

Swimming

Men hope for second title, women first Swimmers face AUAAs



Heather Smith in action.

Photo Kevin G. Porter

by Adam MacMillan
Bruns Sports

The building process for the UNB Varsity Reds Swimming Team will encounter a major test this weekend at the AUAAs at Dalhousie University. With a large number of eager rookies wanting to establish themselves on the team, the meet should prove to be exciting and close.

The meet will pit the Varsity Reds against Dal for the AUAAs championship, with Mount Allison and Memorial Universities looking to spoil either one's chances for a sweep. Varsity Reds Swimming Coach Andrew Cole feels that it will be a "tight" competition. "It will probably go to come down to two or three points and that's in a point spread of 250 points... it's going to be a team effort."

The past year has been a growing experience for the team as almost half are rookies with little previous experience. But as Coach Cole stated the team is "probably the most positive bunch in a while ... it all starts with attitude. Experience is nice but if you've got a positive attitude, you've got

half the battle licked. I think this is the most positive group that I've coached since I've been at UNB."

Another strength of this group is their unity. The Varsity Reds swimming program is a team one, where every finish counts toward the team point total. The team has undertaken several team building exercises throughout the year including an overnight hiking trip to Mount Kataden, competing in the International Swimming Hall of Fame Ocean Mile Swim, with very strong finishes by several of the athletes but the real bonding didn't take place until the Christmas training camp. This is reflected in the team defeating Mount Allison and Dalhousie after Christmas at different meets. Coach Cole commented on the Mount A meet as "although it wasn't a big meet, it was a pretty crucial one ... it was the first time I've seen them really cohesive." The win against Dalhousie proved especially rewarding as they lost a close competition to Dal earlier in the season.

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Womens Volleyball

Women host Championship Volley Reds are AUAAs bound looking for second title

By Mark Savoie
Bruns Sports

The UNB Varsity Reds women's volleyball team will be hosting this year's AUAAs championship tournament as the top seed.

Joining them at the tournament this weekend are St. FX, UdeM, and SMU. The V-Reds are top seeds by virtue of a 14-2 record which saw losses to only SMU (3-2) and St. FX. (3-0). They will face SMU in the first round, and are likely to face St. FX. in the final.

Last weekend proved to be a troublesome one for Coach Al McGarvie despite two easy victories over last place Memorial (15-2, 15-9, 7-15, 15-0 and 15-2, 7-15, 15-7, 15-10). The problem was the play of the bench, which comprised most of the V-Reds on court during the two games lost during the matches. "It concerns me," said McGarvie. "They went in flat, unsure, and lacking confidence. I've got to be able to look to one or two of them to go in if I need them."

"I don't know what the solution is. I feel they should be going in and really trying hard, but there was no intensity at all. It was a game full of errors."

One of the bench players who did gain McGarvie's approval was rookie Gail Toner, who got left in to play against Memorial even after the return of the bulk of the starters. "I just thought I'd throw her in there because she is one of the bright spots," commented McGarvie. "I like the way

she handles herself. She's quick, she moves, and she hits the ball hard.

She needs some floor time, and it's unfortunate that she hasn't been getting as much as some of the other rookies in the league." Against a much stronger Mt. Allison team, however, Toner was left on the bench with the rest of the other non-starters, as McGarvie relied on his bench throughout the match.

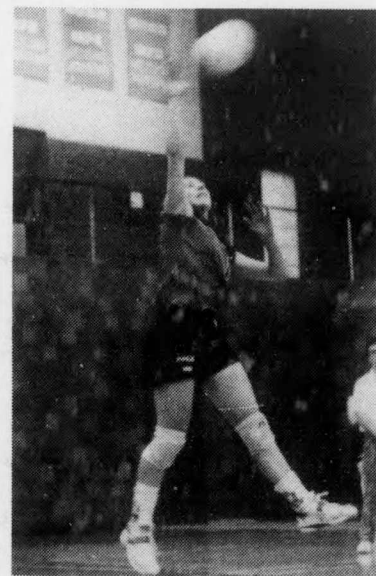
were forced to endure long periods without a point, as the Mounties refused to give up. This was especially evident in the fourth game of the match. Once again Mt. Allison fell behind early, and once again they refused to die, climbing to tie and eventually lead the game 15-14. The V-Reds managed to tie the game at 15 apiece. They then won it, first with a mammoth double block by veterans Carla Mason and Keri Maher, followed by an even more stupendous single centre block by rookie Loretta Totten.

Lorie Gorman, a veteran member of the V-Reds, feels that the team going into the championship tournament is even stronger than the one that went undefeated against AUAAs competition. "The competition is a lot tougher this year. That's why we've lost a couple of matches, but I think this year we have a lot more experience."

Gorman says that the team is entering the AUAAs with a great deal of confidence despite two surprising match losses in the second half of the season. "We're building our way up. We were on a downslide against St. FX but we're on our way up now."

"I'd like to meet St. FX in the AUAAs. I think the whole team would really like to. They go in there with a lot of confidence and we're not used to that, but we know about them."

A potential problem for the V-Reds is the status of star veteran Carla Mason. Mason played the entire match against Mt. Allison, despite being hindered by a six stitch gash on the pinkie finger of her hitting hand. She suffered this injury while washing the dishes the morning of the match. Although it is causing her pain, she does not expect the wound to affect her play greatly.



Keri Maher.

Photo Mark Robichaud

This match was a much more important one for Mt. Allison than it was for the V-Reds. The Mounties needed to qualify for the fourth and final playoff spot. As a result they jumped to an early lead in the first game and coasted to a relatively unchallenged 15-10 victory. They proved unable to maintain their momentum and the V-Reds were able to capture the next two games 15-8 and 15-9.

In both of these games the V-Reds

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Winter Sports

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Basketball	March 13 - March 21 Play: March 25(Saturday)
WOMEN'S	
Indoor Soccer	Jan. 31 - Feb. 14 Play: Mondays and Thursdays