

's Bloomers look to repeat as champs

by Peter West
Bruce Denis

The AUAU champion Red Bloomers women's basketball team are looking to repeat their Atlantic championship title this year. They begin their season this weekend at the Laval Invitational Tournament in Quebec City.

Last year's record of 11 wins, 3 losses equalled that of the Dalhousie Tigers atop the AUAU conference. The Bloomers are hoping to improve their record this season.

Coach Claire Mitton is extremely optimistic with the team this year. "The excitement and enthusiasm is very positive and the confidence is there," said Mitton.

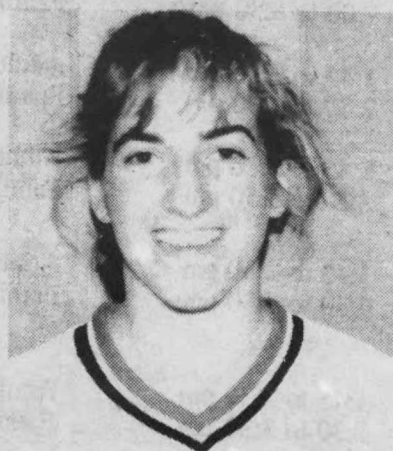
With only one player not returning from last year's lineup, the team has nurtured a solid foundation of experience.

Perennial leaders Jennifer Hale, hailing from Truro, NS and Kara Palmer, from Perth Andover, NB, possess the ability and experience to guide the team to another AUAU championship.

Last year, Hale was voted AUAU Most Valuable Player, and was named to the

first All-Star Team boasting a 16.1 points per game average.

Kara Palmer starred as the Bloomers' top forward amassing a 16.5 points per game average, second best in the AUAU. The fourth year Phys. Ed. student, was also named a First Team AUAU All-Star.



Kara Palmer an AUAU all star last season

Other key players returning to the Bloomers include guards Shannon Hickey and Jill Jackson, forwards Bonnie Hale, Tracy Lordon and Tammy Polchies and at post, Laura Swift.

Coach Mitton feels that "we have three good rookies who are able to come in and really

help our program." These rookies are forward Jackie Flieger from Fredericton, at post, Jacklyn Mowat from Moncton, NB and Christa Foreman from Fredericton, also at post.

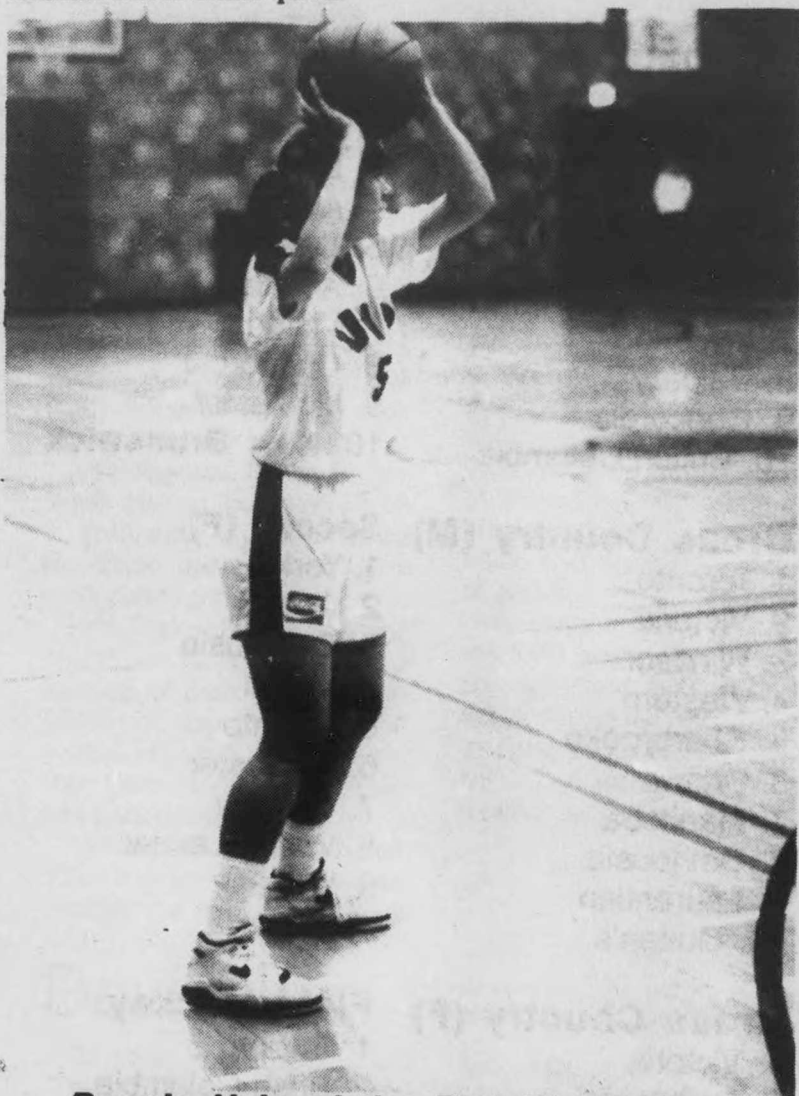
Flieger was the top high school basketball player in New Brunswick last year. Her outstanding work ethic and accurate shooting will establish her quickly as a regular with the Bloomers.

Another new face with the Red Bloomers this year is Kathy Quinn. After finishing second at the National Championship with the UPEI Panthers in 1990, Quinn sat out last season at UNB awaiting eligibility for Red Bloomers play. Her winning attitude should add a new spark to the team.

With a fresh mix of the old and the new, the Bloomers will be looking to dominate the AUAU conference throughout the season. Confidence and experience will be the key factors in winning games consistently.

Mitton is sure of the Bloomer's potential. "We are the team to beat in the in the AUAU."

Michael David Smith photo



Bonnie Hale of the Red Bloomers

Red Raiders impressive at tourney

Defeat Carleton to win consolation

by Anand Irrinki

After an impressive home opening tournament, the UNB Red Raiders are off to Ottawa to partake in the University Of Ottawa's invitational tournament. After a week of ups and downs the Raiders should look forward to playing two games away from home and away from the watchful eyes of many home town critics.

UNB begins the tournament against the University of Ottawa, Friday at 8:30. Depending on the outcome of this game the Raiders will square off against either McGill or Carleton University. Eleven players will be making this trip, but one who will not be going is freshman Ryan Goldie. Goldie has been the centre of attention ever since the Raiders learned that he was ineligible for this upcoming season (shades of Rorri Currie). What happened is that because Goldie took general level courses versus college preparatory courses, while in grade 13, this makes him ineligible for AUAU athletics until he completes a full year of university courses totalling 18 credit hours. Craig Isely sums up the situation pretty well when he says "If he's in school why can't he play." Coach Wright feels the team has been "done wrong" and says that he will be going through an "appeal process". One must wonder though, if Goldie was not named eligible the first time through how will he convince them the second time

they look at his case. I am sure this saga will continue on for at least a few more weeks so I won't belabor the topic.

For those of you who didn't attend the Raiders' fall classic (apathetic students) we'll take a look at what you missed. The Raiders ended up taking third place after two very solid games. Dalhousie ended up copping the title by defeating two time defending champion UPEI 93-60 (yes, a pasting) in the final.

On Saturday, the Raiders played the late game and quickly grabbed the attention of those fans who fell asleep watching game one. A quick note about the Dalhousie, Carleton game: it was boring, poorly played and as Wayne from Saturday Night Live would say "The referee's sucked that blue whale's father". All right back to the real game, UNB opened up strong and fast against UPEI. Bobby O'Brien and Vinod Nair played like they were possessed. O'Brien scored 14 of the Raiders first 23 points, while Nair ripped down 10 boards in the the first half alone. This caused the usually mellow Fredericton crowd to transform into wild and crazy fans. The fans screamed chants of defense and the echo of the tomahawk cheer (you know who you are) could be heard everywhere. The Raiders led this game by as many as fifteen points but unfortunately poor substitution led to the tiring of some of the starters. UNB eventually relinquished

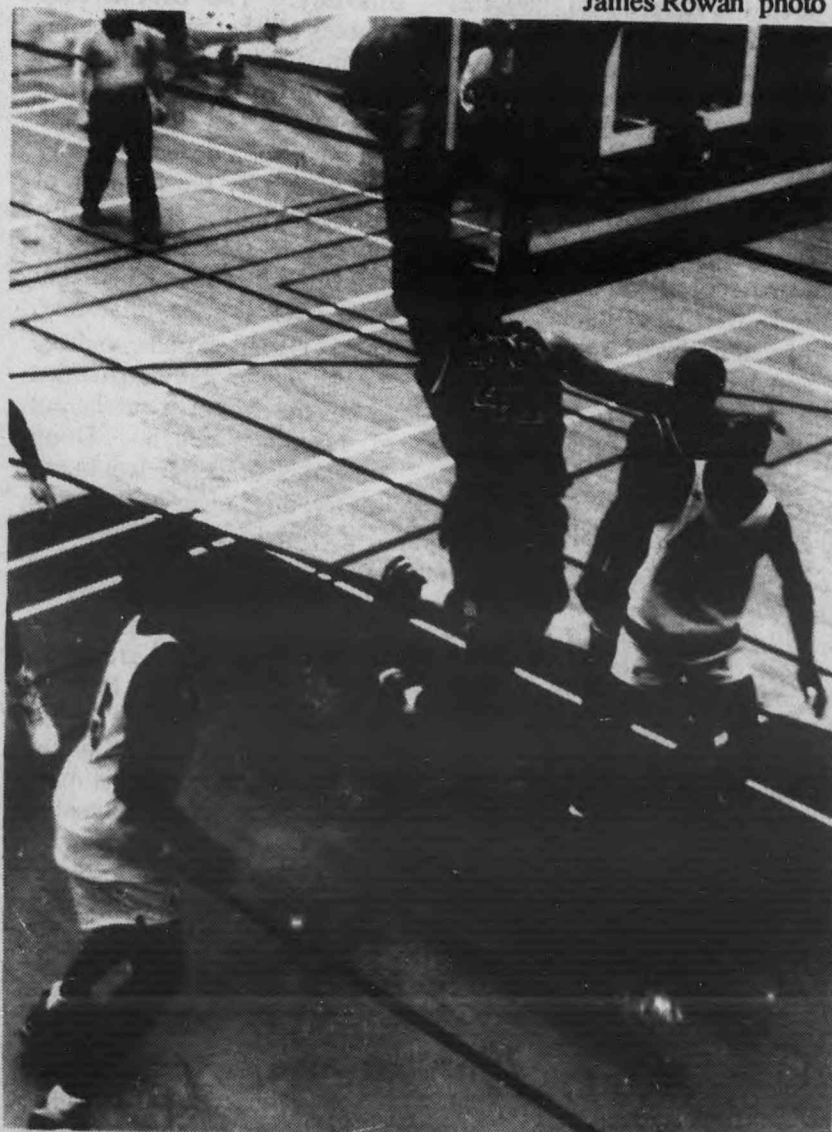
the lead with 5 minutes remaining and eventually lost 94-83. This game showed the Raiders a few of their problems such as how to beat the press, how to hold a lead, and how good selection is imperative. All in all, for their first game the Raiders put on a fine show. A few notes about this game: Andy MacKay was the most consistent Raider ending up with 17 pts; O'Brien and the Alex Kidney led the team with 18 pts; Nair finished with 15 rebounds. The Raiders new found INTENSITY was great to see. Either knowingly or unknowingly (is this a word?) Nair was able to get the team back into the game when he began to assert himself.

On Sunday the Raiders played the Carleton Ravens. The Raiders forgot about Saturday's heart breaking loss and dominated the first half. They ended up leading this game from start to finish and won comfortably 81-61. This was a game in which UNB moved the ball around well and had good offensive production. UNB rebounded as well as the taller Carleton team and this greatly aided UNB. Yaw Obeng and Bobby O'Brien led the team this game with 21 and 19 points respectively. Once again Nair was the top rebounder with 9 boards. This game saw UNB bring down its turnover number to 19, which is always a good sign. UNB played better defense in this match-up and this carried over into their offense.

All in all the Raiders had a successful opening tournament. Their defense and ball control improved over the two games while rebounding and shooting percentage stayed quite consistent. UNB's major weakness was their inability to break out of the press applied by UPEI.

Classic All Stars
Bobby O'Brien UNB
Yaw Obeng UNB
Sean Mantley Dal
Curtis Robinson UPEI
Mark Cameron UPEI
Tournament MVP
Dean Thibodeau Dal

James Rowan photo



Yaw Obeng #42 powers one home for UNB