

Field Hockey

Bean's world is still perfect

by Mark Savoie
Sports Editor

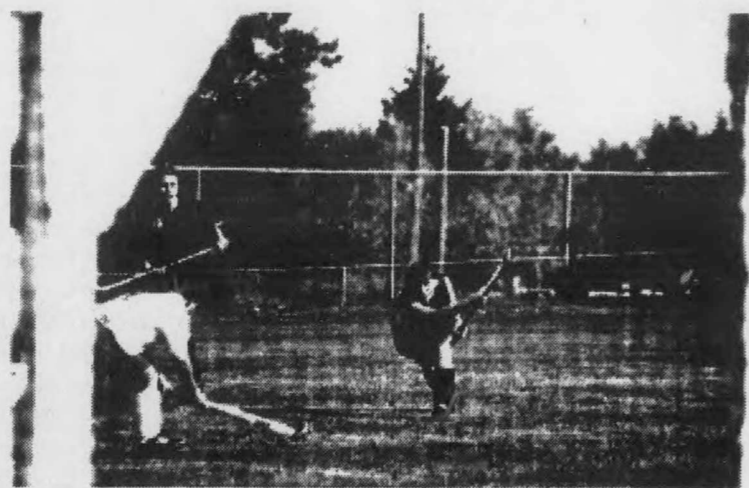
The 20 or 30 people who braved near perfect conditions to watch the UNB Varsity Reds at Chapman Field last weekend got to see yet another typically dominating performance. Last weekend they hosted the second place UPEI Panthers for a pair of games and blasted their competition by scores of 7-1 and 3-0. In their four games against the Panthers this season they have scored 18 goals and allowed just three. Some people had anticipated that there might have been a drop-off with the departure of last year's coach, Donna Hornibrook, but the V-Reds under Stacey Bean have been even more dominant than last year's unbeaten squad.

Charla Currie vaulted to second in the AUSA scoring race with a pair of goals in each game, but even she was unable to keep pace with Dianne Rogers' amazing game last Saturday. Rogers scored five goals for the V-Reds on that day to raise her total to a league leading seven, one ahead of Currie. She has been named AUSA and CIAU female athlete of the week on the strength of that effort and her two assists in the next game.

The V-Reds were able to dominate the Panthers from the beginning of play, and it came as no surprise when Currie converted a penalty corner 13 minutes into the game. Fifteen minutes later they were up 4-0. Currie had scored off of another penalty corner and then Rogers began her display. Cheryl McQuillan managed a goal for UPEI a minute before half-time but the issue was far from in doubt. The second half was simply the Dianne Rogers show, as she pumped in three more goals. The last two of these were things of beauty. For both goals she answered crossing passes by one-timing them past the utterly helpless goalie.

UPEI managed to hold Rogers scoreless the next day, but still were behind even earlier than in the first game, when Rebecca Wright scored just three minutes into the struggle. This was followed by two goals by Charla Currie, both off of penalty corners. The offensive juggernaut of the day before was not present, however, and the V-Reds were limited to preserving goalie Krista Harris's third shutout of the season.

Of the two games, Stacey Bean was more pleased with the second despite the seven goal explosion in the first. "We played a bit more disciplined today," explained Bean. "We did the things we



Dianne Rogers follows through after yet another shot at goal against UPEI. Rogers scored five goals on the weekend.

photo by Warren Watson

wanted to do. The only difference today is we didn't put the ball in the net. Yesterday, you had Dianne Rogers, who had an outstanding individual effort; the finest I've seen in a very long time in this game. Whereas today, you had a couple of people who looked like they had a goal and they didn't. We did the things that we wanted to do and we made them play our game, as opposed to yesterday."

One thing Bean is not happy with is that UNB's Chapman Field will be the site of the AUSA championship. This had been originally scheduled for the turf field at SMU, but it has since been decided that the first place team at the end of the season will serve as host.

The V-Reds have already clinched first place. The decision to move the championship tournament to the field of the first place team was made during the coaches meeting during the summer, when Donna Hornibrook was still head coach of the V-Reds. Hornibrook and the UPEI coach voted for this option. Now that Hornibrook is no longer here, it had been hoped that the tournament could be sent back to SMU as in years previous, but UPEI has refused to agree to this, instead going with the hope that a sloppy field at UNB might even up the odds enough for them to sneak out a victory.

"I'm not totally dissatisfied with it," hedged Bean about the decision. "Certainly it's good for our program, in terms of publicity wise it's good for us to host the championship. Mind you, when the CIAU mandates that your national championships has to be played on turf, in my world it makes a lot more sense to play your conference championships on turf because then whoever may go from your conference, you're just sending your best conference rep-

resentative. I think that it's just a true indicator of who your best conference team is.

"Whereas on grass, it starts raining, and there's four soccer games on the field that weekend; gets mucked up; never know which way the ball's gonna bounce. The nationals are played on turf, you might as well play your conference on turf. But, *c'est la vie*, and we'll do the best we can."

The V-Reds will be closing out the regular season this weekend with a pair of games against the St. Mary's Huskies (0-4-2, 2 pts.). The Huskies have managed just one goal thus far this season, that being the first goal (against UNB) of their first game this season. Since then they have been scored upon ten times, including six by Stacey Bean's UNB powerhouse in their two games against each other thus far.

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sore shins but nobody suffered an injury that would prevent them from playing this weekend. Coach Brown felt a few of his players would be "hobbling around campus this week."

The V-Reds play in Moncton on Friday, October 20. Then they are home to play Mount Allison for Homecoming on Sunday, October 22 at 2:00 p.m. at Chapman Field. The V-Reds will not be short any players and with the addition of Gray Zurheide, they will have a full complement as they go into this weekend's important matches. With only two regular season games left after this weekend the V-Reds want to be in one of the top two places of their conference in order to get a bye in the first round of the upcoming AUSA's.

This weekend should provide some entertaining soccer. On Saturday, if you cut TSN's "Soccer Saturday" short by one half hour, you will be able to catch the start of the Alumni Soccer Game at Chapman Field (at 1:30 p.m.). On Sunday, of course, you will be able to cheer on the V-Reds as they host Mount Allison at 2:00 p.m., also at Chapman Field.

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I had the good fortune to attend the Toronto Raptors game against the Philadelphia 76ers in Saint John earlier this week. The Raptors lived up to their expansion team billing by being blown out by 76ers, despite the fact that the 76ers are a horrible team that the Raptors had managed to beat by almost 20 points the night before in Halifax. I'm sure that the Raptors poor performance was a disappointment for many of those present, since the game rarely got closer than the 38-16 score which was the result of the first quarter. In fact, the last time the Raptors were within ten points was with 4:52 left in the first quarter. I, however, found the whole experience rather enjoyable, since I long ago decided that I despise everything about the Raptors organisation. I have made exceptions for John Salley and Ed Pinckney, plus for the 7'3" 390 lb. behemoth (Thomas Hamilton) who sat on the Toronto bench leering at the Raptorettes throughout the game.

My problem with the Raptors is my disgust with their Blue Jaysish attempt to decree for themselves the title as 'Canada's team.' Personally, I am far more fond of the Vancouver Grizzlies and their rather low key approach than I am of the Raptors. The Grizzlies appear to be approaching the NBA as entertainment through sport, with sport being the most important component. The Raptors, on the other hand, seem to be giving the sport component of basketball very short shrift, instead concentrating on mere entertainment. On the surface this does not seem like such a bad ideal. After all, if you're paying godawful prices to watch a game of hoops, you sure as hell want to be entertained in the process. However, there is a trap in this line of thinking which it is important to avoid. Simply put, it must be remembered that the game is the real entertainment, the only one that really matters. The Raptors' organisation appears to be in serious danger of forgetting just that. They seem to be so entranced with the idea being a part of the glitzy NBA that they are not putting enough emphasis on the quality of the product they are trying to sell. I'm not suggesting that they're not trying to win, but I am concerned that they are not displaying a willingness to pay the price that winning entails. They have to come to realise that winning ugly is far superior to losing pretty and also, ultimately, more profitable.

This, however, is not nearly so offensive to me as is their marketing strategy. First of all, the logo is an utter and complete travesty, second to only that of the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim as the stupidest logo in elite sports. One can only imagine the embarrassment that John Salley (an athlete who always impressed me with his dignified bearing on the court) feels when he puts his jersey on, with its Mickey Mouse Raptor logo emblazoned on the front. The sad thing about the logo is not even so much the logo itself, but the self-congratulatory attitude of the Raptors organisation with regard to the logo. In their program for the game in Saint John they proudly state that first round draft pick Damon Stoudamire brings the team a recognizable face to go with the highly marketable Raptor image." That's right, they're announcing to the public that the Raptor logo is highly marketable. Why the hell should we care about something like that? All we, as fans, are supposed to care about is the quality of the product, not how it is packaged. Things such as packaging are supposed to be left in the board room. That the Raptors are so publicly announcing that their logo is "highly marketable" is an indication that they are more interested in the packaging than in the product.

Still, even this does not offend me nearly so much as does their 'Canada's team' ploy. The game in Saint John was technically a neutral site game. After all, Saint John is essentially the same distance from Philadelphia as it is from Toronto. Nevertheless, the whole thing was done like a Raptors home game. The program I bought for the game only mentions the 76ers on one page, that being the centre insert which includes the rosters. The rest of the program is essentially a tribute to the Raptors. Granted, the majority of the people there were there for the Raptors, but I doubt that I was the only person there who was hoping for the 76ers. First of all, the Raptors are not Canada's team. How can they be when they aren't even the only team in Canada? However, even if the Grizzlies didn't exist, I would still find the Raptors' gross appeal to patriotism to be more than mildly abhorrent, and not just a little bit provincial. I've been a Boston Celtics fan since I was old enough to become a fan of any type. I've been a Minnesota Timberwolves fan since they entered the league out of respect for the memory of George Mikan and the old Minneapolis Lakers. I've also become a Grizzlies fan as of this year precisely because they are a Canadian team. And yet, the Grizzlies have never clubbed me over the head with a shameless appeal to my Canadianness. Had the Raptors employed less of a hard sell I might have been won over. Still, I'm just one person, and their feel good over the top approach seems to be working. That and their highly marketable image.

Lastly, the Raptors are not a good basketball team. This is not surprising, since they are just an expansion team. It will be interesting, however, to see just how long they stay bad and what Canada's reaction to them will be as loss after loss piles up. We will, of course, be able to watch it all on the Toronto Sports Network. I wonder if they've even realised that the Grizzlies are in the league.