

Leroy tries wheelchair basketball

Man I thought it was going to be the biggest bummer of the year! Three days into March Break and what happens, the Ken Read Curse -the Broken Binding Blues. Yes friends, the Frustrating Fractured Femur! What am I going to do? Just when I was getting into intramurals and was starting to realize how much fun hanging around the gym and getting sweaty is. Luckily for me when I returned to Fredsville and checked out the Leisure Week displays, I found out about wheelchair sports.

The New Brunswick Council on Recreation for the Disable was one of the groups taking part in the Leisure Week display organized by fourth-year recreation student Bev Doherty. The coordinator of NBCRD Bob Coakley told me all about how he helps physically and mentally disable people organize sports and recreation programs. When he noticed I was temporarily disabled (how could he miss twenty pounds of plaster and two crutches!) he asked if I wanted to try wheelchair basketball. Since I'd never been in a wheelchair I said no, but Bob told me that Bev had organized a game between the Fredericton Sparks Wheelchair team and a group of students and media people. He said I'd fit right in since about half of the other players had never been in a chair either. So being brave and adventurous-and somewhat reckless- I said yes.

The game was played Thursday night and was full of thrills, spills and surprises. The first surprise was when some of the Sparks walked into the gym. I thought they were all permanently in wheelchairs but Bob told me that there is a classification system that allows people with all levels of disabilities to participate. He said I would be a class six, since I had only one bad leg, but that Fred Edney, who is paralysed from the chest down (including partially paralysed arms) would be class one. On the basketball court I counted for three points, Fred counted for one and those in between were worth two points. The team's points had to total twelve in order to balance the team with severely and mildly disable players.

Wheelchair basketball is played with basically the same rules as stand-up basketball. We had to dribble or pass after every two pushes, we had six seconds in the key instead of two, the game lasted 40 minutes and was started by a jump ball even though we were not allowed to jump out of the chairs. The baskets were regulation height and I even managed to sink two shots! Of course, the Sparks out manoeuvred us in the chairs and were way ahead at half time but for the second half we split up the teams. I played with Fred, two other Sparks and one student. That half was much more fun and I decided

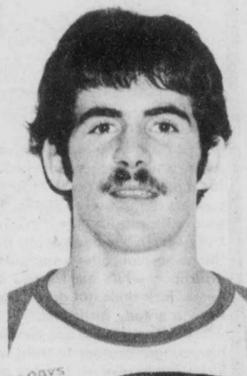
that next Thursday night I'd go and play again with the Sparks.

After the game I got more surprises. Fred asked me to help him down the stairs. Those two or three steps that I had never thought about, made the gym inaccessible to wheelchairs. After I thought about it I realized that a lot of facilities were not designed very well and did not permit independent access to people in wheelchairs. Then Fred surprised me again by transferring into his car, moving over to the drivers side, pulling the chair into the back seat and starting the car. I looked in and saw that the car had hand controls and the brake and gas could be controlled with one hand. Fred offered me a ride and told me more about wheelchair sports.

Wheelchair athletes have competed since 1945 when the first wheelchair archery meet was held in England. Since then the lists of events has expanded to include track (60 metres up to 10,000 metres) field, (all throwing events), swimming, table tennis, weight lifting (bench press), fencing and others. There are annual provincial, national and international games and Fred said he is now training for the 1980 Olympics for the Disabled. Fred will be one of three New Brunswickers on the 100-person Canadian team that will compete in Holland in June. Fred was also on the team for the 1976 Olympiad for the Physically Disabled in Toronto.

Drafted!

Stewart Fraser Mike Washburn



Two Red Bombers were drafted in the recent CFL draft. Stewart Fraser was drafted by the Saskatchewan Roughriders in the second round. Mike Washburn was taken by the Montreal Alouettes in the fifth round. Both Stewart and Mike are receivers on the UNB Red Bombers.



THE COPA EXPRESS

Hey students, are you tired of walking to every place you go out to at night? Not having any wheels can be a real drag!!

Beginning on Monday, March 10th, the Copa Club on Prospect Street will bus you, free of charge, from the Student Union Building on Campus and also from the Riverview Arms and Hilltop taverns at their closing times, to the Copa. At closing time at the Copa, you will be bused, free of charge back to the SUB on campus.

Schedule to the Copa

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|-----------------|--|
| Leaves SUB- | 8, 9, 10, 11 P.M. nightly |
| Riverview Arms- | 11:30 P.M. nightly |
| Hilltop Tavern- | 11:45 P.M. nightly |
| Sub- | Saturday & Sunday Afternoons |
| | Every half-hour from 12 noon till 3 P.M. |

Events Calendar

On Saturday afternoon March 15th at 3 p.m. the Copa is presenting their first Legs Contest. Open to any female 19 yrs of age or older. Any dress is acceptable to show off your legs.

1st prize-\$200.00
2nd prize-\$100.00
3rd prize-\$ 50.00

Total Prize Money-\$350.00

On Sunday Afternoon, March 16th at 3 p.m. the Copa is presenting their first Chugging Contest. Open to any person 19 years of age or older. Just how fast can you drink a beer?

1st prize-\$100.00
2nd prize-\$ 50.00
3rd prize-\$ 25.00

Total Prize Money-\$175.00

For entries for either the Legs or Chugging Contests, contact John Everett at 455-1587 anytime from March 10th to 14th.

Prices

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sun.-Thurs.-Happy Days | All beverages \$1.00 |
| Fri. & Sat. Nights- | Regular Beverages \$1.15-\$1.25 |
| Sat. & Sun. Afternoons-Happy Days | All Beverages \$1.00 |

The Copa Club- Disco
Licensed Restaurant
and Games Room

"Tired of the Rest

Come to the Best" THE COPA

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Memberships Available: | \$20.00 |
| Students: | \$15.00 |
| Married Couples: | \$30.00 |
| Hours: | 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. |
| | Sunday through Saturday |