

SPORTS

Deadline for stories is Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. Sports Desk 453-4983
Co-Editors: Kelly Craig, Frank Denis.

Red Devils are "Kings of the Hill" Sweep series against STU

by Frank Denis

Whenever the UNB Red Devils play their neighbors the St. Thomas Tommies one can always count on some exciting, high intensity hockey and last Saturday afternoon was no exception. In the Varsity Mania sponsored event, close to 2,000 fans showed up and saw the Red Devils defeat STU by a score of 7-4. The Red Devils also played the night before, and fell by a 6-3 score to the Mount Allison Mounties in Sackville.

The games this season against STU have been billed "The Battle of the Hill" and UNB proved to be the dominant team in the battles this season as their 4 game record against STU is 3 wins and 1 tie. Good enough for 7 out of a possible eight points. If the Tommies are unfortunate enough to miss the playoffs and they might very well be, they'll have to look no further than their games against UNB to see why their golf clubs are out early.

Forward Joey McTamney paced UNB on Saturday with a three point performance

including 2 goals. His first goal came as UNB was killing off two minor penalties and were out numbered 5 to 3 on the ice. Shayne Arsenault's shot hit the UNB goal post and then McTamney broke down the ice on a breakaway and fired it past goalie Rick Poirier.

UNB went up 2-0 on Hugh Hospodar's goal but the Tommies rallied before the period ended on Ron Vaive and Mark Rupnow goals to tie the game at 2. STU was clearly the better team in the period and outshot UNB by a margin of 18-8.

Jim Landine then had a good burst of speed while breaking down the right side and drove towards the net before slipping it past Poirier. Mc Tamney and Costa Papista added other second period goals for UNB to provide them with a 5-2 lead. After McTamney's second goal at 4:19 of the second STU coach Al MacAdam elected to replace Poirier in goal with backup Shane Comston. It was the second consecutive STU-UNB game in which MacAdam felt his goalies were not performing up to par.

Mark Hagarty of STU



Photo by Jamie Rowan

narrowed the UNB lead to two goals with a goal midway through the period. In the frame UNB had the upper hand in the shot department. The Red Devils outshot STU 14-6.

Mark Rupnow made the game close for STU early in the third but then Troy Binnie and Hugh Hospodar goals sealed the victory for UNB.

UNB goalie Chris Somers registered the win for the Red Devils and made 36 saves in the process. Somers was pleased with his and the team's

performance. "STU had a few quality shots in the first and third periods but I think the guys pulled together well and kept the shots to the outside" said Somers.

The win was especially gratifying for coach Mike Johnston who was worried going into the game. "When we looked at last week's two games we believed the key game was the Mt.A game Friday night because we knew how hard St. Thomas was going to play us and we figured

a win at Mt.A would carry over to the STU game. It didn't work out that way. We lost to Mt.A and with STU well rested and ready for the game, we knew it would be tough, but we rebounded and got the win".

The Red Devils now prepare for perhaps their toughest weekend of the season when they travel to Dalhousie and Acadia for a pair of games beginning tomorrow night. "Those are two of the toughest arenas to play in and we have to come out of them with some points", said Johnston.

Raiders drop two

by Kirk MacDonald

The men lost two more league games last weekend - one an action packed blowout, the other less entertaining but closer.

UNB vs St. Fx

Friday night the Raiders went down at the hands of high flying St. Francis Xavier X-men 114-90. The game was pretty much decided midway through the first half as Otis Delany of X put down two break-a-way slams and UNB's "Big" men got into foul trouble. X rolled on to a 27 point half time lead behind Richard Bellas 10 rebounds.

Bellas, one of three players from Africa on the X-men, went on to thrill the crowd with two impressive dunks in the 2nd half. While Bellas put on a dunking show to the fans delight, teammate Danny MacFarlane put on his own show of long range shooting - he hit for six of seven 3 point shots.

X's superior size and shooting were the difference in the game as expected from one of Canada's top 10 teams.

For UNB, Steve Taylor and

Yaw Obeng played very tough at guard and forwards Vinod Main and Bobby O'Brien contributed 17 and 12 points respectively against a much longer opponent. Craig Isley led UNB with 17.

MacFarland was chosen "Pepsi Player-of-the game".

UNB vs Dal

The Dal Tigers were certainly a more even match for the Raiders but the search for that secret ingredient to success still continues since they went down to defeat again 86-88.

UNB quickly erased Dal's 15 point lead early in the 2nd half with Glen Read, Steve Taylor and Alex Kidney each knocking in 3 pointers. This rally was stalled with four minutes left and gap only 4 point. Coach Phil Wright's plan had been a great idea - get the ball inside

for a good shot or a foul. But when nothing was available in the key they resorted to 3-point attempts which wouldn't fall.

Dal cruised into the win with the league's leading scorer, Keith Donovan, notching 26 and Dean Thibodeau gathering 20 and the "Pepsi Player-of-the game" sweatshirt.

UNB Veteran, Glen Read scored the 20 points you can count on from his game in and out and Bobby O'Brien, last week's UNB Athlete-of-the-week scored 17. Vinod Nair, leading the team in field goal percentage scored 10.

Some of UNB's woes can be blamed on the absence of Duff Adams due to illness last weekend and to the permanent loss of Brian Elliot who just can't risk damaging his knee any further.

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Athletes of the Week Male Female

Rookie wrestler, Jason Pleasant-Samson of the UNB Black Bears is UNB's Male Athlete of the Week. Jason continued his successful season as he captured the gold medal in the 126 lb. weight class at the St. F.X. Open on the weekend. Jason has consistently finished in the top four in all the Atlantic University tournaments and put it all together on Saturday winning all three of his matches en route to the gold medal. The Black Bears also captured the team title.

Head Coach George Multamaki said "Jason's performance has improved in every tournament this season. He will be tough to beat at the AUAA's on February 16."

Jason has been a solid performer for the Black Bears all season. Although being a rookie with the team, he has proven that he has the stuff it takes to be an AUAA champion.

Jason is a first-year Bachelor of Physical Education student, from Kentville, Nova Scotia.

Kara Palmer of the UNB Red Bloomers is UNB's Female Athlete of the Week. Kara continued her outstanding play as she led the Red Bloomers to two very important league wins. Kara scored 19 points versus St. F.X. with 12 rebounds, and was named the Pepsi Player of the Game as the Bloomers won the contest 63 to 49. On Saturday, Kara again scored 19 points and had 14 rebounds as the Bloomers came from behind to beat the visiting Dal Tigers 78 to 71. Kara's play has been solid all season as she stands second in AUAA scoring, third in rebounding, third in field goals with 54, and leads the league in free throws making 92.1% of her attempts.

Coach Mitton was excited with the play of the Bloomers on the weekend and added "Kara dominated the boards on weekend; she grabbed key rebounds... to date this has been Kara's best weekend as a Bloomer."

Kara is a third-year Bachelor of Physical Education student from Perth Andover, New Brunswick.