

Blazers Third at Cocagne Invitational

by Ron Cameron

The UNB Red Blazers continued to rally in what has been a roller coaster ride of a season. After a depressing start that saw the Blazers go 2-9 in

women's hockey play and out scored 51-28 by the opposition, UNB has slowly put its year back together. Last weekend the Red Blazers finished third in the highly

regarded Cocagne Invitational Tournament, and also picked up a Senior Ladies Hockey League win.

UNB opened the three day tournament with a 4-2 loss to

Charlottetown. According to UNB Coach Mike Power the team came out flat, "everytime we closed up the score we would make a mistake and give up a goal". Blazer goals came from the sticks of April Jost and Diane Le Blanc.

Saturday may have been the best day in the UNB season to date, as the ladies took 2 wins to finish third in the round robin portion of the 5 team event. In the afternoon the Blazers started slowly but exploded with 3 late goals to down Summerside 4-0. Rookie Penny Brown was the big gun with three goals, team captain Andrea Stilwell tallied a single. In the evening, the Blazers played what Coach Power says was their best game of the season, beating Kensington, P.E.I. 1-0. Cheryl Campbell had the lone goal, Nicole Breau had both of Saturday's shutouts.

Sunday, UNB could go no further as they fell 5-2 in the semi-final to eventual tourney champs Shediac. Early in the year Shediac had handled UNB easily by scores of 9-0 and 6-0, so losing a close game represented a big step for the young Blazers. Campbell and Jost got their second goals of the weekend in the loss. Power believes the tournament was a plus for his team, "I think everyone came away satisfied, we had a slow start and came back strong, that's

the kind of hearts this group has."

Later Sunday, the Blazers returned to Cocagne to play a key league contest with the Clement Cormier Caviliers, the main team UNB was chasing for the final league playoff spot. At one point in January, Clement Cormier held a 6 point lead, now a UNB win would put them up by an insurmountable four points. The Red Blazers took no chances on this game and came out flying en route to a 7-1 win. Andrea Stilwell continued her hot second half with 3 goals. Penny Brown had a pair, singles came from Cheryl Campbell and Nicole Dionne. As a bonus 2 assists by Chris MacLoon in that game gave her 8 over the weekend's 5 games. The win gives UNB a 5-12 league record with one game left to be played.

That game will be played at the Aitken Center Saturday at 6:30 p.m. when Kings County visits. The following week UNB will host the League playoff Tournament, splitting the games between their Aitken Center home, and the Keswick Valley Recreation Center. This will be the first time in 10 years another arena will have a piece of the UNB Tournament, this is because an Atlantic Lawyers Tourney was booked ahead of the Blazers' event.

Field Hockey Team Winless In Toronto

The Atlantic Squad came up against some tough competition at the CIAU-CWFHA Indoor National Field Hockey Tournament this past weekend.

Despite some very close games the group couldn't manage a win. They opened the tournament with a 2-1 loss to Ontario North (basically the York University team with some National Team additions). They tied Ontario South 2-2 in the second game (the U of Toronto team). The third game resulted in a 6-3

loss to the Prairies, which boasted 6 National Jr. or Sr. Players on their starting lineup. The fourth game was a 3-0 loss to Victoria and the final game was a hard fought 2-2 tie with UBC plus additions.

The Atlantic Squad was made up of 5 UNB Red Sticks plus 2 each from UdeM and SMU plus a high school player from FHS. Josette Babineau of UNB was high scorer for the Atlantic Squad with 4 goals. Sheila Bell had likely the best tournament of any of the players one of the goalkeepers

for the squad.

Indoor field hockey is a separate university sport. Ontario and the West play regularly in invitational tournaments. It is a sport enjoyed by men and women. UNB has been playing recreationally for the past 10 years and feels it is a very valuable part of their overall success in the outdoor game.

The tournament concludes the field hockey season for field hockey. However several players are still in training in hopes of making a Junior or Senior National Field Hockey Team this summer.

The National Senior Field Hockey Coaches will be at the South Gym this Saturday, March 17 to put several aspiring National Team players through their paces. Red Sticks included in this group are Kelly McCormack, Josette Babineau, Wendi Gallant, Joan Robere, and Tanya Whalen. These players have already been identified with the National program.



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