

Men's volleyball working

By NORMAN CODY

The UNB Men's Volleyball team has started to prove that all their hard work has not been in vain. Although their record of 1-9 does not show it, the team has improved its play greatly since before Christmas.

The Rebels opened their second half of the AUSA volleyball season by losing two matches (3-0) to the Dalhousie Tigers on Jan. 15 & 16. Although scores are not indicative of it, UNB played very well and both matches were very long and drawn out.

On January 22nd, the Rebels travelled to Halifax to play in the Annual Dal Classic. Here they played the best volleyball they had all season. The opening match saw the Rebels against U of T Blues, a team which is ranked in the top five in Canada. As expected, Toronto walked away with the match quite confidently, with scores of 15-2, 15-11 and 15-8.

Next, UNB met Univ. of Waterloo Warriors, a team of rookies somewhat like the Rebels and very beatable. This

was a hard match to lose and even harder to recognize the fact that they could not take even one game off of this team which was, more or less, their equal. Scores of that match were 15-5, 15-6 and 16-14.

Saturday at the Classic, UNB played to win, beating Memorial 15-13, 15-13, 14-16, 4-15 and 15-9 in the last match of round robin play. This was the first time UNB beat Memorial this season. Semi-final action was less triumphant as UNB went down to U de M 16-14, 6-15, 15-6, 8-15 and 15-13. This match did, however, prove to the Atlantic competitors that they can go the full five strongly when they have to.

This loss meant UNB now has to play MUN for 7th place. Much to the surprise of the Memorial team, they ended up in the 8th and final position. The Rebels beat them out 15-3, 10-15, 12-15, 15-11 and 15-7.

Outstanding players for the Rebels at the Classic were Harvey MacEachern, who posted 43 kills and Steve Nissen who recorded 19 blocking stuffs. Of surprise to no one were the Classic champions of

George Mason University, Virginia. Ranked 4th in the U.S. they went unbeaten on the weekend. Uvaldo Acosta, all American and member of U.S. Junior National team was by far the best player at the tournament, voted MVP of the tournament and was the key success to George Mason's win.

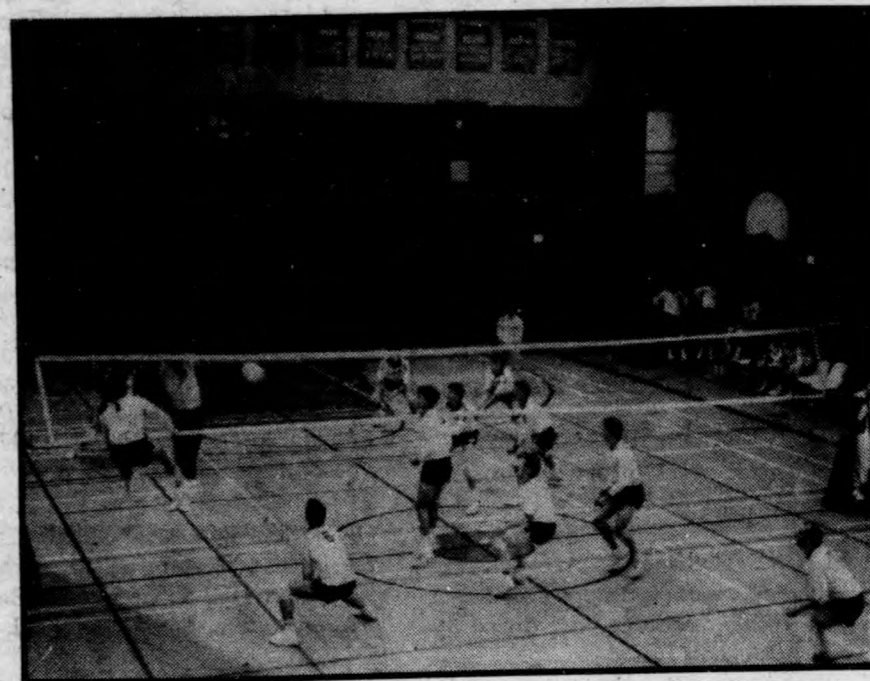
This past weekend the UNB squad travelled to Memorial where they sadly encountered defeat. Friday night's loss was the hardest to take. UNB led the match 2-0 then lost the next three in a row. Plagued by errors and a defeated attitude, UNB easily gave the match to MUN 12-15, 13-15, 15-7, 15-7 and 15-5. Steve Nissen was voted player of the game for UNB. He had 11 kills and 6 blocking stuffs.

Bleak went to bleaker as UNB gave up Saturday's match in four. Mark Boldon, veteran setter laid claim to player of the game for UNB but the scores 16-14, 15-10, 11-15 and 15-4 in favor of MUN, tells the tale of the team's overall performance.

This weekend UNB hopes to improve this record when they square off against U de M on

Saturday, February 6th at 7:30 pm in the Main Gym. UNB still has a chance for a third place finish that would slot them against MUN in the AUSA semi-finals. This is what they are hoping for so they can advance to the finals if they were to defeat MUN. To do this the Rebels must key in on team performance. No one individual player can produce all

the winning plays but judging by the amount of unforced errors our hometeam commits, we can see that this is what our players start trying to do in the later games of a match. Play as a team, win as a team and never, never say die. That's what faces the Rebels in the next month and there is no time like the present to come together as one, strong unit.



Last week, UNB smashing Dal.

Photo: Eric Drummie

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