

## VIEW FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

by Mark Savoie

I loved it! Watching Raymond Leonard get beat up on TSN last Saturday night by Terrible Terry Norris. Raymond epitomized the type of boxer I loathe, that of the showboat dancer. While it is not possible to decry the talent that Leonard possesses, I have always found his style to be insufferable, and more suitable to the ballet than the ring. I've always felt that Roberto Duran's actions in the famed 'no mas' fight against Leonard to be eminently justified. Duran probably just got so fed up with Leonard's showboating that he said 'to hell with it'. I can't argue with his decision.

One of Leonard's finest moments came in his comeback, where he achieved a victory by decision in a 12 round fight against Marvelous Marvin Hagler, at the time perhaps the most feared man in boxing. The win was an extremely controversial one, with many reports immediately claiming that Leonard by no means deserved the win. What they pointed out was that by the end of the fight Hagler had punished Leonard to a point that he collapsed from exhaustion at the fight's end while Hagler still appeared fresh. The point was that Leonard was unable to hurt Hagler, while Hagler was more than capable of hurting Leonard. In that fight Leonard disproved Joe Louis's old maxim "He can run, but he can't hide." Leonard ran for twelve rounds without Hagler managing to catch him. This was not Leonard's most difficult task in that fight however. Even more difficult was hiding from the judges the fact that he spent 12 rounds running away. Since the judges did rule that he was the winner of the fight, he obviously succeeded.

I'm a purist. I hate the DH and Astroturf. I miss the days when hockey players went helmetless, even though I agree that to do these days is foolhardy and tempting fate. And I honestly believe that when a fighter steps into the ring the fight should be his main and only concern, not whether or not he'll be able to get a Coke ad out of it. Leonard, whether intentionally or not, was the type of fighter who played to the crowd and the sponsors, as exemplified by his ridiculous bolo punch. To my mind he lacked integrity. Therefore, while I may respect his ability and his accomplishments in the ring, I have an almost complete lack of respect for Raymond Leonard as a man and a human being. Seeing him get beat up was the highlight of my week.

Then, less than half an hour later as I was watching Sportsdesk (it was a pretty slow Saturday night) my good mood was shattered by the travesty that was the Canadian figure skating championships. Kurt Browning was once again victorious, winning his third straight such title. What makes this embarrassing is that he fell down during his performance, and yet by some ludicrous judging was still able to beat all comers, including those who were able to stay on their skates for the entire show. There was almost some justice, as Elvis Stojko scored better on the technical merit part of the event, but Browning was able to threepat by virtue of better marks for artistic impression (also known as the last refuge for the incompetent). Browning is an extremely capable figure skater, but pathetic decisions such as this turn my stomach. Stojko is the real national champion!

I hear that Varsity-Mania's 'Battle of the Hill' was a success. Congratulations, guys. I know it must take a lot of effort to get UNB students to go to a UNB Red Devils - STU Tommies game. I mean, STU was able to fill the joint last month for their end of the series. Granted, it was the much smaller icebox known as the LBR, but at least they didn't feel the need to have an organization such as Varsity-Mania to draw a crowd. Face it guys, the Tommies are a good gate that would have attracted a crowd without your help, although I'm sure the attendance was greater than it would have been otherwise. A better game to have promoted as a Varsity-Mania event would have been the game against St. Mary's the weekend before. I was at the game; one of the few. And those few of us who were there were virtually silent. We desperately could have used the enthusiasm of Varsity-Mania to put some life into us. The crowd for the STU game would have been large, loud, and lively regardless. Varsity-Mania would have had a far greater proportionate impact had it chosen the St. Mary's game.

# Intramurals

## Knights of Neill Win Double Crown

In recent weeks the Knights of Neill outclassed all opponents in the sport of hockey. Showing great discipline while utilizing their effective bump and grind style of play. This led to the winning of both intramural ball hockey and inter residence ice hockey. It was a total house effort with great fan support at both final games.

### Ball Hockey

A well balanced team combined with veterans and rookies allowing a measly 13 goals against through the season. This set the pace for a matchup of the top defensive and offensive teams in the league. The defense prevailed with the Knights coming out on top 8-3. This shows the two way hockey of Neill House with a 2-0 lead just 13 seconds into the game.

### Ice Hockey

For a team expected to have little success due to the lack of players and playing time the Knights of Neill showed their raw talent and sheer determination in pulling off a second championship in as many weeks. Playing just their 3rd game the Knights jelled together to score 2 shorthanded goals on the same penalty while cruising to a 4-2 victory over Bridges in the championship game.

For those 100 plus spectators Jake provided an intermission show that brought laughs from all. The players would like to thank their loyal supporters.

### A Proud Resident

## Pink Flamingo Co-ed Snow Football

Saturday February 16, is the date for the Pink Flamingo Co-ed Snow Football Challenge Team will be competing in this fun touch football tournament, while at the same time supporting a worthwhile charity the local food bank.

Participants will be paying an entry fee of cash or non-perishable food items, which will be donated to the food bank. Prizes will be awarded to the team that donates the most food (by weight) and the most money.

Organizers would like to encourage everyone to take part and would like to give thanks to the College Hill Social Club (for donating prizes and free hot coffee for participants) and Beaver Foods (for providing free hot chocolate for players).

The prize for the team that demonstrates gridiron greatness is a pair of beautiful pink flamingos. Come on out an play - or just come out and watch that's this Saturday.

Late registration may be accepted on Friday if there are still openings.

## Women's Volleyball

The Women's Intramural Volleyball League has drawn to an end for the winter term. Everything went well with the split of the league into two division, Recreation and Competitive. This split provided for more even competition and allowed for more fun as a result. In the Competitive Division the Tibbits girls won the divisional title and in the Recreation Division, the McLeod girls came away from competition with that divisional title. All the teams that participated showed great enthusiasm and spirit. Thank you to all who participated and hope to see you again next year.

# Raiders split weekend with MUN

The UNB Red Raiders had a positive weekend overall despite splitting their games against Memorial University from Newfoundland. UNB faced poor officiating and some controversy, yet managed to pull together and finish the weekend on a positive note.

The Raiders had a disappointing loss in their first game. They started the game off well. The first half was a display of their offensive ability, as they scored a high 49 points. They finished the half with a seven point lead over the Seahawks.

MUN's red hot start in the second half left the Raiders astonished. Mike Hoy of Memorial came out and scored 11 points in a row. The UNB squad was stagnant until midway through the half when they got back into the game by pulling down lots of rebounds and working hard. With sixteen seconds left in the game, Yaw Obeng hit a 3-pointer to close MUN's lead to 5. At this point, the Raiders called a time out from the floor, but the referee did not give it to them.

The general feeling was that poor officiating was a factor in the loss. The refs did however apologize for their mistake and they suggested that the Raiders file a protest. The game is presently under protest.

The final score was 87-82 for Memorial. Top scorers were Yaw Obeng with 22 points and Craig Isley with 17. Glenn Read was named "Player of the Game" for the Red Raiders.

The second match offered much more satisfying results for UNB. They earned a convincing 84-66 win over Memorial. The team had a very good game both offensively and defensively and had positive contributions from all the player according to one Bloomer.

The team showed composure and character throughout the contest, which was impressive to see considering the circumstances surrounding the first game.

The Raiders only had one lull during the game. It came in the first half. After being up by more than 10 points, UNB's lead was cut to 3 by

MUN. Yaw Obeng quickly turned the game back to UNB's favor by hitting a thrilling shot from a few feet outside the three point line as the 30 second clock ran down.

The UNB team deserve special credit for their outstanding defence; no one from Memorial scored more than 11 points in the entire game.

The Raiders were led by Glen Read who had 26 points and, "Player of the Game", Yaw Obeng who netted 22.

The game ended on a comical note. As memorial struggled to get the ball so that they could get some points in the final minutes, they ended up continuously fouling UNB. As his players went to the line, coach Phil Wright urged them to "Shoot them quick, we have to catch the plane!" (The departure time was merely 45 minutes away, so the team didn't really have the time to waste).