

Raiders put dismal season behind - look ahead

By DON SMITH

With the presentation of awards for individual effort at the SAA - Dept. of Athletics Banquet last Tuesday evening, the UNB Red Raiders put the last of a dismal season behind them. Blaine MacDonald a 4th year Physical Education student, was voted Most Valuable Player by his teammates and the Coaching staff and was duly presented with the award by head basketball coach Don Nelson.

A starting forward during all four years with the Raiders, MacDonald also received the MVP last year. An excellent scorer and a tough rebounder, he has always been a cause of concern to the coaches of other AUAA teams, as he has been considered perhaps the best driver and certainly the best jumper for his size in the league.

In four years of competition, MacDonald has scored 1250 points, placing him second in the all time UNB standings. This year he again lead the team in scoring with an average of 14 points per game and was third in rebounding.

After heaping mountains of praise upon MacDonald for his leadership ability both on and off the court, Coach Nelson then turned to commend his other three seniors, Gary Young, Brian Davis, and Dave Seaman, all of whom were starters this year.

Young, a 6 foot guard-forward, received special mention as he came off the bench in the Carleton

Christmas tournament and proceeded to lead the team in scoring throughout the second half of the season. His 12 points per game was second over all, and his 15 to 20 foot jump shot was the weapon which beat each of those teams the

Raiders managed to defeat during the latter part of the campaign.

If not for the disastrous final game with SMU, Young would have shot over fifty per cent for the season, and as it was ended up with

a 49.1 percentage.

The coach then expressed that he was hard put to find a replacement for Dave Seaman at the post, as he has been one of the toughest big men in the league for the last four

years. While not always standing out in the offensive statistics, Seaman has started every game simply because he is a hard man to beat, always coming down with the important rebound or coming up with the stolen ball.

Point Guard Brian Davis, has played his position more than adequately for the last two years and has concentrated this year on drilling frosh-reserve Tim Ingram on the finer points of the game. Ingram was voted the outstanding high school player in N.B. for 1974-75 and is expected to replace Davis next season.

The fifth Raider starter this year, Randy Nixon, was praised by his coach for playing the hardest both ways. Playing his first year at UNB Nixon scored 10 points a game, third highest, and was first in rebounding with an average of 10 a game. He has two years of eligibility left.

After an eight win and twenty loss season, thoughts can only turn to next year, and Coach Nelson is preoccupied right now with finding another big post man who is capable of playing with Nixon.

To fit this bill the recruit is going to have to be big and strong, as Randy is by no means the heaviest center in the conference. He must be smart and quick as well, as both of the sure starters next year are exceptionally fine passers. If the coach and team are successful, we could go to the playoffs next year.

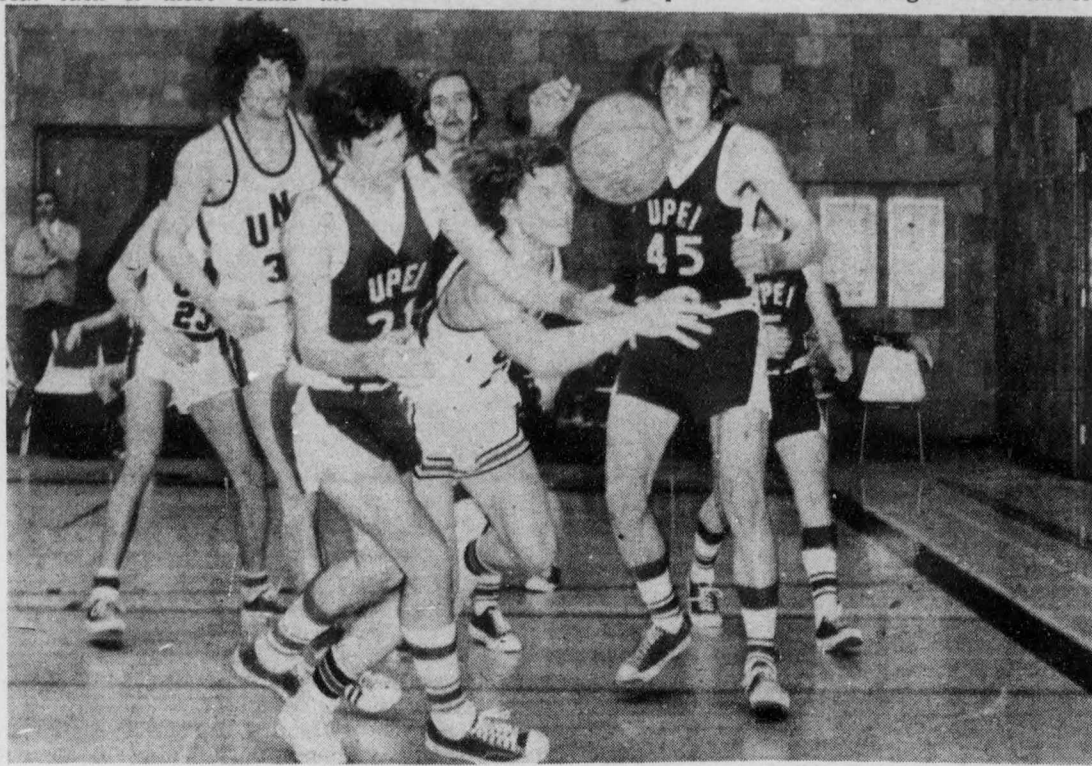


Photo by Steve Patriquin

THE RAIDERS didn't have much to shout about this season. Coach Nelson is looking ahead to next year.



Sports Photo of the Year - catching Bert Principe of the UNB Saltos in action snagged award for photog Phil Wong.

Saltos have best year

UNB's gymnastics team did some incredible things this year, not the least of which was the acquisition of a name, - the Saltos. The team not only won every Atlantic conference (AUAA) meet that they entered during the season but also set a total of four conference records as well as sixteen UNB records.

Coach Don Eagle was very pleased with the teams overall performance this year since it met or surpassed almost all of the objectives that he has set for the team at the onset of the season. These objectives included scoring 195 points at the Canadian University championships (the Saltos finished with 198, despite

losing a strong competitor in Bert Principe due to injuries) and finishing better than last place in the team standings. The UNB squad was in fourth spot at the final tallying of scores.

Highlights of the season were many but Eagle feels that the performance at the nationals included many. Pierre Gervais was a finalist on the rings and two of the team, Gervais and Ken Salmon, accumulated over forty individual points. Mike Patterson won the floor exercises event during a meet against York University and Eagle was selected to judge at the PanAm games and at the Olympics.

Eagle is already in the process of planning for next year's season and has set forward some goals for the team to strive towards. Several of the team members will be training with Eagle during the summer months.

Munn makes Ice Follies

A first year St. Thomas University student and member of the Fredericton Figure Skating Club was thrust into prominence in February following the signing of a one year contract with the International Ice Follies.

Rosemary Munn, a former resident of Chatham, New Brunswick stated she planned to complete her first year at STU before reporting to the Ice Follies in Minnesota at the first of June. She expressed the desire to return to Fredericton for the completion of her degree after a year or two of skating in the Follies.

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