

The scrutineer

The old saying in sporting circles after a team had a mediocre season is "There'll be some changes made." The University of New Brunswick Red Bombers have had their fifth mediocre season in a row and the exhibition that they put on in their last two games, allowing a total of 125 points with 'nary a reply, can be labelled nothing but disturbing. But, as usual, things will probably remain static.

The Bombers have won three games this year and tied another but those have come against the also-rans in the Atlantic Football Conference. For a school with the largest student body of any member team and excellent athletic facilities, this cannot be labelled sufficient.

Where does the weakness lie? To lay it all on the shoulders of Coach Don Nelson is not the answer but he cannot be completely absolved either. To blame the players themselves would be to be in error to a certain extent but there would be some veracity in such an assumption.

The members of the team and the coach work hard every day for three months in preparation for their weekly Saturday encounters, sacrificing much of their time and giving a lot of effort. In addition, the players are generally back 10 days before the rest of the student body each September for training camp.

They are to be thanked and praised for these things but can we thank them for the type of display such as was put on in the games with St. Mary's and St. F.X., losing 49-0 and 76-0 respectively. Admitted the Bombers do not rate with these teams in personnel but they are not that many touchdowns inferior. They showed this in the second half of the game with the Huskies when they held SMU to a single touchdown. A comparable first half effort would have made the score respectable.

Last Saturday in Antigonish, coach Don Loney discovered a major flaw in the defence of UNB after the first half, that of pass defence, and the X-men ran rampant in the second half with a 49-point outburst. This weakness was evident in the first game of the season against Mount "A" but their passing attack was not strong enough to fully exploit it. The rest of the teams in the conference apparently did not make note of it but "X" filled the air with foot-balls.

It goes without saying that criticizing is easy when one is not participating, but constructive criticism can be helpful if one feels he has the true interests of the school in mind.

Coach Nelson and his staff must conduct a better recruiting system and should start right now. This does not mean that they need to offer athletic scholarships or rely entirely on American players. Three schools in the conference, Mount "A", St. F.X. and St. Mary's are noted for their recruiting systems and the results have been fruitful, although the Mounties slumped this year.

UNB has more to offer than any of these other schools, both course-wise and faculty-wise. If the coach was to establish con-

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