

FEBRUARY 1, 1974

Red Raiders run season record to 11 wins, 4 losses

By CELES DAVAR

Last Thursday nite, the UNB Red Raiders hosted the powerful Acadia Axemen in the most exciting basketball game played here this season. The game, which saw UNB hold the points edge in play, twice, ended with the score Acadia 71 UNB 55.

Dave Seman, who played his finest game so far this year, paced the Raiders with 23 points. The Axemen, led by the 20 point performances of Rick Cassey and Joe Wells, also had strong efforts from guard, Gordie West and forward Jon Beausang. The game featured a strong UNB defence, constantly forcing Acadia to shoot from the outside for most of the game, and a full court press by the Axemen, which UNB was able to beat consistently.

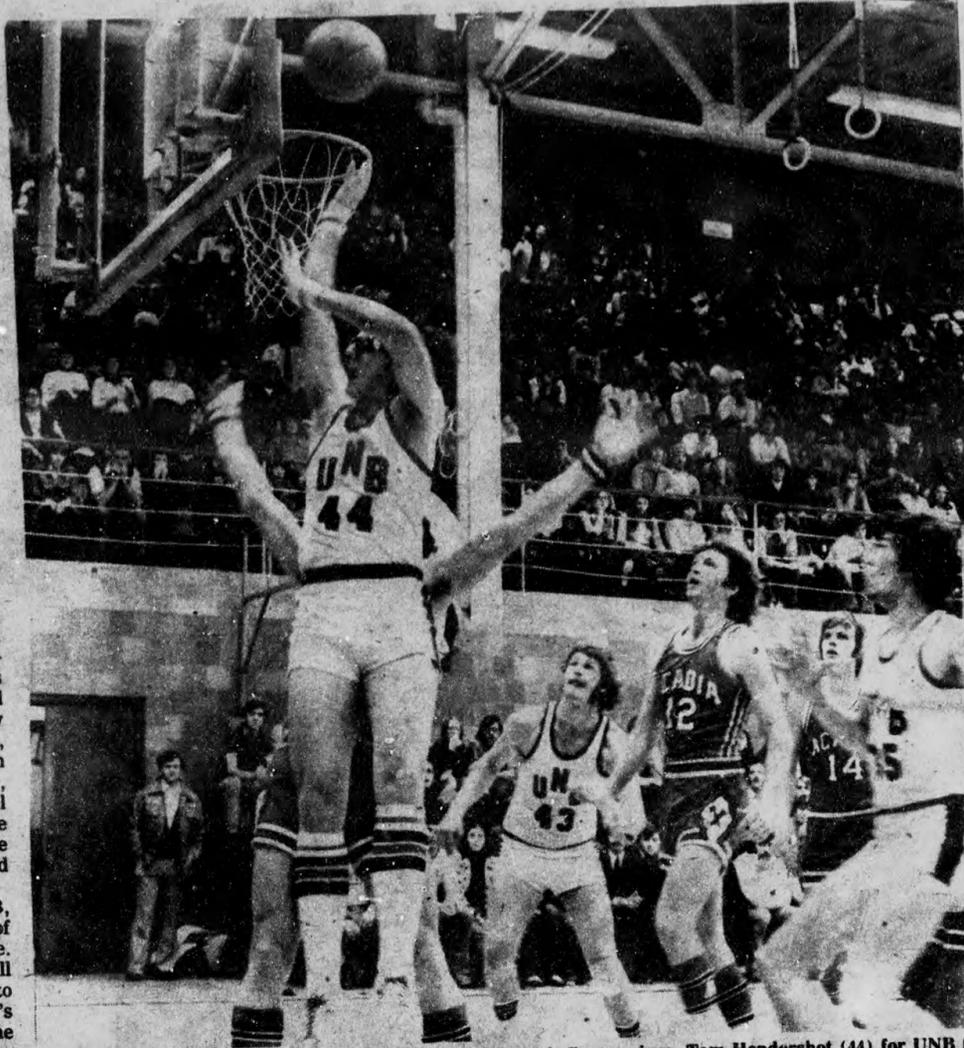
Action in the first half was an exhibition of good basketball by both teams. The Raiders jumped into an early 4 - 0 lead before the over 1200 enthusiastically cheering fans. The UNB squad, playing a tight man-to-man defence, constantly forced Acadia to take shots from outside the key. Cassey and Wells responded to the pressure by scoring 12 points each. Gord West, a 5'9" guard, though not an exceptionally good ball handler, was able to bring the ball downcourt and swing it off to the wing men. It was not until the second half that West scored effectively.

Dave MacMullin, for UNB, played quite well, despite some of the bad passes that he made. MacMullin, who controls the ball when the Raiders go upcourt had to be constantly aware of Acadia's full court press. It is one of the most effective presses in the league, and can work devastatingly on any team which is not prepared to pass quickly and accurately or play heads-up ball. It comes into play immediately after Acadia scores. Instead of heading back downcourt to set up the defence, three men immediately set up on the baseline, as we try to throw in from out-of-bounds. We have to be very quick to shake off the defence, so that the man bringing the ball upcourt can not be double-teamed. Dave, who was always surveying the situation well, usually managed either to throw the ball to a teammate or drive down the side line beating his opponent.

Top scorers for UNB in the half were Dave Seman, Joe Paytas, and Blaine MacDonald who combined for 20 points. As was mentioned earlier, Seman played probably his finest game this year. He was thinking well, moving quickly in the key to underneath the basket, where he would pick up the bounce pass and lay it in.

Near the mid-mark of the half, the Red Raider squad had picked up a 27 - 22 lead, and from there, the two teams battled back and forth, in very fierce competition. The fans, loving it, went crazy every time UNB scored. At the end of the first twenty minutes of play, Acadia led 34 - 31.

UNB came flying out in the second half, with Dave Seman collecting 14 points. By the five minute mark, UNB had a three-point edge, in scoring and time-out was called by Acadia. It was hard to believe, but we were ahead 41 - 38! The Axemen headed back on to the court, and from then on, slowly gained back their lead. As rebounding figures are very helpful in giving one an overall perception of the game, here are a few: For UNB MacMullin, Paytas and Amos combined for only 14 rebounds out of a total of 55. Acadia picked up 71, mostly from Wells



In action last Thursday nite here at the Lady Beaverbrook Gymnasium, Tom Hendershot (44) for UNB flew upward in an attempt to score. Dave Seman (43) and Blaine MacDonald (35) for UNB move in for the rebound while Acadia defenders Glen Taylor (14) and Jon Beausang (12) look on.

and Cassey. Turnovers also featured largely in the game with UNB losing possession of the ball 30 times, while Acadia turned it over only 15.

With 3:41 left in regulation time, and UNB down ten points, we called time out. From here on in, the story was Acadia all the way. A frustrated Ken Amos and a disappointed Dave MacMullin fouled out of the game. The Axemen playing a fine stall, forced UNB into committing fouls, in trying to get possession of the ball. Rick Cassey, one of the slickest players in the AIAA, was the man to watch in the second half as he controlled the ball, shot well, and passed off to Joey Wells, sitting under the basket. Four players for Acadia — Jon Beausang, Rick Cassey, Joe Wells, and Gord West each collected eight points in the second half. This reflects excellent team work and poise. When Acadia stalled the ball, UNB should have played much tighter to the men they were defending against, — however, they played too loosely allowing the Axemen to swing the ball back and forth, slowly eating the valuable time away. One last highlight of the game, was that Acadia committed only eleven personal fouls, whereas we had twenty. This was important, since the visitors picked up 13 for 19 shots at the charity stripe, and we sank only 1 for 4.

In looking perspective at such a game, one must realize that Acadia certainly has tremendous poise and determination. They have a lot of talent and use it wonderfully when under pressure. UNB has a young team and certainly profited by playing such an experienced club — hopefully, as our team matures, we will beat them in the future.

In Northeastern Conference action on Tuesday nite, the UNB Red Raiders hosted the University of Maine Presque Isle Owls in a very poorly played game, winning by a score of 72 - 59. The contest, which started out slowly, turned into a bitter battle, neither team shooting well. Bad passes, and poor positional play by UNB throughout most of the game made it very frustrating for the 200 fans, present, to watch. The refereeing of the game left much to be desired.

Marshall, UMPI's 5'9" guard was definitely the most hard-working man on the court as he constantly drove to the basket, passing off to the corner men or putting the ball in himself. He picked up 15 points in the game and was the top performer for the losers.

First half action featured several turnovers by both clubs. The Raiders played very poorly in setting up the offence — they were very slow, passed without looking or anticipating sometimes, and did not move the ball in for the good shot. MacMullin, who usually performs well, seemed rather slow — instead of trying to beat his man, or work the ball in close, he was taking his time coming upcourt, and swinging to the off-side where the defence was playing tight. Ken Amos and Dave MacMullin both had several opportunities to shoot from outside, but neglected to. Ken Albee came in to the game during the first half and netted ten points to lead the Raiders. At the half, the score stood UNB 32 — UMPI 28.

The second half saw Tom Hendershot leading UNB's efforts with 15 points. He played strongly rebounding offensively and defensively. UNB's poorest efforts throughout the game were on the boards, although we picked up 61

all initiative at that point. Amos netted six points in the last minute of play and ended the scoring.

The big factor allowing UNB to win was that Chuck Underwood, the star of the Presque Isle team, was sidelined with an ankle injury. He is an excellent player, a good shooter and ball handler. In our last meeting with UMPI, Underwood had hooped 28 points. He is ranked 8th in scoring and 12th in rebounding for small colleges in the nation.

The Raiders look forward to some fierce competition in the start of the long February road trip. This Friday and Saturday, they travel to St. Francis Xavier and Dalhousie Universities for two very important games. The UNB team now has an 11 - 4 overall win-loss record, and a 7 - 2 standing in AIAA action. Hopefully, we will return from this weekend's tilts with two victories before playing host to the league-leading St. Mary's team next Friday night at 8:00 p.m. here at the Lady Beaverbrook Gym. That game should be a good one — it's during Winter Carnival, and spirits should be high! See you there!

UNB 55 Acadia 71

UNB Players

Tro	0
MacMullin	12
Amos	2
Paytas	6
MacDonald	8
Seman	23
Hendershot	4
Foul Shots	...3 for 6

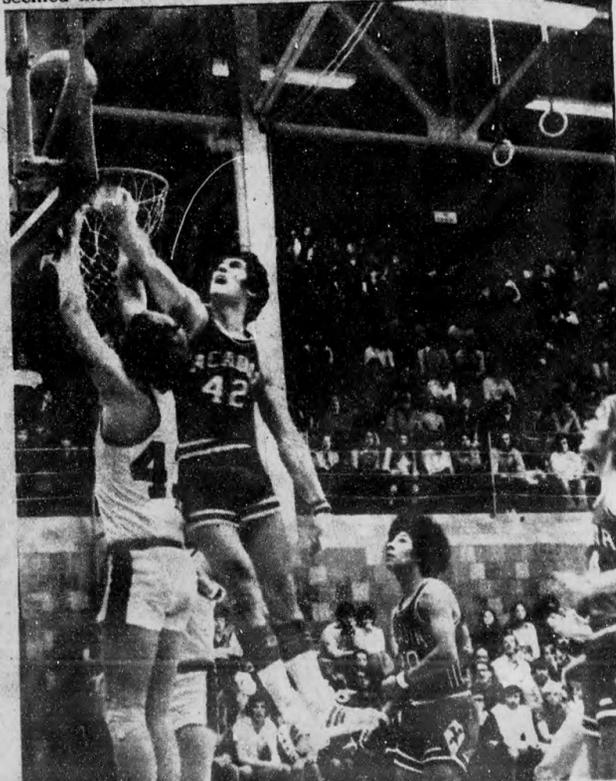
Personal fouls against ...20

Acadia Players

Taylor	5
West	12
Cassey	20
Beausang	10
Wells	20
Beattie	4

Foul Shots ...13 for 19

Personal fouls against ...11



Acadia's Joey Wells (42) shows excellent form in trying to block UNB's Dave Seman (43). The game viewed by over 1200 fans, was won by Acadia 71-55. Gord West (20) for the Axemen is looking upward.

Photo by Howard Dyer

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Photo by Ron Ward

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