



The University of New Brunswick has a total of thirteen varsity sports teams, and *The Brunswickan* covers them all! Some of these teams have long histories of success, while others have histories that are not quite so illustrious. Years ago, as in three, each of these teams had a unique identity which could be seen by their distinctive names. Men's basketball was the Red Raiders, women's basketball the Red Bloomers, ice hockey the Red Devils, field hockey the Red Shirts. Stop me if you sense a theme here. Now, however, those glory gory days are gone, and all of the teams have a shared faceless identity. The theme remains though, since now all of the teams are known by the profoundly uninspiring name of Varsity Reds.

I grant you that this shared identity was probably a necessity, since it was very difficult to devise a marketing strategy for UNB athletics when you've got to work with ten or so different names. But Varsity Reds! How can you market a Varsity Red? The logo is relatively bland (although it is not quite a complete disaster) and so far a halfway acceptable mascot has proved impossible. Occasionally, you might see this red blob with spiky things coming out of it called Sparky, but this mascot is even less serviceable than is the costume worn by the geeky-looking guy in the Snapple commercial. I'm not suggesting that the universe should have gone completely trendy à la the travesty that is the Toronto Raptors; there is, after all, something to be said for dignity when you're at the oldest government funded university on the continent; but surely something that had even a minimally visible representation could have been selected.

The big excitement on the sports scene at UNB this year is the change of name which happened to the women's football team. (That's the women's soccer team for you Americans.) This team, which up until last year was known as the Yeowomen because they were considered only a club team, has finally achieved its long overdue varsity status and is now known as the (you guessed it) Varsity Reds. This brings varsity athletics at UNB a little bit closer to gender parity, since now 46.2% of the teams are for women. Actually, we're even closer to gender parity than that, since the wrestling team now has women competing on it. They have not yet reached full varsity status, but the fault here lies not with UNB or wrestling coach Don Ryan, but instead with the AUAA, which has not yet seen fit to give this sport their full accreditation.

Anyway, as I wrote above, we have thirteen varsity teams at UNB: women's field hockey, men's and women's football (soccer), men's and women's cross country, men's ice hockey, men's and women's volleyball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's swimming, and men's wrestling. *The Brunswickan* will provide you with complete coverage of the doings of all of these teams. In the process we will be traveling with many of the teams, particularly when they make their way to the AUAA championships and then on to the CIAU championships. *Brunswickan* reporters will be at all of these events. In the past *The Brunswickan* has sent reporters to Quebec City, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Penn State, and the University of Georgia, all with the intent of giving UNB students the most accurate reports of these teams. We hope (and expect) to do the same again this year, so long as we have enough writers to do so. Remember, even if you can't be an athlete, you can always be an athletic supporter.

We will also be providing coverage for many of the club teams on campus. There are lots of these organisations to be found, regardless of your athletic tastes. These clubs range from rock climbing to synchronised swimming, from tai chi to women's ice hockey. Unfortunately, because of the chronic staffing problems we always encounter here at *The Brunswickan*, the clubs which receive the most coverage are the ones which provide the coverage themselves. The Sports Department at *The Brunswickan* is always happy to print these stories. Next issue, assuming that the Recreation Office gets it up to us, we'll provide you with more detailed information about these organisations.

*The Brunswickan* is currently understaffed. This is true of all of our departments, including the Sports Department. Joining *The Brunswickan* gives you perks which can not be matched by any other organisation on or off campus. Only at *The Brunswickan* will you be able to participate in high level experiments to determine the effect that massive consumption of day old coffee—that-was-too-strong-to-begin-with has upon your digestive system. On a more prosaic level, you will develop your writing skills far more quickly than you will in the classroom, even if you're an English student. This is simply because you will be writing more often under much tougher time constraints than you will for any course. Plus, working for *The Brunswickan* will place you in a stressful professional atmosphere which will serve as an excellent preparation for the real world. Lastly, the very best reason for joining *The Brunswickan* is that it is fun. You will meet a truly weird group of individuals, you will get to beat on CHSR-FM types at the annual Media Bowl, and you will go to staff parties which even the late Premier Richard Hatfield used to attend.

There is one very important thing which I must emphasise. Studying all the time is almost as sure a road to failure at university as is studying none of the time. Obviously, if your entire university experience consists of beer, pizza, and TV, you will fail. This will happen to some of you. However, spending every night at the library until it closes and spending all of your time with your books is a sure ticket to burn out. This will happen to some of you as well. You'll have to find a balance which is right for you, because it is different for each person. One of the best ways to create a balance which will allow you to retain your grades and your sanity is to get involved with one or more of the many clubs on campus. Obviously, I would like to see hordes of people joining *The Brunswickan* (specifically the Sports Department) but it is really not important what activity or organisation you get involved with, just so long as you do get involved.

One final thing before I leave you: don't be overly intimidated by your professors; not all of them are really all that smart. One of them, a certain Education prof who will remain nameless for the time being, has even advocated that Cal Ripken, Jr. should not play tomorrow so that he will not break Lou Gehrig's consecutive games record. The logic behind this is that it is a way to honour the legend of Lou Gehrig. The whole thing is, however, miserably misguided, since it insults rather than honours Gehrig. To fail to break a record simply out of a feeling of pity for the record holder merely serves to trivialise the record. In essence you are saying, "Well, I could have broken the record, but I'd rather not since it's not all that important anyway." When I first heard of this idea I had assumed that the professor in question was simply an isolated nut in search of a bell tower, but since then I have heard this drivel repeated by Keith Olbermann of ESPN. Sometimes I fear for the fate of the world when I hear otherwise intelligent people who are so incapable of understanding something so fundamental.

Recreation

## Bankshot Basketball in Fredericton

Atlantic Canada's first Bankshot Basketball court had its official grand opening, complete with a ribbon cutting ceremony and addresses by local dignitaries, here in Fredericton over

the summer on August 7. The Bucket Club played host to a celebrity shoot-out as local sports, media, and political personalities gathered to compete for the title of "Mr. Bankshot." Bankshot Basketball is a challenging and colourful new non-exclusionary sport that may be played by even the non-athletic.

Rockville, Maryland based Rabbi Reeve Brenner invented the game in Israel in conjunction with the 1981 Year of the Disabled. He was inspired by a cousin who, as a wheelchair athlete, is now able to participate with the rest of the community in a challenging 'Total Mix' sport. "If somebody in a wheelchair wants to play traditional basketball or any other running sport against a person without disabilities, the able-bodied player has to get into a wheelchair to play fair. In Bankshot there is no need for that. Instead of size, quickness, and strength being all important—skill, intelligence, and co-ordination are what counts," Brenner said.

Bankshot is an innovative sport that adults and children of all ages can play together. Bankshot is a non-running, non-aggressive sport which equalises the challenge of basketball for all players. Bankshot is played on

a course consisting of 19 stations of uniquely shaped backboards. Each station requires a different banked shot. As players move through the course of increasingly difficult and diabolically maddening shots, Bankshot players find that full focused concentration, fluid rhythm, and intelligent shooting strategies are required to meet the Bankshot challenge.

Bankshot has been exhibited as art in two international museums, The Modern Museum of Art in New York City and the Israel National Museum in Jerusalem, for its beautiful and unique design. The Bankshot Organisation has participated in several NBA Jam Sessions, the NBA All-Star Game, and the NCAA Division 1 Men's Basketball Tournament.

Consecutive games streaks as of September 5, 1985

<b>Major League Baseball</b>	
Lou Gehrig	2130
Cal Ripken, Jr.	2130
<b>National Hockey League</b>	
Doug Jarvis	964
<b>National Basketball Association</b>	
Randy Smith	906
<b>National Football League</b>	
Jim Marshall	282

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L.B. Gymnasium**

Experience is nice but not necessary. Attendance at both try-outs is mandatory. If it is impossible to make it to these times, you MUST make arrangements with the coach by calling 454-7985, no exceptions.

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