

VIEW FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

By Tim Lynch

Recent CIAU exposure revealed different results for UNB Athletics. Both the Red Harriers and Red Sticks competed in national championships, and the results were different.

For the field hockey Sticks, it was a case of being one of the top-three teams in the country but finishing in sixth spot at the CIAU's. Their position in the final standings did not reflect their true ability. The Sticks, as you know, opened the tourney with a controversial 1-0 loss to the University of Victoria. The Sticks were then nipped 3-2 by York University. Victoria eventually defeated York 2-1 in the final. While it is true that UNB lost 2-0 to Calgary in the anticlimatic consolation game, the Sticks truly came within one goal of reversing the outcome of their finish. To lose by one-goal margins to the one-two finishers in Canada confirms the parity existing in women's field hockey today. From coast-to-coast, field hockey is being played at a national level.

The Red Harriers, on the other hand, were immersed into an ultracompetitive field at this year's CIAU cross country championship meet. There definitely exists a wide gap between the AUAA's and the rest of the CIAU's levels of competition. For example, a ninth place showing at the AUAA championship meet translated into a forty-first place showing out of forty-nine runners at the CIAU championship meet. Head coach Rick Hull acknowledges that his team's are constantly evolving towards a national level of competition. With this attitude and knowing that all of the Red Harriers are eligible to compete again next year, the team will become more competitive nationally. However, at the present, the gap is quite large.

The St. Mary's Huskies won the AUAA soccer title 4-0. Big margin for a soccer game, eh? Not really. The score did not indicate the competitiveness of the game at all. Had the Red Shirts capitalized on their scoring chances early in the second half, the outcome may have been different. Sunday's loss in the final capped a season which saw the Shirts rebound from last year's when they failed to make the playoffs. Incidentally, SMU lost 1-0 to UBC in the CIAU championship game last Sunday.

UNB Athletics Director Jim Born says it would be fifteen-thousand dollars. That's how much it would cost to bring women's soccer to UNB. At the present, Born simply states that there's no money available for such a program. This is true. However, in our society of so-called equal pay for work and universal suffrage, wouldn't it be equitable to have the program. Look at the benefits. First, it would complement the men's program. As well, think of the national exposure. Acadia was ranked number one throughout the season by the CIAU. Within a couple of seasons, the UNB program would probably be one of the top teams in the AUAA. With that said, we'd have to come up with a unique name for the team, wouldn't we? That's right, a contest! If you have a suggestion, send it or bring it to *The Brunswickan* Sports Department, room 35 of the SUB. We'll publish the results and award a prize to the person who comes up with the most viable name.

It seems that new head coach Mike Johnston has brought instant credibility to the UNB Red Devils. The team now has a 3-2-1 record. Last year they finished with a dismal 5-20-1 mark. A positive attitude, the addition of some key recruits such as Murray Nystrom and Kenny Murchison, and the return of some skilled veterans has translated into a successful start for UNB. In Johnston's opinion, St. Thomas will be one of the team's toughest opponents this season.

Would you believe that there's not a single person living in the male or female residences who writes for *The Brunswickan* Sports Department? Pretty incredible when you think of it, eh? Who will be the first? Surely there are some literate Varsity-Maniacs out there. Drop by our office, and leave your name and number. We'll arrange the training at your convenience.

Raiders Drop Two At UPEI

by Kelly Craig

Last weekend the UNB team travelled to UPEI for a double header against the Panthers. UPEI easily dropped the UNB team 106-71 on Friday night. Saturday was no different. The Panthers defeated the Raiders 118-84.

Top scorer for UNB Friday night was Glen Read. Glen came through with 18 points for the Raiders. Rookie Roy Coccillo contributed 11 points and co-captain Yaw Obeng shot for 10 points. Despite this effort, the UNB team still came up with a loss of 106-71.

On Saturday, UNB was once again defeated 118-84. In this game Tim Whitters came through for the Raiders with 20 points.

Whitters is a second year student from St. Stephen. Thus far, Whitters and Read have been solid players for UNB. Read came up with 14 points in the Saturday game against UPEI.

UNB put in a good performance against the Panthers but their inexperience showed. The Raiders made several mistakes in the games against UPEI. The UPEI team played strong defensively and made all their shots on the basket count. The UNB team did not shoot well and their defense was off.

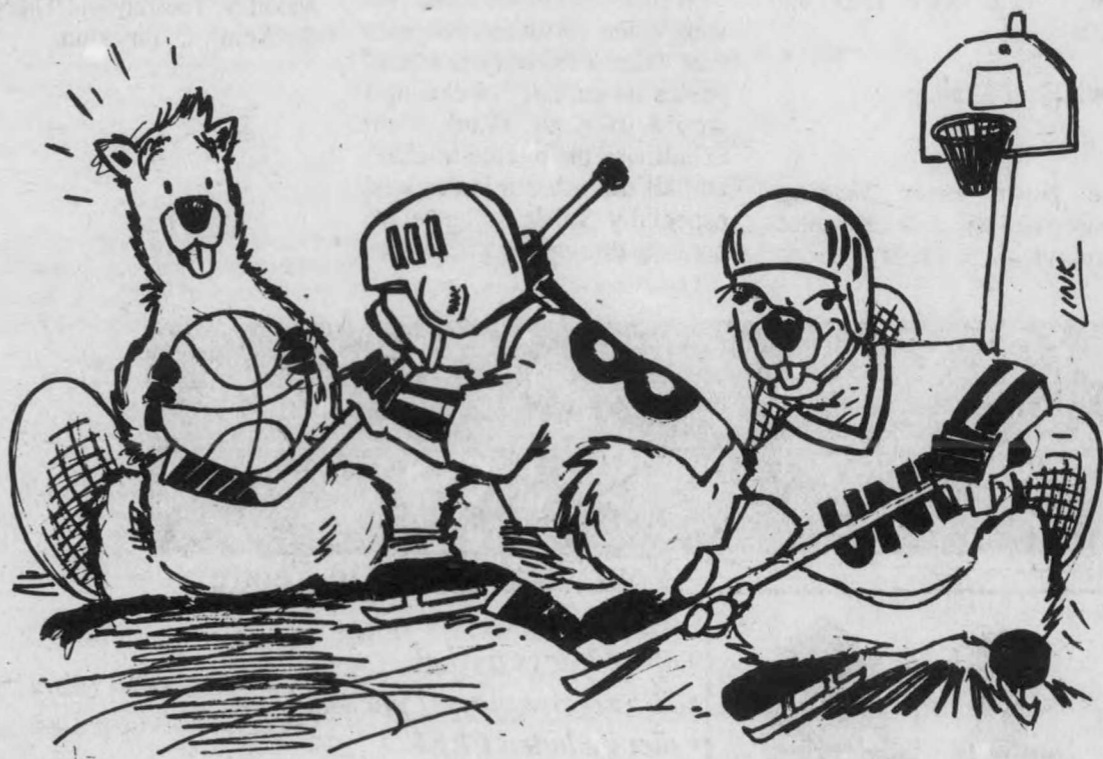
However, the consistency of several UNB players has benefitted the team. The rest of the team is working very hard on their game. Also, injuries have been a determining factor for the Raiders. Early in the season, UNB had an injury to top rebounder Bryan Elliot. This was

definitely a factor in the UNB game.

This weekend the UNB team will travel to Acadia on Friday and Dalhousie on Saturday. Acadia and Dal are in similar circumstances to UNB. They are young teams who will be competing for final playoff spots in the AUAA.

The top two teams are, without a doubt, St. Francis Xavier and UPEI. UNB will be playing for the chance to be in the playoffs. This weekend's games will be important to the future success of the Raiders in the AUAA.

Friday's game will be played at Acadia at 8:00 pm. Saturday's game is at Dalhousie at 3:00 pm. The UNB team has not given up yet and will be putting on some good displays of basketball this coming season.



RED BLAZERS DOMINATE IN MAINE

by Pat Clements

After losing their Womens Hockey League opener 1-0 the UNB Red Blazers saw their offence break loose in a big way last weekend in a pair of games against the University of Maine Black Bears.

Both games were played at the 4100 seat Alford Arena in the Orono campus in front of large crowds. Saturday's game was a tight checking affair in the early going, in fact only a Diane LeBlanc power-play goal was able to find its way behind Black Bear goalie Marsha Thomas. In the second period the tide began to turn as UNB outscored their hosts 3-0, and the Canadian team's much stronger skating put the game away in the third with 9 unanswered goals en route to the 13-0 final score. Big guns for UNB were veteran Chris MacLoon and Nicole Dionne who both recorded hat tricks. Rookies Lisa Jones and Penny Brown scored twice, singles came from Lorce Boyle, Tanya Foster, and

LeBlanc.

Sunday's game was much the same, although the Maine team played a more consistent game they could not keep pace with UNB's skating. The biggest difference on this day however, was the play of rookie Penny Brown. The Ontario Hockey League veteran scored 5 goals and set up 3 more leading the Red Blazers to an 11-0 win. Other goals came from: Boyle and Jones with a pair each, singles were supplied by Dionne and LeBlanc.

The weekend represented one of the biggest offensive explosions in the teams 16 year history, lost in all the scoring was a pair of shutouts by rookie goalie Nicole Breau. Despite the lopsided wins UNB coach Mike Power was cautious in his praise "It was great for the confidence of the young players, and it got all the girls to think about handling the puck, but our defensive game didn't get much of a workout and it's very important when we get

back against league teams." That will happen this Sunday when the Blazers get back to league action by hosting the Moncton right Spot. The game will be played at the Burts Corner Arena at 1:30. Power is looking forward to the teams home opener "It's a shame we can't play at the Aitken Center. This is a big event for female hockey, but we are looking forward to opening at Burts Corner. They are keen to have us; I like to think they have their priorities in order". He goes on to say Sunday's game will be tough "for two reasons, primarily because Moncton is the best team in the League. They have 8 or 9 veterans from last year's provincial team, so far they are 3 and 0 in the League. The second reason is that two of our better players are out of the line up this weekend because they are out of town on business, but it's a chance for a new player or two to come through big time and win a regular job." Admission to all Red Blazers games is free.