

SPORTS

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

Dramatic win lifts Red Raiders into second half

by Frank Denis

If a single game can turn a season around, then last week's 63-60 victory by the UNB Red Raiders over the Bishop's Gaiters in the consolation final of the Saint John Invitational, should propel the team into the second half.

Trailing by 11 points with less than 4 minutes remaining the Raiders rallied to win by three.

Marc Aube, Raiders rookie of the year last season, says "Last weekend's come from behind win will give us confidence not only for this weekend's games against Dalhousie and St FX, but also for the whole second half."

"It proved to everyone on the team that we can overcome adversity."

The Raiders were relegated to the consolation final by virtue of their 80-54 opening round loss to Husson College of Maine. In the other opening game St. FX defeated Bishop's 90-66. In the final Husson prevailed over St. FX 80-63.

Leading the way for UNB in the consolation final were Alex Kidney with 15 points and Yaw Obeng and Greg Mapp each sinking 11 points.

Aube says that while the AUAA standings may show UNB trailing the field, teams better not take his team for granted.

"Heading into the pair of games our game plan is to tighten up defensively and try and wear the other team down. If we do we should be able to capitalize on their mistakes."

Aube goes on to say, "If teams come to Fredericton expecting an easy game they'll be in for a surprise. We can catch them off guard if they take us lightly."

While the Raiders 0 and 6 AUAA record may be similar to last year's record at this time, Aube says there is a new attitude on the team thanks in large part to the arrival of Clint Hamilton as head coach.

"There is a totally new attitude on the team. There is a better work ethic among the guys and that reflects in the way that we play. Right now we give 100% every game. After each game we realize that we have given it our all and that's all we can do."

Tonight the Raiders host St FX at 8:30 pm and then host Dalhousie the next day at 3 pm. All games will be played at the Lady Beaverbrook Gym and.

UNB's Johnston leads Team Canada to Spengler Cup gold

Red Devils coach Mike Johnston guided Team Canada to its first Spengler Cup title in 5 years over the holidays in Davos, Switzerland. Team Canada was made up largely of Canadians playing for club teams in Europe, and some NCAA players. The only CIAU player on the team was UNB goaltender Chris Somers. Canada defeated Fajerstads of Sweden 6-5 in overtime to win the gold. Other teams competing included Soviet Red Army, and Fribourg from Austria.

This week in UNB Sports

Friday January 8

Hockey Moncton at UNB 7:30 pm at the Aitken Centre
Swimming UNB at Moncton Atlantic Cup

Saturday January 9

Hockey Mt. Allison at UNB 2 pm at the Aitken Centre
W. Basketball St FX at UNB 6:30 pm at the LB Gym
M. Basketball St. FX at UNB 8:30 pm at the LB Gym
Swimming UNB at Moncton Atlantic Cup
W. Volleyball UNB at Dal 7 pm

Sunday January 10

W. Basketball Dal at UNB 1 pm at the LB Gym
M. Basketball Dal at UNB 3 pm at the LB Gym
Swimming UNB at Moncton Atlantic Cup
W. Volleyball UNB at Dal 1 pm

Wednesday January 13

Hockey STU at UNB 7:30 pm at the Aitken Centre

Remember that all UNB home games are free of charge to UNB/STU students with proper id.

Bloomers hot out West

Win U of Lethbridge tourney with 3-0 record

by Bruce Denis

The temperature may have been frigid out West over the holidays but the Red Bloomers womens basketball team was too hot to handle at the University of Lethbridge Tournament, January 2nd to 4th. The Bloomers compiled a perfect 3-0 record enroute to claiming the tournament championship over second place U of Lethbridge.

After downing the University of Regina 93-69 and the University of Calgary 86-66, they faced the host Lethbridge in the deciding game. The girls defeated the Pronghorns 74-73 in a thriller that went down to the wire.

Two important games will welcome the Bloomers back home this weekend. They face St. FX at 6 pm on Saturday and Dalhousie at 1 pm on Sunday.

Coach Claire Mitton is careful not to celebrate their victory for too long. "The tournament win was a great way to start the year, but it doesn't make our season. We have a key weekend coming up here at the gym against two very strong teams."

Arriving in Lethbridge early, the Bloomers had time to acclimate to the unusually cold and dry weather which never went above -20 C.

Mitton implemented a new defensive system that paid off in their first game against Regina. "I felt we were well prepared. We dominated the game and got everyone involved. We hadn't played in a month and we were anxious to find out how we would do," said Mitton.

Regina's biggest threat was All-Canadian Jane Smear who was shut down throughout the game by Tracy Lordon. Bonnie Hale had a solid game hitting 26 points while player of the game Laura Swift had 23 and Jill Jackson had 12.

The following day saw the Bloomers face a much bigger team in the Calgary Dinos. "They have a lot of size, more than we do. We dominated the game once again with a balanced attack and a new defense." Mitton also noted that their play frustrated the Dinos enough to cause the Calgary coach to take a technical foul and to force one of their players to foul out of the game early in the second half.

Kara Palmer led the way for the Bloomers scoring 26 points as Jill Jackson turned in another good performance with 15 points that earned her player of the game honors.



Jill Jackson
Tournament MVP

With a 2-0 record in the tournament, their final game against 2-0 Lethbridge was the championship game. Mitton was wary of the Pronghorns' talent. "They're one of the top teams in the country (ranked number 8), we knew we were in for a game."

After a shaky first half that left the team down 43-39, the Bloomers came back and stayed dead even with the Pronghorns until only 41 seconds remained on the clock. Lethbridge managed a three pointer to put them ahead by 1 point. The Bloomers came right back after reorganizing with a time out. Laura Swift hit a two

pointer to leapfrog the home team by one point making the score 74-73 with only 30 seconds left.

Not wanting to disappoint an enthusiastic crowd, the Pronghorns called a time out to plan their final 30 seconds. They managed a shot with only five seconds remaining that would have won them the tournament but it bounced off the rim and UNB picked up the rebound to claim the championship.

"It was a well played hard fought game of basketball. Both teams held the lead and both teams fought back," said Mitton. Kara Palmer was named player of the game scoring 14 points. Laura Swift had 20 points and was selected to the tournament All-Star team. Jill Jackson had her 3rd consistent game netting 13 points and was named tournament MVP.

After savoring the victory, Claire Mitton felt the trip was a worth the effort. "Taking the travel distance, the time difference and the cold weather into consideration, it was a very positive experience for us. To be able to go out West and have the success the we did is great. The final game was the first time we had beaten a proven team on their own court."

Looking ahead at the regular season, Mitton could only be positive. "We are looking forward to a busy 6 weeks until the playoffs. The tournament showed us the kind of potential this team has. With that in mind, I think our attitude and confidence has really taken huge steps forward."



Red Devils hot after tourney

by Frank Denis

Heading into this weekend's pair of home games, the UNB Red Devils will be playing with momentum.

After losing 3 of their last 5 games before the Christmas break, the Devils were perfect last weekend in their River City Shoot Out Tournament. They won all three games that they played including the championship final 6-4 over the Brandon (Manitoba) Bobcats.

Tonight at 7:30 pm the University of Moncton pays their first visit to the Aitken Centre. The teams have faced each other twice this season, both in Moncton, with the Devils winning the first 4-0, while Moncton outlasted UNB 6-5 in the last game of the first half.

UNB sits on top in the MacAdam division with a 9-4-1 record, good for 19 points. Moncton is only 6 points be-

hind in second place with 13 points (6-6-1)

Despite having only posted 2 wins and a tie to go along with their 10 losses so far this season, Saturday's opponents, the Mt. Allison Mounties cannot be taken lightly. One of Mt A's two wins came against UNB in Sackville, 5-4 in November. Tomorrow's game will also mark the first of two visits this half to the Aitken Centre by the Mounties.

On Wednesday, the Battle of the Hill, heats up again when STU Tommies visit the Aitken Centre. The Tommies lead the 4 game season series 1-0 thanks to their 6-5 win over UNB at the LBR earlier in the year.

Alastair Still, released by the Tampa Bay Lightning, has returned to the UNB lineup following a leg injury that kept him sidelined for most of the first half. Also expected to return to the lineup are defenseman Derek Scanlan and for-

ward Clyde Simmons. Both players missed the latter part of the first half with injuries.

In last weekend's tournament UNB won its first two games 7-3 over STU and 7-1 over St. FX to earn a spot in the final against Brandon. Brandon's position in the final was thanks to a pair of wins over St. FX and STU.

Leading the way offensively for UNB in the tournament was the line of Trevor Boland, Toby Burkitt and Todd Sparks. Boland had 3 goals in each of the first two games and added two in the final to finish with 8 goals in the three games. His linemates Sparks and Burkitt combined for 2 goals and 15 assists.

Tournament all stars were Sparks and Boland from UNB, Doug Stromback and Rick Geisel from Brandon, Peter Lisy from St. FX and Garth Joy from STU.