

Beavers Favoured in Swimming AUAA's

by Brent Staeben

The sports year 1989-90 may well be remembered for the resurgence of UNB hockey, or for having All-Canadians in soccer and field hockey, or maybe even for the Bloomers finally overcoming Dal and winning the AUAA title. But for the people involved with the swimming Beavers, this has got to be the most exciting year since the mid-seventies.

The men's team has just finished off a season which saw them go undefeated from start to finish in the AUAA and they head into this weekend's AUAA championships at Dalhousie, indisputably the favourites. They face a Dalhousie squad which the Beavers defeated this year for the first time in fifteen years. This is virtually the same squad that has managed to defeat the Beavers at the last two AUAA championships but this time the Beavers are ready and waiting.

The team is led by rookie freestyle-phenom Brian Woods of Norwich, England. Brian has managed not only to knock off some of the best swimmers in this part of the country since he's arrived (including an AUAA record holder and another AUAA champion), but he's also managed to bring to the team the attitude that he'll be happy with nothing but

winning. This has paid off in numerous UNB and AUAA Athlete-of-the-Week awards and also recently, a UNB Athlete-of-the-Month award. Besides the freestyles this weekend, he'll also swim the 200 backstroke, the 100 butterfly and UNB's two most important relays.

The rest of this year's rookie crop will undoubtedly determine the team's fortunes this weekend. Paul Halmazna has brought his incredible work ethic and blazing speed from Calgary and will have his work cut out for him in the sprint fly, breast, and freestyles. Moncton's Jay London and Pictou NS's Mark Weber have been the surprises of the AUAA this year. London, a former N.B. age-group standout, is incredibly talented and will swim the backstrokes and the individual medley. Weber, a national class 200 backstroke, has also developed into a strong mid-distance freestyler and will be counted on for some high placings. The addition at Christmas of 1989 Canada Games finalist Mike Hawkes from Fredericton was the final link the Beaver's needed. Hawkes should challenge for wins in both the butterfly events and provide lots of help in the relays.

Besides these guys is a deluge of talented veterans that includes last year's team MVP

Philip Chaplin from Fredericton, Chatham's Sean Penney, Fredericton's Dave Wright and Tim Jackson, and Charlottetown's Keith Garratt. Each of these swimmers was a medalist at last year's AUAA's and all will play a vital role in this year's championship run. In fact, look for Chaplin and Penney to be multiple event medalists in the freestyles and backstrokes, respectively.

Rounding out the squad are utility-man (some would say garbage-man) Bruce MacCaulay from Fredericton, who'll have the most intense individual schedule, swimming every distance event in the meet, and a trio of breaststrokers including Derek Smith of Fredericton, Team captain Gardiner MacNeill of Summerside and Alan Avis of Halifax. All four have significant roles in the success of this team and must perform at peak for the team to win.

On the women's side, the turnabout from a year ago has been much more dramatic. At the beginning of this season, some had suggested that the best this team could finish would be fourth. In the Mt.A Invitational in November, they actually finished dead last. Yet this was all before the arrival of Mississauga, Ont.'s Chrissy Hashimoto. Also add Fredericton's Edie Fisher, who's been swimming with the

team for four years but just recently decided to return to school, and suddenly the women are contesting the AUAA title.

The nucleus of the Team includes Hashimoto and Fisher, plus Montreal's Peggy Ackerl, Team captain Kathleen Naylor, and Fredericton's Krista Daigle. Ackerl has led the team all season, copping numerous Athlete-of-the-Week awards and was UNB Athlete-of-the-Month for January. She has broken team records in both backstrokes and will surely erase the 50 and 100 freestyle records this weekend. With Hashimoto, they give the Beavers the best one-two punch in the conference, not to mention for the first time in this school's history, two swimmers at the CIAU medalist level. It is of note that Hashimoto was 5th in the Commonwealth Games trials in December and that both girls were well ranked in the world in 1989. You can pretty much bank on six gold medals each for these two girls this weekend.

Kathleen Naylor is having her best year ever in this her last season as a Beaver. Her sprint freestyles have constantly improved all year and this weekend she'll be shooting for medals, a CIAU qualifying time, and will be a crucial part of the Women's

relays. Krista Daigle was the 1989 AUAA champion in 100 and 200 backstrokes and she'll be looked to this weekend for some important points in both these events. Edie Fisher will swim the breaststrokes, the individual medleys, and the relays. Fisher is well known throughout NB, as a top-ranked cyclist, and in both sports is a fierce competitor.

Filling out the squad are Fredericton's Christine Verhille, distance free; Angie Pickles, backstroke; Tawnya Desauliers, breaststroke; Pictou's Jodi Woolam, freestyle; St. John's Tanya Pitt, freestyle; Montreal's Tina Tector, freestyle; and Halifax's Bridget Byrne. Each of these swimmers will be hoping to add as many points as they can to the team's final total and are all shooting for personal best times.

There's no doubt about it, this has been one heck of a good year for UNB swimming. The UNB record books have taken a beating, AUAA records held by athletes such as Nancy Garapick are poised to fall and Coach Bruce Fisher's program has established itself as the best of the East by knocking off Ontario and Quebec schools. All that remains is the meet this weekend, and for this team to go out and win two new AUAA championships for UNB.

OFFER ENDS FEB 28

SUN-WED ONLY!

5 FREE PEPSTARS

BUY ONE PEPSI AND GET FIVE FREE WITH ANY 12" OR 16" GRECO PIZZA!

GRECO

452-0033

Sunday offer begins at 11 a.m. on Sundays. Offer not valid Sat. midnight till closing. Not valid in conjunction with other specials or coupons.

CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS

???

EPSON LT-286 LAPTOP and EPSON LX-810 9-PIN PRINTER

ONLY \$2965.00

UNTIL MAR. 15/90

AVAILABLE AT THE UNB BOOKSTORE

February 16

Vie

Ch

The UNB That's out talk lately football pr elections i On the football in Universi commitm brought in George E Irish mag start. Ap program in UNB A sum of \$1 UNB. It v year there former he Since th budget, fu possible s in the for the st athletic f called up student fe universiti UNB righ to be pr referend UNB Pr the cost o he probab proposd support v contributi Football heights. A not an iss Will th Someday answer th

The UN Memoriz weekend Newfoun It is w Beothuk once a tr Some bel sports wa others, ho profound killed like

Last residence Harrison Monday r over Nev great opp their ind epitomize