

SPORTS

Deadline for stories is Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. Sports Desk 453-4983

Devils lose 6-5 heartbreaker

by Frank Denis

UPEI 6 UNB 5 (3 OT)

CHARLOTTETOWN The UNB Red Devils opened their best of three MacAdam division final on Wednesday and dropped a heart-breaking 6-5 triple overtime decision to the UPEI Panthers in Charlottetown.

The game, which took well over four hours to complete, ended when Jeff Walker fired a low shot past UNB netminder Chris Somers at the 2:20 mark of the third overtime period.

The game was a costly one for the Red Devils. Not only do they have their backs up against the wall heading into tonight's 7:30 pm rematch at the Aitken Centre, but they will also be without their head coach Mike Johnston behind the bench.

Johnston was issued a game misconduct penalty midway through the third period of Wednesday's game and with that he is forced to miss the next game. Johnston became involved in an incident with

UPEI forward John Nelson and then Max Mazur stepped in and jostled with Johnston. Johnston didn't feel his actions warranted being thrown out of the game and has appealed the decision.

"The incident was uncalled for. There was no way I should have been thrown out of the game. In a short series like this you have to have your coach behind the bench.

"I feel bad as a coach that it did happen and I don't think it should have. I'm going to appeal the referee's call but if I'm not there on Friday, I'm not there. Our guys will be prepared though," said Johnston moments after the game.

When Johnston left assistant coach Rob Beatty took over behind the bench and had injured defenceman Rob Boldon help out.

Scoring for the Red Devils were Ken Murchison with a pair, and singles from Neil Hawryluk, Joey Mac-Tamney and Trevor Boland.

UNB was given a golden opportunity to win the game in

overtime when Nelson took a five minute match penalty for spearing UNB captain Murray Nystrom. Nelson's match penalty means that he will be

suspended for the next couple of games and therefore won't be in uniform this weekend.

UNB could not capitalize on the power play despite many

quality opportunities. UPEI goaltender Jamie Blanchard, was the difference as he stopped many UNB players

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Red Devil center Jamie Colvin takes faceoff against Shane MacEachern

Photo by Sherry Secord

Bloomers host AUAA's

by Peter West
Bruce Penic

After an up and down season, the Bloomers breathed a sigh of relief last weekend as they clinched first place by defeating the Memorial Seahawks twice. They host

the AUAA championship this weekend at the LB gym. The games get underway tonight at 6:00 p.m. as the Bloomers take on 4th place UPEI.

The Bloomers got a helping hand from Acadia who beat first place St. FX last week, bumping them down a notch to

second place and UNB up to first. Acadia meets St. FX in the second game Friday night which begins at 8:00 p.m. The winner of each game will meet in the championship final Saturday at 1:00 p.m.

Memorial didn't pose much of a threat to UNB as the Bloomers won the first game 95-77. The Seahawks' strong heart and determination couldn't match the Bloomers offensive organization. Key points by Krista Foreman in the second half and consistent scoring by Kara Palmer helped the team to victory. Palmer was the Pepsi player of the game scoring 24 points, and amassing 9 rebounds.

Sunday's game was a carbon copy of Saturday's game as the Bloomers downed the Seahawks 95-70. Memorial managed better offensive opportunities but they failed to capitalize due to poor shooting. Jackie Flieger's trademark 3-pointers gave the Bloomers a 9 point lead at the half. That lead had doubled after 5 minutes into the second and consistent team play allowed the Bloomers to build a 25 point lead by the end. Jennifer Hale was named player of the game.

The Bloomers finished the season with a record of 12 wins 4 losses and a total of 26 points, 2 better than St. FX. They remain confident going into their first game against UPEI and expect to come out victorious on Saturday as well. For the Bloomers, after an excellent season, the championship is only 2 wins away.

Photo by Kevin Porter



Red Bloomers are gearing up to defend AUAA title

AUAA PLAYOFFS AT UNB

Women's Basketball

Friday Feb. 29

Game 1

UNB vs UPEI 6:30 pm

Game 2

St FX vs Acadia 8:30 pm

Saturday March 1

AUAA Final 1:00 pm

Hockey

Friday 7:30 pm

UNB vs UPEI Aitken Centre

Saturday 3:00 pm

UNB vs UPEI Aitken Centre

Athletes of the week

Jennifer Hale of the Red Bloomers Basketball Team has been chosen the Female Athlete of the Week. Jennifer was a key factor in the Bloomers' wins over Memorial (95-77, 95-70) this weekend. The Bloomers finished in first place as a result and have the honour of hosting the AUAA Tournament. In the two games, Jennifer scored 40 points, completed 17 free throw, 3 field goals, and had 8 rebounds to her credit. Jennifer was nominated Player of the Game for her performance against the Seahawks. Jennifer is a 4th year Science student from Truro, N.S.

Jim Landine of the Red Devils Hockey Team is the Male Athlete of the Week. Jim scored the tying goal in the second game of the series late in the third period while playing a defensive role against Moncton's top line. The Devils advance in the play-offs against UPEI with their 2 victories over UdeM (4-2, 3-2). Coach Johnston states, "Jim's consistent work ethic motivates the rest of the team to push harder and this weekend the result was an important series sweep over Moncton." Jim (Top Defensive Player 1990) is a 4th year Science student from Fredericton, N.B.