

Reds mangle STU before 2863



Photo Kevin G. Porter

Todd Sparks had two goals and an assist in a 9-1 win over the STU Wednesday night.

By Bruce Denis
Sports Editor

The final score of Wednesday night's Varsity Mania hockey game between the Varsity Reds and the STU Tommies was 9-1 but the real score is now 2-1.

That is the win-loss record for UNB thus far in the 'Battle of the Hill'. The victory leaves both teams anticipating the final round next Wednesday at the LBR.

Mike Cavanagh lead the way for the Reds garnering Diet Pepsi Player of the Game honors with two goals and an assist. Team scoring leader Todd Sparks matched Cavanagh's totals while Derek Cormier, Clyde

Simmons, Scott Muscutt, Trevor Boland and Craig Brocklehurst had singles.

Goalie Mark Dawkins stopped 33 STU shots including a clear break away by Phillip Daigle in the second period.

The game was marred by a brawl during the pre-game warm-up. After the coaches had managed to regain order, Rob Knesaurek and Troy Ryan as well as two STU players were given game misconducts.

Life wasn't as easy in Nova Scotia last weekend as Acadia managed to snap the Reds' 6 game win streak. Duane Dennis set a new Acadia scoring record notching his 28th and 29th goals of the season helping the

Axemen to a 7-1 victory. Derek Cormier scored the loan UNB goal with only 51 seconds left in Dennis Sproxtion's shutout bid.

The Dalhousie Tigers were equally cruel hosts defeating the Reds 6-4. Coming off a road win over the Axemen earlier in the week, the Tigers looked like potential CIAU contenders. Perennial backup netminder Chris Platis looked sharp after replacing Dawkins midway through the second period. He allowed only one goal in 29 minutes.

The team has the weekend off before meeting STU and then head to UPEI for a pair of road games. Their next home game will be against UDM on February 12th.

MEN'S BASKETBALL Dalhousie falls prey...

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they simply outplayed the talented Tigers squad. The stat which sticks out the most in the 78-63 victory is rebounding. The Reds won the battle of the boards by a margin of 23, collecting 51 rebounds in total. Hamilton was extremely pleased with this effort, saying, "There's probably not five minutes that go by in a practice or a game where I'm not talking about rebounding. Everybody that is on the floor has a responsibility to rebound. Teams that rebound are successful."

But this hasn't been the only reason as to why the Reds are starting to play better. One of the biggest stories on the team as of late is the play of the fifth-year man, Duff Adams. In the past three games, Adams is averaging just under 24ppg while shooting over 50% from the field.

He credits his recent surge to the extra hours of practice he has been putting in. "I've been getting in the gym a lot lately, and I think that's been helping my shot. With that confidence, I think it builds the teams confidence."

Also playing well since the break is former AUAA Rookie for the Year, Brian Elliot. When this

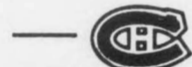
guy gets inside he is simply a man among boys. In last weekends games, he combined for 27 points, 21 rebounds, and blocked 10 shots. Pretty impressive numbers for a guy who has had extensive knee surgery.

This has forced him into a more limited role than what Elliot would like, but as he states, things are looking up. "This weekend was the first time my knee has felt good in a while. It was nice to get up and block a couple of shots. I was finally jumping without thinking about my knee and just playing."

The Reds record currently stands at 4-5 as they head to Newfoundland for a pair against the Memorial Seahawks. And things are definitely looking good for the UNB squad as they finally begin to play the type of ball they are capable of playing.

While Hamilton is getting the concerted effort on both ends of the court, they key to the Reds future success could rest on something that can't be seen-emotion.

As Elliot points out, "We have to try and maintain our enthusiasm. We don't want to go out in peaks and valleys; we've got to keep the intensity level up if we are going to be successful."



Flames roar into Aitken Centre

By Luke Peterson
Assistant Sports Editor

Way back on October 5th, things were looking great for the Fredericton Canadiens.

The Baby Habs had just battled their way to a 6-6 tie in a wild and wooly exhibition match-up with the Saint John Flames. Local fans supposed this game to be a precursor of things to come; Even if Brad and Elsie elected to not duke it out at center ice, it was thought that, at the very least, fans would be treated to some great hockey as the two provincial rivals jockeyed for position in the AHL's Atlantic division.

Fast-forward to late January, and it becomes readily apparent that one of the two aforementioned squads has failed to uphold their end of the bargain.

While the Flames currently are embroiled in a battle with the Cape Breton Oilers for second place in the Atlantic, the Canadiens find themselves mired in fifth place of the six team division. While the sadsack PEI Senators are doing their worst to hold exclusive rights to the "cellardweller" moniker, the Canadiens are, nonetheless, precariously poised on the basement steps. The next few games could prove crucial in determining whether the Habs will climb back to respectability or take the final tumble into playoff purgatory.

This Saturday evening, the Saint

John Flames will be skating into the Aitken Centre for a 6:00 PM match-up. Habs have been hapless as of late with injuries to many key performers including: Craig Ferguson, Charles Poulin, Gerry Fleming and Dave Flanagan. Of these four, only Flanagan is likely to be fully healthy for Saturday's contest. If the Canadiens manage to pull out a win,

they may find themselves on a slight roll as their next two games are slated for Sunday and Tuesday on Prince Edward Island against the Senators. Tickets for Saturday's game can be purchased at the AUC box office or by phoning 459-HABS. Groups of fifteen or more students can purchase tickets at the special group rate of \$7.00 each.

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