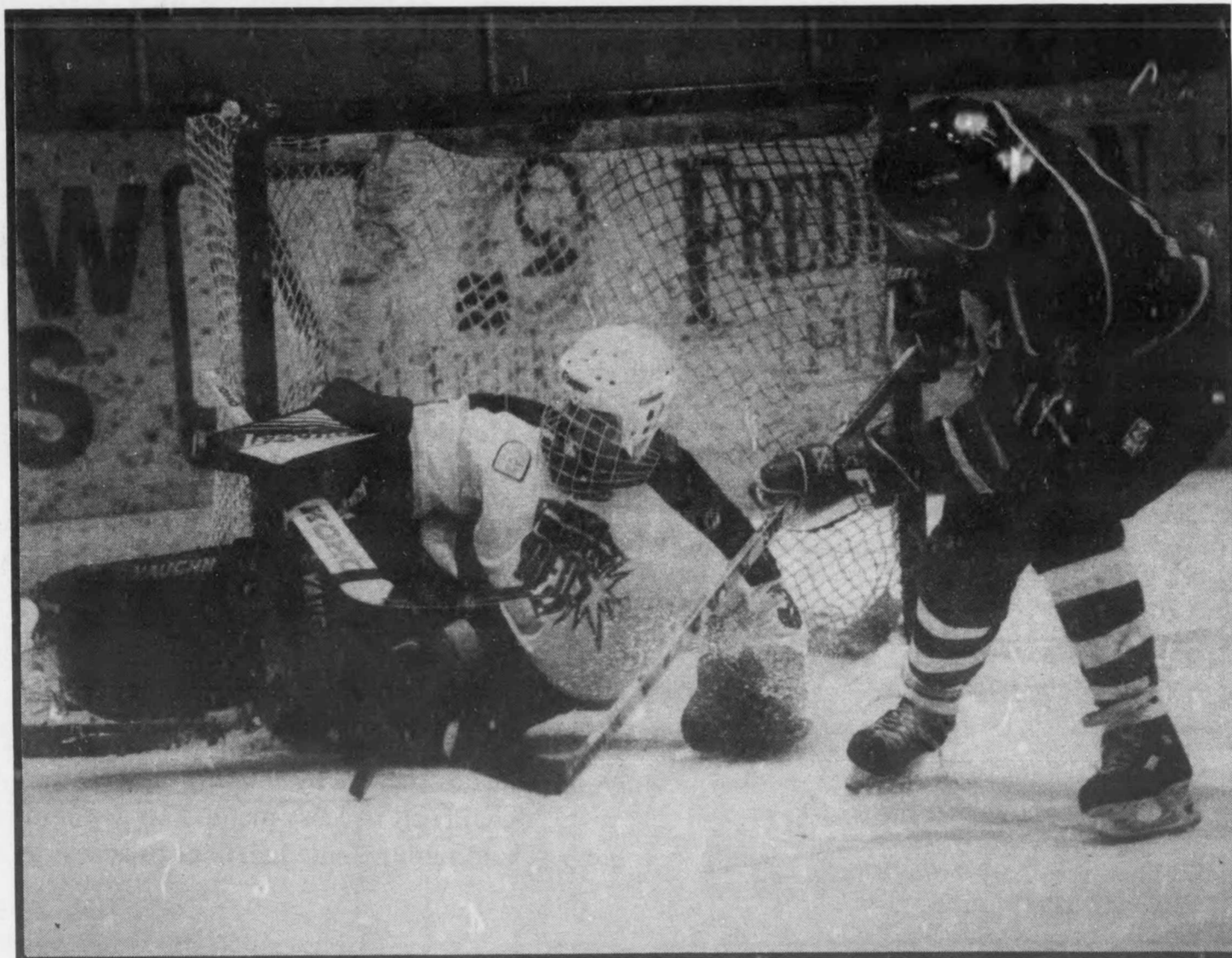


Photo by Paul B. Mysak

Reds goalie Greg Reid stopped Acadia sharpshooter Duane Dennis on this opportunity early in the second game of the conference finals. But the Axemen connected later on winning the game 7-3 to capture their second consecutive AUAA Championship two games to none.