

Rookie Campbell scores five UNB win 2; Panther powerplay declawed

NEIL DUXBURY

THE BRUNSWICKAN

UNB forward Jason Campeau summed it up: "We had to take four points, a split wasn't good enough." In the playoffs last year, UNB needed to sweep UPEI at the Aitken Centre after an 8-1 thrashing on the island. After winning the first game, they lost an epic 1-0 goaltending duel to Craig Johnson and the rest of the Panthers.

Last weekend, the V-Reds were again looking for a hometown sweep. Once again Johnson and Frank LeBlanc were between the pipes as both teams fought for the first four points on the road towards Toronto and the CIAU Final Four Friday night.

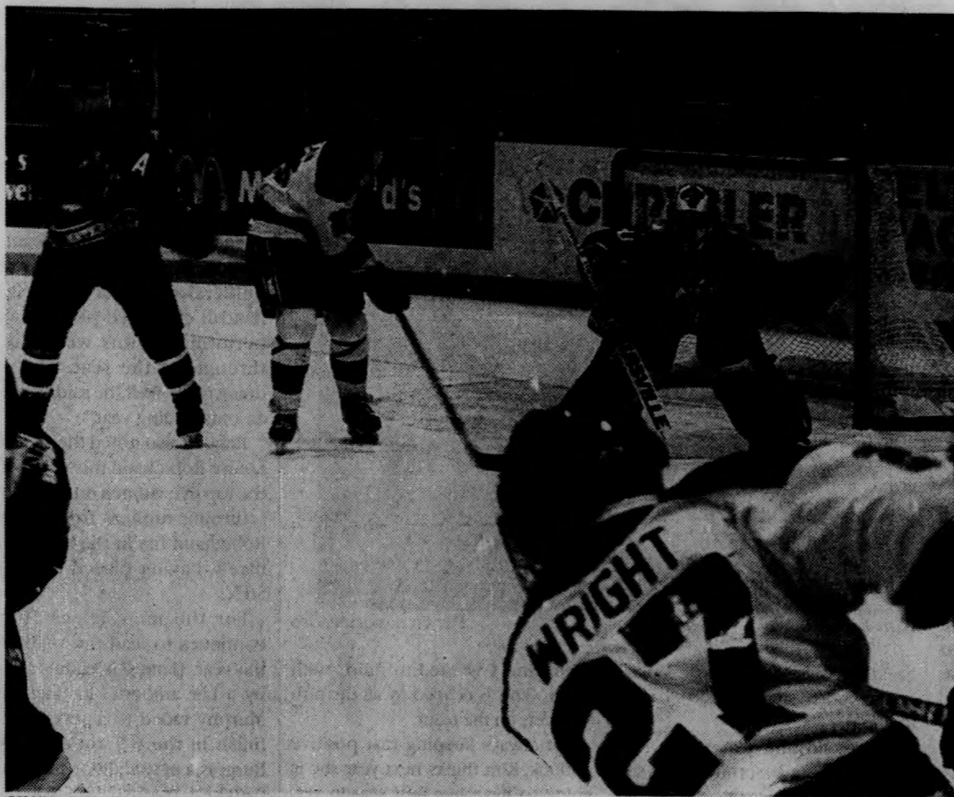
The UNB Varsity Reds battled first-night nerves, frequent whistles and a potent Panther offense to come back from 3-2 and 4-3 deficits to claim the first half of the series.

The UPEI Panthers were the first on the board when Todd Walker converted a 2 on 1 breakaway. The Varsity Reds were quick to respond with rookie linemates Peter MacKellar and Jason Campbell getting the better of Johnson to give UNB the edge. This advantage was shortlived as Steve Hogg tied up the game before the close of the period.

After a scoreless second, the Panthers took the lead on Walker's second goal of the game. It was then that UNB made a minor adjustment to their powerplay: "We had to shoot the puck," explained coach Mike Kelly later.

This change in strategy bore three goals for the V-Reds: all scored on powerplays, all from close in. Billy Wright accounted for UNB's third of the night while Jason Campbell completed his hat-trick with the tying goal and an overtime winner.

Panthers coach Doug Currie felt his team had been the victim of inconsistent refereeing: "I felt there



UNB's Billy Wright has Craig Johnson's net in his sights.

DIRK NIELSON PHOTO

were some marginal calls and we got more than our share."

Meanwhile UNB's Coach Kelly was happy to leave the rink with a win. After the opening night jitters had left his team a little shaky, Kelly thought that they "showed really good character coming back from behind."

While the Panthers left the Aitken Centre Friday night vowing vengeance, it was the Varsity Reds who showed up ready to play on Saturday afternoon.

The Varsity Reds dominated the first period, survived a comeback in the second and declawed the Panthers powerplay to record a 5-2 victory.

After two goals from Jason Campeau and one from Jason

Campbell gave UNB a 3 goal cushion, the Panthers pounced on two of their fourteen shots in the second to cut the lead down to one.

The third contained some of the most exciting hockey of the weekend with plenty of action at both goal mouths. Adding to its attraction was the lack of whistles, with a mere two penalties called.

After several near misses at both ends, Toby Burkitt doubled UNB's lead. Burkitt tucked in the rebound, following up on Kevin Barry's shot.

The Panthers pulled their goalie, with 1:22 remaining but to no advantage. Burkitt fought off two Panther defenders to centre the puck for Jason Campbell to score his fifth of the weekend and UNB's fifth of the game.

Despite outshooting UNB 32-26, UPEI were unable to take any points from the weekend. The Panther powerplay was a woeful 2-11 Saturday, 4-18 over the two games. Much of the credit should go to the defense for their efforts in keeping the puck from the net. While the entire unit played solidly, Chris Zanutto's slide through the crease to neutralise a goal bound puck and Wade Simpson's sprawling poke check as a Panther loomed from 10 feet out were the most memorable.

Goalkeeper Ken Carrol, for one, was grateful. "I can't say enough about our D. They stood on their heads in the first."

Carrol stopped 30 of 32 shots to earn his first win as a Varsity Red. While his performance signalled that UNB has two quality goalies this year, he downplayed any question of there being a rivalry between him and Friday's starter Frank LeBlanc.

"We're goaltending partners. When I'm out there I'm pulling for him. Hopefully when I'm out there he's pulling for me."

Panthers forward Phil Simeon was appreciative of Carrol's skills. "He plays the angles well and doesn't give big rebounds." He went on to compliment UNB's defense on the job they did clearing players and pucks from in front of Carrol's net.

The Varsity Reds continue their home schedule when they face the Saint Mary's Huskies Saturday night at the Aitken Centre. The Huskies will be out to revenge last year's 13-6 drubbing, in which they took 81 minutes of penalties against UNB's 10. Meanwhile the Panthers return to the island to lick their wounds in preparation for a rematch in a week's time.

The Toronto Raptors put reporter to sleep!

MATTHEW J. COLLINS

THE BRUNSWICKAN

This article was intended to cover an NBA pre-season game between the Toronto Raptors and the Atlanta Hawks. However, the game was such a snore, it was hardly worth writing about. Here is a couple of reasons why:

First of all, the favoured Raptors never lead the game, trailing by as many as 21 and eventually losing by a final score of 100-82. The saddest thing about this is that the game was sloppy, slow-paced, and appeared to be nothing more than a controlled scrimmage.

In a league where the dunk has become a symbol of an aggressive offensive attack, one has to question how hard these guys are playing when the ball is slammed home only twice and a fast break is about as rare as finding a sober person at the Social Club.

Secondly, the stars that the fans had paid to see were rarely on the court. Former Rookie of the Year Damon Stoudamire, appeared only in the first and third quarters and played terribly to boot (1-7 field goals and 4 assists). Furthermore, big name players such as Dikembe Mutombo and Mookie Blaylock all played less than 25 minutes.

And, as always, a couple of big name players were out with ankle injuries. The 1992 NCAA Player of the Year, Christian Laettner, was out of action for the Hawks, and the highly regarded 1996 NCAA Player of the Year, Marcus Camby, was on the sidelines for the Raptors.

In the week prior to the game, Raptor's management announced that they may not return to Halifax next season due to poor ticket sales: there were only 7500 people in attendance and, of these, several hundred were high school students who had received free tickets on game day. However, when one considers the low caliber of pre-season play and the lack of superstar presence, is it any wonder why ticket sales are low?

The real story of this NBA event

took place off the court, where an aspiring reporter experienced the world of professional sports journalism.

After spending three years in the media, and having the pleasure of working with the Bruns, CHSR and Fundy Cable, I realized something I never dreamed possible - I was in an NBA locker room interviewing childhood idols and coaching legends.

Simply stated, I was starstruck. I interviewed Damon Stoudamire, who was annoyed and upset at his personal performance. As he stated, "Things are good when I'm wheelin' and dealin'." But if I ain't makin' it happen, nothin's gonna happen. That was evident tonight."

I sat down and had a conversation with Marcus Camby. I am sitting in an NBA locker room talking with a number one draft pick! Wow! When I asked him how anxious he was to get into his first NBA game, he simply said "Man, I can't wait. It's gonna be a lot of fun playing with this team."

Of all the interviews, my highlight was talking with Hubert Davis. Davis, acquired from the Knicks in the off season, had a pretty good night on the court (6-10 field goals and 2-2 from behind the arc), but this is not what I'll remember. Davis represents everything that is good about professional players. He took time to speak with fans. He took time to sign children's photographs. He even took time to talk with me on his way out of the Metro Centre.

One thing to keep in mind: the entire time I'm doing these interviews, the child in me wants to jump out and say "You're awesome! Can I have your autograph?" On the other hand, the nervous reporter in me can't escape the thought that these players and coaches have been interviewed by the most recognizable names in the business: Costas, Vescey, Musburger, O'Brien, Albert, etc... With this in mind, I'm thinking "Boy, I must sound like a complete idiot." But hey, everyone's gotta start somewhere.

Figure Skating

Anyone that is interested in Recreational figure skating at the Aitken Center can attend a meeting on October 21 at 7pm in the SUB Blue Room. For more info call Allison Smith at 455-9423.

Ski Team

Anyone interested in doing some skiing this winter is welcome to attend a general meeting on Sunday October 20 at 7pm in the SUB cafeteria. Just look for the skiers. No experience is necessary. For more information contact Brian Crothers at 457-3112 or Nicole Lebrun at 457-3927.

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SPARC
General Meeting

SPARC (Student Pride and Alumni Relations Committee) will be hosting their general meeting on:

SUNDAY OCTOBER 20, 1996
AT 7:00 P.M.
Alumni Memorial Building