

Swimming

V-Red Swimmers aim high

Brunswickan Sports

UNB's swimmers look to make a big splash when they host the AUAA championships this weekend. The four team tournament runs from Friday through Sunday and features Memorial (MUN), Mount Allison and Dalhousie along with the host team.

Coach Bob Cannon is confident of his teams' chances.

"We have a very strong men's team. Strong vets from last year and real depth in the rookies." The men's team have been dominant all season. They won every event in their last dual meet against Dal and aim to repeat the feat this weekend.

The women's team has had a tougher time. With only nine swimmers, they have entered less people in each event, hence qualifying less for each final. With

hard work, they have progressed throughout the season. In the first meet against Dal, they were outpointed by a large margin. When UNB hosted Dal on the 13th January, this advantage was trimmed to 6 points.

The team feels that hosting the meet will be an additional advantage. The familiarity with the surroundings from daily training and hometown support were two of the reasons given.

Already, three of the swimmers have achieved qualifying times for the CIAU championships: rookies Chris Jones and Marty Laycock, along with veteran Michelle MacWhirter. With performances peaking many more are expected to have qualified after this weekend, including two time CIAU champion in the 100m freestyle, Jason Lukeman.

Jones is looking forward to proving a point at the nationals. "We should be ranked a lot higher [than 10th]. We don't get a good ranking because we're always facing the same teams." As an example he cited the University of Toronto [#3], which has flown out to B.C. [#1] for a meet. In contrast, the furthest abroad the UNB team has ventured was a tournament in Laval, their sole trip outside the Atlantic region.

This weekend's tournament, at the Sir Max Aitken Pool, features heats during the days, with finals in the evenings. Finals begin at 6:30pm Friday and Saturday and 4pm on Sunday. The awards ceremony, which closes the proceedings, will commence around 6:30pm on Sunday night.

"Saturday night is do or die"



The V-Reds in action against Acadia. Photo Robert Fernandes

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The women's volleyball team have one game left in their season, Saturday night, in Moncton. If they win Saturday night they have a good chance of making the playoffs.

The top four teams in the conference head to the AUAA championships in Sackville next weekend. The Reds are currently ranked 5th. Reeling from injuries to Gail Toner and Sara Ouellette, the V-Reds suffered a pair of tough losses on the road to StFX; however they were able to regain some of their momentum last weekend with 3-1 and 3-0 wins over Acadia.

The team has radically changed from the one that won the last two AUAA titles. Gone are All-Canadian Carla Ma-

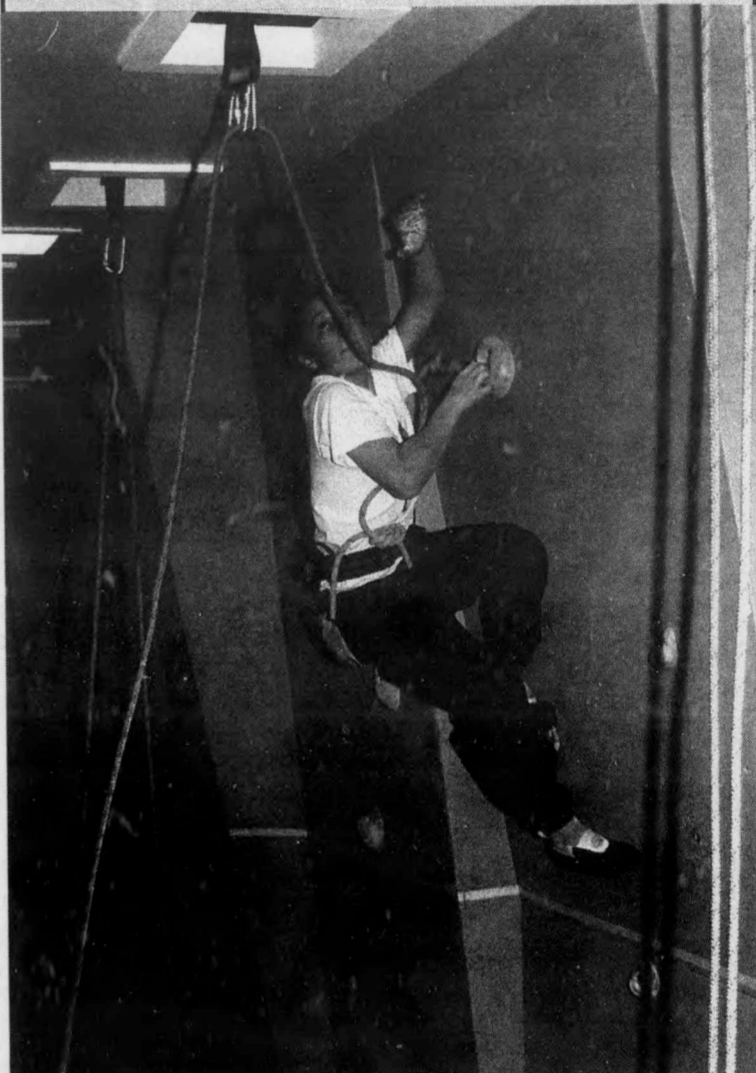
son and veteran setter Kerry Maher. Coach Al McGarvie admits that "the team has struggled because of the loss of impact players." Chantal Martin has stepped up her play, leading the AUAA in kills per game. Other returnees who are playing a larger role this year include Ouellette, Toner and Rachael Gordon. Toner should return for Saturday night's encounter. However, the critical role of setter is filled by a rookie.

McGarvie continues "They're struggling. It now comes down to individual roles - got to look at each player and what role they can play in the success of the team from here on in."

"If we can't beat Moncton Saturday night, I don't think they can beat anyone next weekend." If UNB lose then they may not have the chance to.

Climbing

Inaugural Competition



Phillip Ouellette reaches for first place in last Sunday's climbing competition. The competition, hosted by the UNB Rock/Ice Climbing club, was the first event held on the club's new indoor wall. Over 30 New Brunswick climbers competed in front of a good crowd. Ouellette won the novice class, beating climbers more than twice his age. A tie in the intermediate class was broken in a bouldering contest by Johnathan Watts. There were 17 climbers in the elite class. Steve Adamson's smooth style and years of experience led him to victory over the 16 other climbers in the elite class. An equally impressive Peter Lloyd climbed to a close second. Photo and text Kent Rainville

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