

THE VARSITY RECORD FOR 1953-54

RED RAIDERS

Fredericton (UNB)—The UNB Varsity Hockey team, despite several decided disadvantages, enjoyed a relatively successful season. No championships were won, but the team enjoyed better box office support than in previous years.

The team was late in getting started. Because of a crowded schedule at the York Arena, Varsity was unable to secure its former evening hours for practices, and the Kellymen were limited to but three workouts prior to the Christmas recess.

In January, three workouts a week became regular procedure, with the intercollegiate aspirants donning their blades at the early hour of 6.30 a.m. twice weekly. The third workout was held on Sunday morning.

The team played three exhibition games in preparation for their intercollegiate schedule. Two trips to Sussex saw UNB drop two close contests to the Junior Rangers. The other game was played in Perth, where the Maroons battled Varsity to a 3-3 draw. No return games were played in Fredericton, because the team management was unable to come to suitable terms with the York Arena.

The arena management however finally broke down and UNB opened its college elimination series with St. Thomas on February 6th in Fredericton. With Joe Bedard moved up from defence to the forward line, the team showed considerable scoring power in downing the Tommies 8-6 as Bob Ross scored two goals and two assists.

The highlight of the UNB hockey season came on February 15th with the return game in New-Castle. St. Thomas, led by a hustling Bill McMullin, scored once in the second period and twice in the third to go one goal up in the series. UNB seemed to have been eliminated, when coach Pete Kelly pulled his goaltender with 75 seconds to play in the game. The strategy paid off as Brad Mitchell

fired the tying goal with exactly a minute left.

The teams agreed on a sudden-death overtime to decide the winner. Both teams were tired but dead game. Finally, after seven minutes, Hugh Auger carried the puck over the blue line and behind the Tommies net, then slid a goal-mouth pass to leftwinger Joe Robinson. Robinson made no mistake as he shot the rubber past the St. Thomas goaltender and UNB advanced to the NB-PEI finals.

Mount Allison proved too much for the Red Raiders. In the first game, at Sackville on February 20th, the Mounties downed Varsity 8-1 with Joe Bedard counting the lone UNB goal. Back home on February 27th, the Kellymen were trounced 9-0 by a potent Sackville squad.

Mount Allison will be playing St. F. X. for the Maritime title in what should be a very close series. The Mounties are probably New Brunswick's strongest representatives in intercollegiate play in recent years. Perhaps the Garnet and Gold will take the crown away from the Xaverians and bring it back to New Brunswick!

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CO-EDS WIN OPEN MEET, LOSE VARSITY MEN TAKE SEVENTH VARSITY, PLUS OPEN

Fredericton (UNB)—UNB's men's swimming team produced a second Red and Black MIAU championship, retaining the championship for the seventh consecutive year. The UNB Co-ed swimming team lost in their bid for the MIAU championship by a very slim margin to a strong Dalhousie squad. The meet was held here this year in the Lady Beaverbrook Residence pool. The following day the Open Maritime meet was held and the UNB Co-eds made the winning column with their male counterparts, as the UNB teams swept the meet.

No one can take anything away from the men's team in their monopoly of the swimming honours in the Maritimes, but a lot of credit is due to the Co-ed team, as they started very much from scratch this year, to build up into a very strong contender under the able coaching of Amby Legere. With all the girls relative newcomers, UNB can look forward to a potential championship in the Co-ed swimming ranks next season.

The Co-ed team engaged in two meets previous to the intercollegiate meet, both of them being with an all-star team picked from Saint John High and Vocational schools. In both cases the Port City girls took the meets by very slim margins, usually one of the last relay events deciding the winner. UNB's men's team also had a slight pre-season warmup, as they travelled to Acadia to win an exhibition affair there quite handily.

RED DEVILS

Fredericton (UNB)—The Red Devils, UNB's Varsity hopes in their basketball field, didn't show all the power that was hoped of them this season, but did give a very good account of themselves nevertheless. In exhibition encounters, the Devils faced a strong array of more experienced talent, and consequently won but one game of their six preparatory games.

Ricker College and Aroostock State Teachers College, both of northern Maine, won their Fredericton and home games from the UNB squad, and Saint John Atlantic, always a strong team, managed to edge a determined UNB five. Their one exhibition win was over the St. Stephen Mohawks, and that one quite handily.

In the later intercollegiate battles, UNB fared a lot better. In the first college game of the season the Devils gave UNB fans something to hope for by edging the highly rated St. Dunstan "Saints" by a narrow margin. St. Dunstan went on to take Mount Allison in to camp twice, and it appeared that all UNB had to do was defeat the Swampmen twice. However, the scene changed considerably when the Mount Allison team, visiting the UNB floor, dumped the Devils 82-74.

The Devils went on the "Grand Tour" on the weekend of February 27th-28th, faced with the almost impossible task of beating both the Saints and the Mounties. It did, in fact, prove impossible, as the Devils were first badly trounced 83-66 by the Mounties, and the following evening fared not better at the hands of the Saints in Charlottetown, losing on a 51-40 count. And so, the St. Dunstan team became the new NB/PEI champs, advancing to meet the Nova Scotia champs, in all probability St. F. X.

SOCCER SQUAD MIAU CHAMPS

Fredericton (UNB)—In the "Big Four" of the Varsity sports, that is Football, Soccer, Basketball and Hockey, only the Soccer squad managed to win a MIAU title, their fifth in as many years. Although not a well attended sport at College Field, the Soccer team has set a record that the other Varsity teams might keep in mind.

The boot specialists, under coach John Watt and trainer Ron Coe, did well in both intercollegiate and exhibition games. UNB won their first game against Saint John Drydock 3-2, and tied their return game in the Port City 4-4. A Faculty team downed the Varsity 4-1 late in the season, and while travelling to Acadia, the UNB squad was well outplayed by a more more experienced Cornwallis Navy team.

In the intercollegiate race, UNB racked up a two-win, one-loss record. In the first college game of the season, played at College Field, UNB defeated Mount Allison 5-2. Although downed in a close tilt in Sackville 4-3, the UNB squad won the total-point series and advanced to meet the Nova Scotia champions, Acadia. In the sudden death championship game played in Wolfville, UNB's superior brand of play was evident, as they downed the Acadia squad 9-2 to take the title once more.

CO-EDS STRONG ENTRY

Fredericton (UNB)—The Co-ed basketball team was greatly strengthened this year by the addition of no less than 6 freshettes exactly half the team. Of particular note among the newcomers were Iris Bliss and Lois Lange, twin stars on the forward line, and Sally Scovill, mainstay of the defence.

The team chalked up a successful record in the same week-end, and would play but one game against each of the other teams. The site of such a tournament would, of course, change each year. The reasons behind such a move are two-fold . . . a saving of expenses, and the possibility of a greater drawing card.

The round robin series played by the Coeds this year was a step in the right direction, and other teams could use this example to good advantage. There is a move afoot now to produce a better system next year, and years following. The tournament idea seems favoured by all concerned, and under this scheme the four Coed teams involved would meet on one

Fredericton (UNB)—The fourth season of Canadian Football provided a fair account of the popularity and records of this sport on the UNB campus, setting the attendance progress for the year. The Red Bombers failed to capture top honours by narrow margins in actual play, but did manage to prove to the students, many of which are still unfamiliar to the game, that the sport is indeed a crowd pleaser. Paid attendance jumped by 500 percent, and over 70 percent of the students attended the games.

The Red Bombers opened the season with a decisive 29-11 win over the Moncton Trojans on October 3rd, speaking well for coach Ernie Thoms short two-week conditioning schedule. St. Thomas battered the ill-formed Moncton Tri-Service 45-10 in their first encounter, and the stage was set once more for the now traditional UNB-STC rivalry.

The following week-end Thom's severe conditioning paid off again as the "Big Red" thumped Moncton Tri-Service in Moncton on a 35-0 score. St. Thomas edged Moncton Trojans 24-12, and all awaited the next weekend and the first meeting of the two collegian teams.

The Red Bombers travelled to Chatham on October 18th, to be met by a frenzied crowd of Tommie supporters and a very determined Tommie team. UNB managed a half-time 8-6 lead, but bowed 19-8 in the final score. Feelings were high, conditions were not the best, and the grudge became more fixed. Even the UNB coed cheerleaders weren't enough to bolster the Red Bombers. Meanwhile, in Moncton, the Trojans settled for 15-10 win over the Tri-Service twelve.

Still smarting from the STC defeat, and determined to break the "Chatham jinx" once and for all, the Red Bombers literally trampled the visiting Tri-Service team the following Saturday to the tune of 63-11, the highest score on record for the UNB field. Not to be outdone, the Tommies trounced the Trojans 46-0.

There were few not interested in the outcome of the following weekend's meeting between the rival collegian clubs, and 1100 fans were on hand at College field that memorable October 31st. Led by the unerring throwing arm of Brophy, the Red Bombers showed the form they were capable of in downing the Tommies 21-6 in what was rated by most as the best football game ever staged at UNB. Meanwhile, in Moncton, the Tri-Service surprised all and sundry in fighting to a 11-11 tie with the Moncton Trojans.

November 7th's final game in the regular NCBFU schedule assumed a new importance, in that the league leadership was at stake, and with it, the choice of the playing field for the sudden-death championship. The first place tie involving UNB and STC was to be broken on the basis of total points scored "for" during the season, and everything depended on the scores posted by the two collegian teams in these final games. UNB, bothered by the first of an increasing injury list, managed to topple the Trojans 20-6, while the Tommies, playing 15 man Tri-Service club in the worst mud-bowl of the season, were held to a 20-0 score by the courageous Moncton squad. As a result, UNB won the league leadership with a 16 point margin, and the sudden-death final was scheduled for College Field on November 14th.

Over 1300 fans gathered that day in beautiful football weather to witness the disaster. UNB was riddled with an unheard of injury list due to excessive practice, and the "Terrible Tommies" dominated the first three quarters of the game to post a high 43 points. UNB came to life too late in the fourth quarter in a terrific drive, scoring three touchdowns in the last 12 minutes alone, but only managed to get a total of 25 points, and so the North Shore squad took the championship and the Senator Burchill trophy home once again.

An anticlimax to the season was provided as UNB defended the Maritime Intercollegiate football title in Halifax against a highly-over-rated Dalhousie Tiger squad. Played in the severest conditions possible, a combination of mud-rain, and some sleet, the Red Bombers out-fought, out-played, and out-passed the Tigers, but failed to overcome the kicking and scoring abilities of the Dalhousie twelve, and lost the game 10-5. Determined last minute bids by the Red Bombers were washed out again and again by the officials, the most dangerous attempt being a plunge by Moller to the Tiger six inch line.

TENNIS TEAM HOST

Fredericton (UNB)—In tennis this year, UNB was host for the MIAU meet. However, despite the advantage of home courts, the Red and Black were unsuccessful in their bid for the Culbertson trophy. Winner of the meet was Dalhousie, who ousted Mount Allison, the defending champs.

The members of the UNB team were chosen after an elimination tournament had been played. The ladies team consisted of three newcomers, Iris Bliss, who played singles, and Jane Hickman and Pam McCready, the doubles duo. For the men, Jim Crockett took on the singles chores, while Bill McCordick and Les Blight made up the doubles combination. UNB made only a mediocre showing, ending in a second-place tie with three other colleges, including St. F. X., Nova Scotia Tech, and St. Marys. In the men's play, the Red and Black lost in the first round in both singles and doubles. However, things were a little brighter on the distaff side as Pam McCready and Jane Hickman performed very well, capturing the ladies doubles event. In singles Iris Bliss placed second behind Dal. Dal won the meet, taking the ladies singles, and placing second in the doubles. The men's singles were won by St. Marys, and the men's doubles by Nova Scotia Tech.

BADMINTON

Fredericton (UNB)—In the bird-bating department, UNB placed second behind Dal. An elimination tournament was run off in the Lady Beaverbrook Gym to decide a team to carry UNB's hopes to the MIAU tourney held this year at King's College, in Halifax.

The two most powerful contenders, Al MacDonald for men's singles, and Margot Roach for women's singles, were literally appointed by acclamation. No women's doubles team was sent, but the men's doubles team was chosen after a hectic elimination series, with Colpitts and White taking the honours.

Margot Roach won the women's singles, and Al MacDonald took the men's honours in Halifax, but UNB's men's doubles team was eliminated early in the tourney and as a result, UNB placed a close second to Dal in the total count.

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