

# SPORTS

Deadline for stories is Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. Sports Desk 453-4983

## Raiders to battle St. FX and Dal



James Rowan photo

by Anand Irrinki

After a devastating loss to the Acadia Axemen, the UNB Red Raiders travel to Nova Scotia this weekend. Today they do battle against the St. Francis Xavier X-Men, while on Saturday they have a date with the Dalhousie Tigers. In what has to be considered at least a must split weekend for the Raiders, UNB will be looking for players to step forth onto the score sheet.

This weekends match-up versus St. FX will indeed be a war (see Edmonton vs. Calgary 1988). UNB defeated St. FX during a Christmas break tournament and the X-Men were not gracious losers (see Detroit Pistons 1991). X-Men coach Steve Konchowski said his team would romp over UNB by 70 points the next time the two met. If anything can fire up the Raiders, this comment should. UNB's second game is against Dalhousie. The Tigers are definitely not a powerhouse, but the Raiders must put in a strong performance if they wish to bring home a win.

Last weekend, UNB suffered two home court losses. On Saturday UNB was beaten 80-75 by the St. Mary's Huskies. UNB should and could have won this match-up. Unfortunately for the Raiders twenty minutes (O.K. maybe thirty) of good play does not guarantee a win. After taking a 41-35 half-time lead, UNB was outscored by 11 in the second-half and ended up losing 80-75. Unlike other games UNB was not manhandled on the boards. UNB lost this game because their offense fell apart. After some solid shooting in the first half, UNB decided enough was enough. The remainder of the game (last 15 minutes) was pure frustration for UNB shooters. Even though UNB's offense sputtered, St. Mary's did not have control of this game. They ended up winning because they went to the free throw line 33 times to UNB's 9. The reason for this difference is because of UNB's refusal to go inside. Even though UNB is not very tall, they must still give the ball to the post men and let them do their job. Even if the

post players miss, by going inside they will force the defense to spread out and thus the floor will open up.

If UNB's second-half performance (final 10 minutes) against St. Mary's is termed poor then there is no one word, which does Sunday's game justice. UNB was waxed (see CNN sports) by a powerful Acadia team (see Montreal Canadiens for powerful teams). The Raiders were annihilated, humiliated, and rocked 90-59 by the Axe Men. UNB was outplayed in each category and paid the price. Now, one may ask why UNB was thrashed (see Roget's Thesaurus for more synonyms). The answer is quite simple. UNB's high school style motion offense just did not click. Individually only Yaw Obeng and Duff Adams had solid games. Other UNB starters had troubles throughout the day. Vinod Nair was 1 for 5 from the free throw line, while Alex Kidney was 0 for 6 from the field. Craig Isley thought Wrestle mania VII had started, while Adams was

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## Red Bloomers lose heartbreaker but remain in first

by Bruce Denis  
Peter West

After a break of a month and a half, the UNB Red Bloomers resumed regular season play splitting two home games last weekend. Bloomers played tight defensive basketball to beat the Saint Mary's Huskies on Saturday and lost a heart breaker in the last few seconds to the Acadia Axettes on Sunday.

The Bloomers still own first place in the AUAA standings with a record of 5 wins, 2 losses however, Acadia, St. FX and UPEI are all tied for second with 8 points. Tonight the Bloomers open a tough weekend in Nova Scotia versus St. FX, as they fight to remain sole possessors of first place. Tomorrow they take on 7th place Dalhousie in Halifax.

Sunday's Varsity Mania game saw the Red Bloomers take on the Acadia Axettes. In the first half, both teams played excellent defensive basketball. UNB's superior shooting gave them a 33-27 lead.

An early turnover in the second half by Jill Jackson led to an easy 2-pointer by Jen Hale, who also made a free throw after being hacked in the act. This put the Bloomers ahead of the Axettes by 11 points.

Strong inside play by Jill Jackson and Jackie Fliieger helped the Bloomers lead Acadia 46-32 after only 5 minutes. However, by the 10 minute mark, Acadia had tightened their defense and began sinking key shots. Three minutes later, they had pulled to within 3 points as the scoreboard read 50-47.

Persistent defense and accurate shooting finally put Acadia ahead of UNB 53-52. This set the stage for a thrilling finale. With only 15 seconds remaining and UNB behind 57-56, Acadia was awarded 2 free throws which both went in. A hasty time out called by coach Claire Mitton allowed the girls to organize their final offensive rush. All was going as planned as Jill Jackson fed the ball to Jennifer Hale on the perimeter, unfortunately, the three point attempt bounced off the rim. Kara Palmer layed in the rebound but it wasn't enough as Acadia won 59-58.

The Bloomers next home game will be played Friday January 24 against the UPEI Panthers. The game will be played at the LB main gym and the tip off is at 6:30.

Bloomer point guard Jill Jackson drives to the net against an Acadia defender

Kevin Porter photo



## Athletes of the week

Angie Pickles of the Beavers Swim Team been chosen for the female Athlete of the week. Captain of the team, she bettered her time of the 200m back stroke by more than 3 seconds over the weekend at the Atlantic Cup 2 held in Moncton. Her time of 2:29.80 narrowly missed the CIAU qualifying time by a mere 8/10 of a second. "Angie showed how experience of a mature athlete paid off in both performance and dedication", stated coach Andrew Cole. Angie is a 4th year Science student from Fredericton, NB.

Iain Tennant of the Beavers Swim Team is the male Athlete of the Week. Iain shattered his previous 200m butterfly best time by 8 seconds at the Atlantic Cup 2, which hosted teams from across the Maritimes and Quebec. His new time of 2:08.10 qualified him for the CIAU Championship in only his first year of university competition. Iain is a 1st year Science student from St. John's, NFLD.

