

UNB SPORTS

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Red Bloomers Disappointed In Toronto

by Mark Savoie

The UNB Red Bloomers took it on the chin at last weekend's CIAU Women's Basketball Championships. Despite excellent first half efforts, they were soundly defeated in both their games at the tournament: first by Regina and then by Bishop's. At half-time against the 3rd ranked Regina Congars, they trailed by only two, but by game's end had fallen apart to lose by 27 points. The Bishop's game was similar, if not quite in so emphatic a sense, in that at the half the Red Bloomers trailed by six on their way to a 14 point loss.

The Red Bloomers had high hopes going into their opening contest against Regina. The Dalhousie Lady Tigers had played this team earlier in the year, and despite losing by 12 points, Dalhousie coach Carolyn Savoy felt that the Bloomers would match up well against Regina.

For a half they did. In the first half Jackie Moore, Regina's CIAU first team all star, was held largely ineffective by the Bloomer defense. Her teammates Penny Patterson, and Deanne Shmyr, devastated the Bloomers offensively, but since the Bloomers were responding with strong efforts of their own at the offensive, this didn't seem to be an insurmountable problem.

With just over two minutes left in the half, the game was tied at 30. Regina took the ball up court and sank a three-point shot. On the Bloomer's trip in response, Pauline Lordon launched a three pointer of her own. She missed, but the rebound came out to Jill Jackson. She faked another three pointer but then drove for

a two point layup. Regina then responded with their second three pointer in a row. To end the half the Bloomers added one more basket and thus entered the dressing room down only 36-34. But Regina's two three pointers were a message. They were the favourites, and they intended to play to win, and not just not to lose.

The Bloomers get the first basket of the second half, but after that it was all Regina. Jackie Moore was still not extraordinarily effective, though Penny Patterson and Deanne Shmyr dominated the Bloomers offensively. But the key for Regina was defense. Their defense stopped any pretense of a Red Bloomer fast break and enabled a 19 point run that took the game from 48-43 to 67-43. The end result was that Regina walked away with the game, leaving the Bloomers to face Bishop's in the consolation semi-final.

The Bloomers entered this game without their star post, Kara Palmer. Palmer, who has been much bruised throughout this season, had suffered a stress fracture against Regina and thus was sitting out this contest. This robbed the Bloomers of one of their primary offensive threats, and forced Lynn Christiansen and Tracey Ross into trying to fill the void.

Once again the Bloomers managed to shut down their opponent's big gun, CIAU first team all star and Rothesay, NB native Cynthia Johnston. Johnston managed only six points in the first half, as the Bloomers ended the half trailing by six, 35 - 29.

For the second half the Red Bloomers came out flat, going the first 3 1/2 minutes without a point. By the time they got

their first basket they were down by twelve, and they no longer had the intensity to challenge that lead. Bishop's was content to match baskets with UNB after this, and were never pushed, as they never led by less than 13 for the final ten minutes of the game.

The only UNB Red Bloomer to stand out last weekend was Jill Jackson. Jackson shot 3-4 from three point range, 5-6 from the field, and 4-4 from the foul line. This gave her a game high 23 points, and made her the only UNB player to make any sort of statement with her play on the weekend. Jackson has been suffering from a sprained ankle, but this did not seem to affect her at all, although she did complain about her lateral movement on defense.

The Bloomers were severely out-rebounded on the weekend. This was because of a combination of factors. Kara Palmer's absence against Bishop's definitely hurt in this department. But the biggest problem the Red Bloomers had on the boards was that the other teams were taller and physically stonger. In terms of talent and conditioning, the Bloomers were any team's equal, but the simple truth was that the other teams were able to use a very definite size advantage.

The Bishop's game marks the end of the fine careers of both Pauline Lordon and Lynn Christiansen. Although their final weekend has to be looked upon as a bit of a disappointment, their final season has been a success. The two players lead a very young team to the CIAU's and have provided an example of the work ethic required to win at the university level.



Lynn Christiansen puts one up in heavy traffic against Bishop's.

Athletes Of The Week

Swimmer Chrissy Hashimoto, of Mississauga, Ont. has been named as this week's UNB Female Athlete-of-the-Week. Chrissy was a dominant figure at this past weekend's CIAU Swim Championships. She led the way with two gold medals, establishing the credibility of the Beaver program on a national level. Her results and times were: 1st

- 200 free - 2:02.15 (a CIAU record), 1st - 400 free - 4:18.16, 4th - 100 free - 0:57.26, and 5th - 800 free. All times are UNB Beaver team records. According to coach Fisher, "Chrissy was just fantastic. She swam against the best the CIAU has to offer and proved she belongs with the very best. A truly gifted athlete."

Brian Woods, of Norwich, England has been chosen as this week's UNB Male Athlete-of-the-Week. Brian, 20 years old, and a 2nd year Physical Education student, performed as well at the CIAU Swim Championships over the weekend. His results and times were: 21st - 200 free - 1:57.38, 10th - 1500 free - 16:07.71, 20th - 200

backstroke - 2:13.61, and 17th - 400 free - 4:06.64. Brian swam very well in his first exposure to national level competition. He established two personal best times - the 1500 free (also a UNB team record) and the 200 backstroke. According to coach Fisher "All in all this has been a very strong conclusion to an already marvelous season for Brian."