

SPORTS

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

Bloomers host AUAA tournament

by Bruce Denis
Peter West

Ending the exhibition season with a record of 5-1, the Bloomers begin the regular season tonight at 8:30 against the UCCB Capers while hosting the AUAA League Tournament at the LB Gym.

The tournament gets under way tonight at 6:30 pm as the UPEI Panthers take on the Saint Mary's Huskies. The Huskies seek revenge after the Panthers handily beat them last weekend at the Dalhousie tournament. Both teams look to be UNB's prime competition for the AUAA title and should provide forty minutes of exciting basketball.

UNB enters their first game of the season as home town favourites over the UCCB Capers. Both teams look to play an action packed offensive game.

The winner of each game will advance to the finals held on Saturday at 3:30 pm. The consolation final will be played at 1:00 pm.

The Dalhousie Centennial tournament which took place last weekend, began quickly for the Bloomers. They handily beat both Windsor and Dalhousie Universities to gain entry to the tournament final against Acadia.

Ahead by 7 points by half time, the Bloomers allowed the Axettes to regain lost ground. Acadia managed to hit a three pointer in the final minute to hand the Bloomers their only loss of the exhibition season by a score of 67-65.

"It was certainly a disappointing loss and maybe an unnecessary loss. But at the same time, we have to realize that there is some value in a loss" said coach Claire Mitton.

However, she feels that the team will grow from the experience: "It gave us an opportunity to re-evaluate and make adjustments, and we've done that."

"We strayed away from our work ethic. A strong commitment to hard work will allow us to achieve success."

Mitton believes that the

team is generally working well together however there are some aspects that need to be improved. "One area that we need to develop is the flow of our offensive patterns and we are still not quite pleased with our total team defense yet."

Despite these shortcomings, the Bloomers seem to have the most developed and experienced team in the AUAA. Mitton is confident that last weekend's loss hasn't hurt the team's outlook. "I really feel we are the team to beat in the AUAA."

The Bloomers are confident going into this weekend's tournament, however, coach Mitton is careful the team won't repeat the same mistakes they made last weekend. "Sometimes when our lead became too comfortable we concentrated too heavily on the final result instead of working to achieve that result."

"We really pushed ourselves this week in practice and developed a hard work ethic."

AUAA league tournament schedule

Tonight

Game 1	UPEI vs Saint Mary's	6:30 pm
Game 2	UCCB vs UNB	8:00 pm

Saturday

Loser game 1 vs loser game 2	1:00 pm
Winner game 1 vs winner game 2	3:00 pm

All games played at the L B Gym

Red Devils prepare for big weekend

Pair of wins leaves Devils 4th in the country

by Frank Denis

Saturday
UNB 5 UCCB 1

Sunday
UNB 8 StFX 4

This weekend the Red Devils will play host to two of the toughest AUAA teams. On Saturday at 2:00 pm the Red Devils host the Dalhousie Tigers who last year were runners up for the AUAA Championship. While the Tigers are

off to a 3-1-3 start, good enough for third place in the Kelly Division, they are still a strong team.

"Dalhousie has a reputation of being a physically rough team, that will come in and make you pay the price for your win. They work pretty hard and have solid goaltending. They do lack a little experience which they had last year," said coach Johnston.

Acadia, who play here on Sunday at 2 pm are strong like Dalhousie but different in other areas. According to Johnston, "Acadia is a little bit more experienced and they

have some great offensive ability with a few proven natural goal scores. Their goaltending is good with Dennis Sproxton who played in the Western Hockey League."

"Anytime Acadia and Dal travel throughout the league, it's probably a team's toughest weekend. Both these teams will test us as much as anybody would so in one weekend having both of them in will push us to our limit and see just how good a team we are," said Johnston. "It will be a good evaluation for us and that's what we need right now. We're 6 and 2 and we feel good

about our play and now it's time to get serious and see what we can really do."

Before the UNB Red Devils season started, everyone connected with the program was optimistic and looking forward to a great season. After 8 games the Red Devils have not disappointed us by posting an impressive 6-2 record good enough for first place in the AUAA and a 4th place ranking nationally.

After opening with 5 of 6 games on the road, the team returned home to the Aitken Centre and posted 5-1 and 8-4 wins over UCCB and St. FX respectively.

Coach Mike Johnston says he is not surprised by how well his team is doing at this point in the season. "I think that one of our biggest

strengths is the depth that we have on the team. We have 4 strong lines and six defence-men and if some people aren't having a very good night other people can rise to the occasion." Johnston continues, "We've got a good mixture of size, character, work ethic and specialty teams."

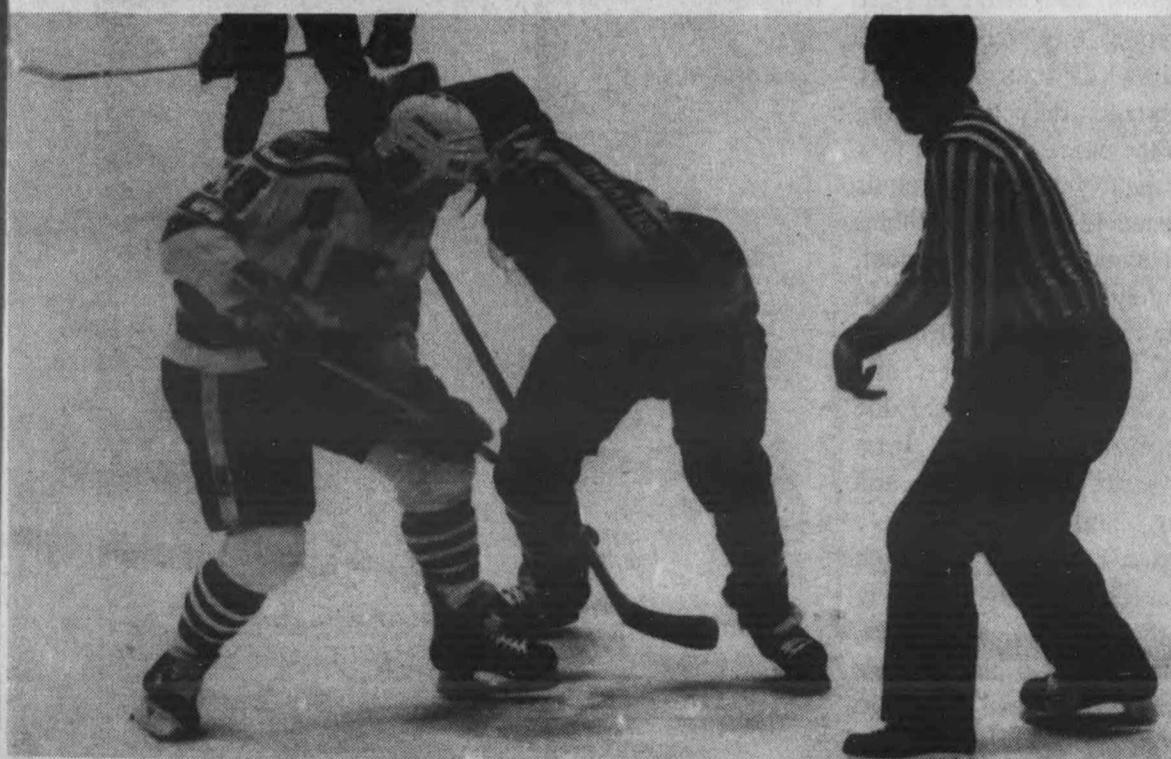
Johnston is very satisfied with how well his specialty teams are doing. The Red Devils are scoring on 33% of their power play opportunities while killing off over 80% of penalties against them.

"Both the specialty team units which nowadays with the tighter calls and more penalties and more opportunities for specialty teams. I think they'll become that much more important as we go along," said Johnston.

Athletes of the week

Kathy Quinn of the Red Bloomers Basketball team is the female Athlete of the week. Kathy was named an All-Star at the Dalhousie tournament over the weekend. In the final game vs Dalhousie, she was nominated Player of the Game. The 3rd year Physical Education student from Sherwood, P.E.I. accumulated 30 points at the tournament in which the Bloomers lost by a mere 2 points to Acadia.

The male Athlete of the Week honors go to Ron Currie of the Red Harriers Cross-Country team. Ron placed 6th at the CIAU's in Victoria for his performance time of 31:20 mins over the 10 km course. For his effort, he was again named a CIAU All-Canadian (First Team) this year. The 4th year Science student from Saint John was just nominated to the AUAA All-Star team last week.



Centre Jim Landine battles for puck

Kevin G. Porter photo