

Red Sticks looking to repeat

by Frank Denis

The UNB Red Sticks field hockey team kicked off their AUSA season last weekend and if that pair of performances is any indication the team is well on their way to repeating as AUSA champions.

On Saturday the Red Sticks defeated St. Mary's 3-0 and followed that up with a 5-0 win on Sunday also against St. Mary's.

Last season the Sticks went undefeated in league play and suffered their first loss in the semi-finals of the national championships. Some people said that what hurt the Sticks at the Nationals last year was the lack of competition during the regular season. However coach Donna Hornibrook says that while it is a concern for this year there are more important ones.

"Our major concern is to win

Our major concern is to win our league and then qualify for the nationals.

Coach Donna Hornibrook

The team is led by two CIAU all-stars last season, Josette Babineau and Tanya Whalen. Also back are Kelly MacCormack and Wendi Gallant

It was also a good summer recruiting wise as the team picked up the likes of Charla Currie, Shonaugh Coles and Stacy Gallant.

our league and then qualify for the national championships. If we do then it becomes a concern. What we don't want to do is overlook that we do have to qualify. That's the key right now.

"Everything we do now we gear for down the road and don't want to become arrogant and overlook the fact that we



Josette Babineau in white, outraces St. Mary's opponent to ball in last weekend's action

Photo by Marc Landry

haven't yet qualified, but at the same time we know what our standards are" says Hornibrook.

In early September the Sticks traveled the northeastern seaboard and played some top ranked NCAA Division 1 schools. While they posted a 1-2-3 record in the six games coach Hornibrook feels the team learned a lot by going.

"The trip to the States was important because with only three teams in the league this year we need lots of competition. We wanted to make contacts with teams outside our conference and see what their standards are like," said Hornibrook.

The team received a warm reception from every team that they played against and coaches were all interested in a rematch sometime in the future up here.

"All the games down there were played on astro-turf" says Hornibrook "which was a huge plus because it's on that type of surface that the CIAU's are played on. It gives us a better idea of what to expect at that tournament-if we make it that far that is."

Basketball cont'd

Continued from page 25

to get ourselves in a position where we can take advantage of everything we can and it's going to start with defense and an opportunistic offense, fast break style."

After being appointed in mid-August, Hamilton didn't have time to do any formal recruiting, however he did manage to bring two of the top high school players from B.C.

He also plans to make room for local talent. "We have to attract the top student athletes to the school no matter where they are from, but I'm very clear

that I want to attract the best athletes from New Brunswick. That's always a focus."

At the end of last season it was evident that the Raiders basketball program needed change. Hamilton should inject the team with the necessary energy and discipline to make them competitive in the toughest league in the nation.

"We want to instill an attitude that when teams come to our gym, they're not looking past us. We're going to be a pain in the butt to have to play."

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