

Letter To Sports Editor

BRING BACK TRACK & FIELD TO UNB

Dear Sir:

In the fall of 1962, as a result of a decision by the Athletic Board, the budget for Track and Field in this university shriveled from \$725 to one dollar. The same recommendation was submitted by the AAA last fall, and since again, our present Athletic Board withheld finances from the sport.

After the second decision last year, I wrote to Mike Noble, the past President of the AAA, and spoke to his successor, Brian Ross. Both gave one single reason for this verdict, that "because of apparent general lack of interest, Track and Field remains deleted from our present Athletic Program." (Brian Ross) This means that the AAA in 1962 somehow considered a turnout of 22, and a team with enough enthusiasm to win the Maritime Championship failed to measure up to a criterion of "adequate" interest.

And yet, remarkable as this decision may have seemed, not one of us (myself included) thought it worth the trouble to ask our AAA what disorder had

been found. If the judgement of the Athletic Board was ill-advised by the AAA, then it was our responsibility as the student body to make our feelings clear to our representatives.

Obviously, very few people were concerned about the place of Track and Field in our Athletic Program. And there was nothing extraordinary about this; Track and Field is not a spectator sport: its appeal resides with 22 student participants, rather than 2200 student spectators. Very few, it seems, will support a one per cent minority when it isn't in their own interest to do so.

The question now is: Is it in the general interests of the university to reinstate an apparently healthy sport with little popular appeal? To answer this, you must make a choice regarding our Athletic Policy.

First choice: if the student body wishes to see their one common interest as spectators provided for, then Track and Field, and perhaps all similar sports should be dropped in fa-

vor of the more popular ones.

Second choice: if any student activity program is to be regarded as the sum total of minority interests, with the purpose of treating the student body as participants rather than spectators, then Track and Field must be reinstated.

My own reason for preferring the latter choice is simple: spectators have very little to gain from an activity beyond an immediate enjoyment, whereas the challenge of training and competition reveals to a participant his own hidden capabilities — it is an education in itself (although far more limited than an academic education). University comes as a time in a person's life when he is most accessible to the benefits of an athletic education; after that the challenge is lost as he goes on to better things. I feel it is a poor university policy that would deny an individual the opportunity to profit from, and enjoy his chosen sport at such an important time.

To the best of my knowledge,

I have not avoided any other relevant issue; the one simple reason was given me by the AAA. There seems to be no financial problem: the Athletic budget has risen an average of \$4000 each year in the past four years due to increased commitments in other sports. Coach Amby Legere is willing to take any amount he can get, enabling him to take at least a skeleton team to the meet. And if there are any other "infirmities" which might be a part of the sport, I am certain Track and Field will survive in spite of them, as it has since 1902.

You have, then, the one choice to make. But whether you agree with me or not, it is essential that you make your opinions known. Brian Ross and the AAA can do nothing about this matter while the student body remains apathetic. In his own words:

"On the basis of AAA discussions regarding certain Intercollegiate sports (Track and Field and Women's Tennis) being dropped from our Varsity Program two years ago, I feel

it is a neglect on the part of the students not to have these Intercollegiate Sports reinstated if there is an interest in these sports, particularly if the interest comes from those who would like to participate in these sports.

"With reference to Track and Field, I am sorry, if there is an interest in this sport, that it has not been brought to our attention since it is our responsibility to carry the students' opinions and interests to the Athletic Board.

First the AAA must know of this interest."

I could always get some signatures, or whatever is needed, from the members of the old Track and Field Team and take them to Brian Ross, but it is far better if we know the student consensus, either way — it is the majority that counts in the end. Please send your opinions to:

Dave Clarke,
Sports Editor,
Brunswickan,
Campus Mail.

Sincerely,
Chris Williamson

Bloomers Stretch Record

The University of New Brunswick Red Bloomers chalked up two inter-collegiate basketball wins over the weekend to increase their record to 3 wins and no losses.

Rated as top challengers to wrestle the Intercollegiate title away from U.N.B., the Acadia Axettes were able to hit for only 3 field basketballs as the Bloomers downed them 35-14 in a roughly played game that saw 47 fouls called, 25 against the losers.

Sandy Robinson netted 10 points for U.N.B. followed by Mary MacAfee, Pat Pickard who netted 7 each.

On Saturday night, Robinson again led the Bloomers to an easy 73-30 victory over the Dalhousie Tigerettes sinking 10 field goals and four foul shots for a total of 24 points. All 6 forwards figured in the win with MacAfee and Pickard scoring 11 pts. each. Shirley Dale Belmore rounded out the scoring with 8 pts.

Two newcomers to the U.N.B. team — Barb Mullaly and Anthea Allen — played outstanding defensive ball in the Da. win.

Both the games were 4 pt. victories for the Bloomers.

U.N.B. plays Mt. A. co-eds in this week's Winter Carnival, Friday at 7 P.M.

MEET YOUR TEAM



MIKE WARD
Mike Ward is from Riverdale, Ontario. In his last year

at Riverside High School he averaged 10 points per game and lead his league in scoring. This excellent athlete also excels in football and this year started on the UNB Bomber's backfield.

Mike is twenty years old, is 5 ft. 11 inches tall and weighs 180. He is the only rookie on this year's squad from last year's JV team.

His jumpshot is one of the best on the squad and he is working hard on his baseline drive. All Mike needs is experience; and it is unfortunate that he cannot get it while sitting on the bench. Wait 'til next year sportfans.



VOICE AN OPINION ABOUT TRACK AND FIELD

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c/o Dave Clark, Sports Editor

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