

## best of best --one more time

Well here I am after an enforced absence. Most of you probably think that's A OK anyway but here goes. This column will not be devoted to some of my pet peeves and to some of the issues that impressed or depressed me over the year. Perhaps the best part of the year as far as sports was concerned was the success that the varsity teams enjoyed. All aspects of campus life are potentially under the axe and athletics is no exception. Faced with cutbacks and the possibility of fewer teams, no team wanted to make a glaring example of itself by a poor showing.

As a result, six teams won conference championships, four came second, one came third and the remainder performed well in the face of overpowering opponents. Within this conference, UNB had the lowest per diem of any team, and was notable for its lack of a heavy recruiting program. Schools like SMU, X and Acadia filed teams in the "big sports" that were always in contention for CIAU title.

At most times in the national rankings, those three schools were always present. Acadia was second in the football race. SMU won the basketball competition. X performed very well at the hockey championships.

In those sports, a great deal of expenditure must be forwarded to put forth a first class team. How come UNB did well? It certainly was not the money because I travelled with several teams over the course of the year and although the UNB athletes did not suffer from malnutrition or bed bug bites, the amount of dollars spent on each UNB performer was not even in the league of that of

the other teams. Even lowly Mt. A. had more money to spend than big Red.

Obviously, then, some other factor was important in UNB's relative success in the big three and its outstanding success in the six sports that it won. It would be very hard to put a finger on any one factor but I think that it was pride. UNB has been and probably will remain, the underdog. Being in that position usually makes its occupant strive to beat the odds and in UNB's case, many times those odds were beaten.

Take the Red Devils for example. For the last few years, the Devil's home games have been poorly attended and the team has not enjoyed a great deal of success. Lots of close calls but not many wins. How did I that team, then, beat nationally ranked Moncton not once, but twice. All of the other teams that UNB has to compete against in the AUAA hockey league rely heavily on imports from Quebec and Ontario but the Devil's were home grown. Prospects for the team next year are even brighter.

One of my favorite topics of discussion for the last six months has been the Bombers. At the end of the season, one player indicated to me that even if the team had performed extremely well they hadn't won so what did it matter. I take a different point of view. It does matter because the team injected into the lifeblood of this campus a sorely needed shot in the arm.

For once, after many years, the campus had something to be proud of. You say that UNB has many things to be proud of but the sports of football, basketball and hockey are the money makers and the ones that get the crowds

on their feet. UNB fans in the past and rabies but this year was the first time in a long time that the disease struck in epidemic proportions. Every home game that the Bombers played, throngs of spectators showed up to see if the boys could really do it. Twice they didn't. One of those games was close, the other not so close. Shrug it off, there's always next year. Hopefully, what proved to be the most exciting team of the year will be able to keep the ball rolling or running or flying next year. As Bob Hope would say, thanks for the memories.

What about the other teams? These teams did not quit in many cases, that's what kept them from falling by the wayside. UNB has something to be extra proud of this year and that's the athletes that represent US.

Another my favorite topics of discussion has been the proposed athletics committees that will provide students with some input. What ever happened to them.

Dean Garth Paton of PE and R stated that these committees existed on paper and that they were ready to go except for the choosing the people to sit on them. Are people now sitting on them or have they again been forgotten like the old SAA?

I would hate like hell, to see students go through another year without some form of input that will benefit everybody. The people who go on to these committees will have to be responsible enough not to limit their scope to what they think is important but they must broaden it so that the faculty will know what the majority of the campus popula-

tion. Committees in that Faculty seem to have a way of popping up like mushrooms. Take the Name change. That committee was composed of five people, three of whom expressed the opinion that they were not in favor of the name change. To me that does not make much sense. The committee was supposed to come up with a name change and what did they come up with? Choices that were so unacceptable that they were forced to go to another committee. They ran a contest that was intended to produce a winner that would be used as the new name. If I was a person who had entered that contest and found that the rules were changed after all of the entries had come in (and I am not) I would not be pleased. Wait and see. That seems to be the attitude. Wait and see.

Quotes of the year: I wanna be a football hero - Pat Morrisette football player.

Mental toughness - Jim Born - Wrestling coach

Time to say hello and goodbye - I sincerely wish all graduates the best of luck in their future endeavors (especially you Al.) and look forward to seeing the rest of you bums back here next year.

I would also like to thank all those who aided me in putting out this damned section all year long. It wouldn't have been possible without you.

Hi Anne Languidize. See ya.



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## Sullivan's Blazers

The UNB Red Blazers, Fredericton's only women's hockey team, are gaining more recognition as the years pass. The team, in existence for the past four years, has been coached for the last two by Norm Sullivan.

Sullivan's enthusiasm pushed the team to a national competition this season. The team returned Wednesday from a trip to Mississauga, Ontario, where 84 teams from throughout the country battled it out to find their champion.

As it turned out, the Red Blazers didn't come close to winning the tournament, but went on, undaunted, to defeat the Ontario Provincial Police in Perth, Ont., in a benefit game to support both Minor Hockey, and the Red Blazers. The team played serious hockey during the first two periods, but the third provided too many opportunities for foolishness, and both teams took full

advantage. Funding appeared to be the biggest difference in women's hockey in Ontario, according to Sullivan. Excellent funding, publicity, press coverage and organization led the Ontario teams to out-do the Red Blazers in experience. The teams had played an average of about 100 games in a season as compared to the 13 games played by the UNB team.

The Red Blazers, made up of 16 UNB students and their maximum quota of four non-students, learned a lot throughout their season, having beaten male and female teams alike.

One suggestion is to make the Red Blazers a varsity team. With their determination, skill and endurance, it's possible they would outshine the Red Devil's men's team. As Sullivan put it, "The teams in Ontario are good competition, and all we're lacking is the experience."

## Recreational sports wrap up

Although, they do not enjoy varsity status, teams for the recreational sports clubs represented the university during the year.

Perhaps the team that gained the most amount of notoriety was the ski team that was organized this year under the guidance of Gary Brown who acted as coach for the group. The team was able to procure the sponsorship of Olin Skis and members competed in races in the Atlantic, Quebec and

New England areas.

Micelle Daupinee and Jim Cuttle of the team won the Atlantic Cup for the team at a race held at Sugarloaf Park in Edmunston during the latter part of the ski season.

The judo club experienced its difficulties in recruiting new members, but by the time for a meet, the team was strong with the return of veterans and the addition of several rookies.

Fred Blaney and Mike Hethring-

ton competed in the Canadian National Exhibition meet and ended up second and third in their divisions respectively.

Steely veterans like Glenna Smith and Lucie Bertin filled out the women's ranks and others did well in the meets they attended during the year.

The fencing team was going through a rebuilding year and the results were encouraging as newcomers to the team pulled off victories over longtime competitors in meets around the Maritimes and in Maine. The club will be hosting the Eastern Canadian Championships in May.

The curling team went to the AUAA championships and although they did not bring back first place, they competed well.

One club which had a very good season was the Rugby club. This year, the club divided its members into two teams, the Reds and the Blacks for regular season play.

The team began its year with a tour of the States in the spring and while they were not in the running for the Canadonia Cup, symbolic of Maritime rugby supremacy, they did win the league title and received the Clark trophy for that effort. Plans for a tour this spring are well under way and it appears that the team will again be in fine form next year.

Other clubs fielded teams in their many and varied sports but information was not available at press time.



One of the recreational sports clubs is the Judo Club. Here Dennis Graham and Fred Blaney get a grip on the situation.

<p><b>Sleeping Bags</b> <b>Freeze dried food</b> <b>Water bottles</b> <b>Canteens</b> <b>Mess kits</b></p>	<p><b>Stoves</b> <b>Hiking boots by Vasque &amp; Kauffman</b> <b>Tents by Eureka &amp; much more.</b></p>
	
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