

Varsity Reds season preview

Murchison injured but Cormier, Norquay shine

by Bruce Denis
Sports Staff

Call it the battle of the rookies when The Reds visit the Udm Blue Eagles tonight. Both teams have bolstered their lineup during the summer and tonight will determine who packed more offensive punch.

After a disappointing season offensively, the Blue Eagles have recruited former Quebec Major Junior player Jean Francois Gregoire who managed 107 points in the league last season. Similarly, the Reds have added some potentially damaging offensive players who could prove to be the difference this year.

Following the River City Shootout, Reds coach Mike Johnston made his final cuts and began to shape what is now the 1993-94 Varsity Reds Hockey team; a team which revolve around a few key veterans and rookies.

The most potent recruit is former Moncton Jr. A Derek Cormier. Named Canadian Jr. A player of the year last year, his speed and puck handling ability he should provide the Reds with much needed offensive spark.

Forwards Chris Peach and Jason Underhill are also expected to be regulars with the team. Peach, a St. John's native, played with the Summerside Capitals of the Maritime Junior league while Underhill played Halifax Jr. A but will not be ready to play for two weeks because of a nagging groin injury.

Fredericton natives Mark Ross and Chris Ellis round out the forwards. Though both players may not be permanent fixtures, they could prove the depth of the team in the event of an injury.

Rookie defensemen Rod Norquay and Chris Nadeau should be solid stand ins for the departed Brian Wilson and Derek Scanlan. Hailing from Fredericton, Norquay graduated from the Boldon's Midget AAA program and traveled to Ontario to play Jr. B hockey with St. Thomas while Dartmouth native Nadeau played Jr. A in Halifax.

Johnston found a gem in Calgary, Alberta native Mark Dawkins. However, Dawkins hasn't played a game since his former team Red Deer of the WHL was ousted from the playoffs in March and may take some time to find his form.

The Reds were fortunate enough to hold on to two of their most valuable veterans from last year; Ken Murchison and Trevor Boland.

Murchison, however, is out for the season after breaking his wrist in Sunday's 6-1 loss to St. FX. Boland looks healthy and can be expected to lead the team in scoring again this year.

Other returning forwards include Todd Sparks, Alastair Still, Toby Burkitt, Forbie MacPherson, Mike O'Donnell, Rob Knesaurek, Clyde Simmons and Scott Muscott.

Sparks and Still, both entering their sophomore year with the team, should be comfortable

enough with the league to be impact players.

Rob 'the enforcer' Knesaurek and Clyde Simmons will help lead the team with their experience but will be pressured by Johnston to stay cool headed.

At the helm of a stellar defense corps is returning assistant captain Rob Boldon who has graced the UNB blue line for three years. Also returning is arguably the most impenetrable defense duo in the AUSA Kelly Reed and Dan Sherstanka, both entering their second year. Mike Cavanagh and Jeff Kirkbride round out the returning defencemen.

Finally, the only true hybrid on the team is assistant captain Karl Taylor who will most likely play defense for the better part of the season. However, he can also play the front line on specialty teams.

The surprise of last year was goalie Greg Reid who emerged out of the shadows of Chris Somers to take over as the team's number one goalie. He is on form this season and should prove to be the difference for the Reds this season.

With their record now at 1-1, thanks to an 8-2 decision over the UCCB Capers and a 6-1 loss to St. FX, the Reds head to Moncton tonight looking for some confidence before they head south to face Brown and Harvard next weekend.

Thanks to some key recruits and the returning veterans, they have the parts, they just need to form the whole.

Dan Wallace on the beat

Hockey tryouts no fun and games

by Daniel Wallace
Sports Staff

Just when you think your hockey season has come to a close, the coach with a tiny grin reminds you to get ready for next year. This means less time on the golf course and a few more extra hours in the gym.

If you're planning to become part of Mike Johnston's squad you had better take advantage of your three months off and come to camp in shape.

The gruelling task of dryland training begins near the end of frosh week when everyone is preparing for the season ahead and this year was no different. Dryland training often begins with the serious hockey player and the avid sportsman. By the end of the first week the squad is down to a select few who have fully committed themselves.

Becoming a full fledged Varsity Red means more than just being there for the intense dryland sessions but studying hard, practicing hard and playing to your highest potential. These three essentials have produced a national competitor at UNB. The reputation of the Varsity Red Hockey Club played a more than inviting role in my decision to attend the University of New Brunswick.

The prominent accomplishments of Varsity Reds is partially credited to the high intensity on ice workouts held by Coach Johnston. Varsity Red tryouts are not only a time to show off your talents to the coaching staff but

was a time for me to think "The harder you work, the harder it is to surrender" - Dad Wallace - which kept me going through the tryout period.

So how does it feel to sit in a room that has been home to one of the best hockey teams in the country? Well, probably about as good as to know that these guys sitting around you were once either OHL, WHL, or QMJHL all-stars and in a few cases NHL Prospects. Organized scrimmages or Red and White games played an almost dominant part in Coach Johnston's selective process. This gave him an idea of who can play the game and not so much conditioning because lord knows he ran the hell out of us during dryland training.

So listen, for you people out there who think, how could I play for the UNB Varsity Reds? I'm not good enough, can't do this, can't do that, quit complaining because even if things don't work out like you wanted, you'll know you gave it your best shot.

As for myself this competition made me play a little harder and I got a chance to improve a few things. Mentally eight goalies trying for one position eventually takes a toll on you but it definitely makes you wonder knowing full well the guys beside you want the job as bad as you do. It sort of makes things exciting.

Once tryouts have concluded most guys have got rid of their beer guts and learned a few things along the way. By the way, for all you die hard hockey fans, male and female, see you at the rink.

CLUB SPORTS

Scuba Club

There will be no open water time this week due to the fact that the basic scuba course needs both Sunday and Monday night pool time. There will however be open pool time next week. The Compressor is back in full operation, so if you need tanks filled up, you can do so on Sunday from 8-10:00 pm.

Certified divers are always welcome to join the club. Membership is \$15 for students and \$30 for non-students. This membership includes access to the open pool times, free equipment for the pool times, discounts on your tank refills, discounts for equipment rental and much more.

If you are interested in going on an open water dive this weekend or sometime soon, give us a call at the number below. So if your keen on joining the Scuba club call Kevin Johnston at 472-3103

Rowing

The UNB Women's 8+ overcame a 30 minute delay on race day to post a gold medal performance in a time of 19:45 over a 5.5 km course here in Fredericton. Dalhousie finished second in 21:19.

Coach Chris MacLean was pleased with the results and feels this will set up his crew for a chance to win the Head of Fish in Saratoga, New York on October 31. Fifty universities will be involved with a UNB crew consisting of Bow, Tamara Schoefer, Liz Coote, Jennifer Skaling, Stroke, Chantal Albert and Cox Melanie Keystone.

Women's Rugby

The soon to be UNB Women's Rugby Club won their first game against the Lady Loyalists. This is the first year for forming a UNB Women's Rugby Club and they have started their year successfully with a 5-0 win. The only try of the game was scored by the scrum-half, Kelly Sears who faked out the opposition with a run from behind the 22 line. The game was played aggressively with lots of action and determination from both sides. The loyalists put up a good fight.

Any girls interested in playing contact Wendy Shulman, 450-6950 or Lesley James at 450-6990.

Bodokai Ju Jitsu

Classes are on Mondays and Wednesday at 7:00 pm on the third floor of the South Gym. Beginners class is now open. Try a few free classes. "The most effective method of fighting ever devised!" For more information contact Randy Breaux, 3rd degree, at 457-3009.

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