

# Raiders glad to be home

by Anand Irrinki

After a tough road trip, the UNB Red Raiders are home this weekend to face a young UPEI Panthers squad. Game times for this weekend matchups are Friday at 8:30 P.M. and Saturday at 2:00 P.M. UNB is mired in a mid season slump, which has seen them drop their last 6 regular season games. Hopefully, home court advantage will rev up the Raiders and help them turn their season around.

This weekend games will be centered around UPEI's 6'6" rookie center Curtis Robinson. We first got a look at Curtis during the Fall Classic and it seems quite probable that his game has improved after playing in several AUSA matchups. If UNB can shut down Robinson they will have a good shot at taking down the Panthers. On the other hand, if Robinson is allowed to run loose and score with ease, UNB will be hard pressed to defeat UPEI.

UNB must get a solid offensive contribution from each of their starters if they hope to make an impression on the Panthers. In recent games, the Raiders offense has been dominated by one player and the other players have not made a sizeable contributions.

Unless one Raider can begin to score 20 plus-points consistently, the Raiders will have to spread their offensive wealth.

Last weekend, UNB was treated as an unwelcomed visitor in St. F.X. and Dalhousie. In their first game, UNB was taken to town by a revenge filled X-men team. St Francis Xavier did not win by the 70 points they bravely predicted, but did manage to lay a thumping by a score of 78-56. X's big men did not do the damage, as Danny MacFarland led X with 26 points. Richard Bella, the big boy for St. F.X., was held to 13 points. UNB leading scorers were Yaw Obeng with 14 and Vinod Nair with 10. Once again, UNB's offense did not come to play. It seems that the only time the Raiders win is when their outside shooters are involved in the offense.

The outside shooter theory was quickly disproved when the Raiders played the Dalhousie Tigers. One day after they played a solid defensive and poor offensive game, UNB decided a full scale change was necessary. UNB put up 97 points, but unfortunately defense was not in their vocabulary. Dal scored 108 points en route to an eleven point victory. Doing the

damage for the Tigers were Paul Riley who scored 24 and Dean Thibideau who added 18. The Raiders were led by Alex Kidney, who stopped, popped, and dropped 37 points. Yaw Obeng also chipped in with 22 points. If one looks at these scoring totals a simple comparison can be drawn up. The Raiders top two scorers contributed 61% of their teams points, while Dal's two leading scorers made up 40% of their teams points. It seems quite obvious that the team with the balanced scoring is the team that wins. This idea is true even at the professional level. The Chicago Bulls were not a team to be reckoned with until Jordan's points per game dropped. These points were picked up by other Bulls players and this led to a balanced scoring attack. The moral of the story is that if UNB wishes to see another notch in its win column, all of the UNB starters plus the bench must chip in.

So if you're tired of sitting in cold hockey rinks, why not take in some basketball action at the "pit". The game will be fast and furious, so be there Friday at 8:30 P.M. and Saturday at 2:00 P.M.

James Rowan photo



Red Raider, Chris McKenna #43, leaps for ball against Acadia defenders while Alex Kidney, #33, looks on.

# Red Devils host U de M and SMU

by Frank Denis

The Red Devils host the University of Moncton Blue Eagles and the Saint Mary's Huskies this weekend in AUSA hockey action.

UNB enters the games riding a three game win streak following two victories over St. Thomas and one over the Mt. Allison Mounties.

Tonight's game against Moncton gets underway at 7:30 pm at the Aitken Centre. The

Blue Eagles sit dead last in the MacAdam division. Moncton, National Champions two years ago, defeated the Red Devils in their last matchup by a 4-3 score in early November.

In their only other game against one another this season, the Red Devils held on to a 5-3 victory in their home opener at the Aitken Centre.

Saturday's game against Saint Mary's gets underway at 7:30

pm also at the Aitken Centre.

The Red Devils have faced the Huskies only once this season and trounced them by an 8-2 score.



# Bloomers drop two in a row

by Peter West  
Bruce Denis

Looking over the schedule before the season started, the Bloomers would never have guessed that tonight's game versus the UPEI Panthers, would be a must win game.

After loosing 2 games on the road last weekend, the Bloomers fell from first to fourth place in the AUSA standings. They are now looking to snap a three game losing streak. The game begins at 6:30 at the LB gym.

Though the Bloomers lost to Acadia by one point in the final seconds 2 weeks ago, they felt confident heading into the two game road trip. However, they were left looking for answers after losing again by only 1 point to St. Francis Xavier. UNB played strong basketball and led by 8 points at the half. St. FX managed to close the lead early in the second half and the two teams played neck and neck until the final minute, when St. FX proved slightly stronger than UNB. The final score was 77-76.

Kara Palmer once again led the Bloomers' scoring with 20 points, while Laura Swift and Jennifer Hale shined with 13 each.

The Bloomers hoped a good night's rest would help them overcome two heart breaking losses by defeating Dalhousie. But the Dalplex proved

unfriendly as the Bloomers suffered another setback by loosing 65-57. They began strongly and led 33-26 at halftime. But as the Bloomers saw at the McGill Martlet invitational tourney, Dalhousie defense has the ability to restrict UNB's shooting. As well, Jennifer Clark's amazing offensive acrobatics has helped Dalhousie's offensive thrust.



Jennifer Hale had 13 points against St FX on Friday night

Both factors proved to be too much for the Bloomers as they dropped their third straight decision.

The Bloomers are tied at 12 points with second place Acadia and third place St. FX, but have played 2 more games than each. Hence their fourth place standing. A win against UPEI tonight, could re-establish UNB as a leading force in the Atlantic conference.

# Crunch time for Rebels

by Graham MacDonald  
Janet Lloyd

After a disappointing finish at this years Dalhousie Classic Volleyball tournament, the Rebels stand at the crossroads of their season.

It is possible that they could win their remaining games against Memorial University and with some luck, advance to the AUSA finals against Dalhousie. It is also possible that they could drop any one of their remaining three matches against MUN resulting in elimination from the playoffs. The final, remote possibility lies in the fact that the mighty Dalhousie and the lowly U de M could perform differently than expected which would profoundly affect the destiny of the UNB Rebels.

In last weekends Dal Classic, the Rebels played with a wide range of emotions. These ranged from agonizing defeat, to courage in the face of adversity, to merely having fun. The highlight of the tournament definitely came Friday night in their match against the gigantic Manitoba Bisons. The Rebels came to the tournament wanting to take a crack at the CIAU national

champions and they were not denied. Although they lost the match in 3 games, 10-15, 3-15, 8-15, they clearly played their best volleyball of the season.

There are two positive indicators showing that the Rebels chances against MUN are improving. Firstly, after a turbulent start, the Rebels are settling down to play fundamentally sound volleyball. Although the Rebels lack a player of superstar calibre, the whole team is jelling into a cohesive, compelling force. Secondly, Memorial is weeping over the loss of their captain, Tim Fifeild, who is completing his degree by correspondence.

Regardless of who's doing what, this weekends match up between UNB and MUN is the make it or break it point in the Rebels season. The Seahawks (Memorial) won their three matches against the Rebels in the fall and now the Rebels must win their remaining three matches against MUN this winter in order to get a "kick at the cat" (Dal Tigers).