

# Raiders close, but no cigar; lose to St. Francis

By DON SMITH

After having the pleasure of taking in all eight games of Don Nelson's Ninth Annual Holiday Classic last weekend, one can only conclude that basketball is alive and well in Fredericton. Nelson himself was the first to admit that UNB's Red Bloomers stole the

show with their impressive last-second victory over number one ranked Concordia, but was quick to point out that the quality of play in the men's division was also at an all time high.

The men's tourney featured four hotly contested and well attended tilts which had St. Francis College

of Biddeford Maine emerge as this year's champion. The UNB Red Raiders placed second losing to St. Francis by 15 in the final after beating Laval 107-95 in the first round.

The fourth team in the tournament, the Western Mustangs of London, Ontario, were

perhaps the strongest of all on paper but blew their cool on the court Friday night, letting a big lead over St. Francis slip away and losing their semi-final game in the last five minutes.

Western started very strong, with Brock Carleton picking up 16 pts. in the first half on base line jumpers and swooping drives. The man guiding him was often picked off by gigantic J.P. Monkton, who at 6 ft. 5 in. and 240 lbs., did not pose much of an offensive threat but his play without the ball was superb.

In the second half, St. Francis came alive, lead by Mike Stensland with five hoops pumped up from the top of the key. Inside big Harry Nelson went to work scoring an offensive rebounds in spite of Western's inside strength.

Nelson went to the line ten times in the half, fouling out Western's Meikle, and putting every other Western starter in foul trouble. St. Francis' Tom Lynch, later named the most valuable player in the classic, provided more scoring punch, picking up 12 pts. in the half on fifteen foot jumpers.

Western, meanwhile, had gone cold with the exception of Carleton who added 12 more pts. and shot 11 for 14 from the floor for the game. However, Western as a whole could not cope with the free style offence that was being thrown at them and were outscored in the latter half 47 to 26, after being up by 12 at half time. Final Score: St. Francis 78, Western 69. Carleton was high man with 28, while Lynch had 16 for the winners.

The other game had the Red Raiders taking on Bob Decheneaux's Laval Red and Gold squad, the win being especially satisfying for Coach Nelson as it was only the second victory over a good team on his home court this year.

Perhaps the most important factor responsible for the win was that Laval was never underestimated. The Raiders lost to them in Quebec city last year and since then, Decheneaux has added 6 ft. 4 in. Jean Turgeon and American Charlie Ryan to his roster.

Turgeon is built like an oak tree and cannot be moved underneath and Ryan, playing in his third game for Laval, is possibly the best guard in Canadian basketball. If Ryan is watched carefully, it soon becomes apparent that he can pass through arms and legs with a flick of his wrist and can score at will.

The Red and Gold got off to a quick start, with Ryan playing team ball like never before. He hit team mates Moreau, Turgeon, and Poulin with passes that none of the Raiders could anticipate, often leaving an offensive man all alone with the ball at ten feet from the hoop.

The Raiders were hot as well and the shooting of Tom MacMillan and Lu Florean saved them. MacMillan hit 7 for 10 in the first half and Florean, in his best game to date, picked up a quick 22 pts.

UNB centre Randy Nixon put in four offensive rebounds, and reserves Marc McGeachy and Tim Howatt sparked the offence from time to time.

The Raiders were up by a slim three points at the half and the second half saw Ryan starting to burn the nets. Florean continued to play well and Raider forward Bruce McCormack started shooting to put the game in the bag for UNB with ten minutes to go and held on for the 107-95 win, scoring over 50 pts. in each half.

Florean ended up with 37 pts., which no one in the tournament would top, and MacMillan had 19. Ryan had 21 to be Laval's top scorer.

The final round got underway at Saturday morning with Western meeting Laval in the Consolation. Although consolation games are usually anti-climatic and uninteresting, Laval forced the big Ontario squad to play their type of ball and remained within striking distance. The sheer size of Western's front line shut off Turgeon, Moreau, and Poulin but Laval's backcourt of Ryan, Jean Baribeau, and Gilles Bellemare had an edge over Moccio and Stewart of their opponents.

At the end of 40 minutes Western had stretched their 18 pts half time lead to 34, soundly defeating the Quebec team 105-71. Carleton went to the hoop for 16, securing his place on the all-star team, and Monkton showed that he could play offence with his 14 pts. For Laval, Bellemare had 25 and Ryan sitting out most of the second had 14.

After the women's final the L.B. Gym was packed with over 1,000 screaming fans who all realized that this year's Raiders had a chance to make it two out of two. UNB matched up quite well with the American team, not giving up height and surely not giving up anything in the back court.

Florean held the Stensland to seven pts. in the game and Andy Chean allowed his man, Bernie O'Hara, only two.

Both teams presented a well-balanced offence but St. Francis, remarked coach John Beaudry, always plays better in the second half.

UNB stayed with team in the first half behind the scoring of Florean, McCormack, Nixon Cheam, and MacMillan and lead the game for a time by 6 to 10 pts.

The second half was to prove that UNB was out of shape.

The second half of Saturday's final was marked by UNB's failure to score during the first nine minutes, while St. Francis slowly built up a lead behind Brian Opie and Tom Lynch. The only consistent scoring for the Raiders, once they finally got rolling, came from Nixon and McCormack, but by then it was too late. They were out of the game during the half and lost 81-66.

Florean once again was high scorer for UNB with 15, which made his two-game total higher than that of any other player, while Opie lead the winners with 16, followed by Lynch with 14, and reserve Mike Gadbois with 11. In post game ceremonies Lynch was awarded the most valuable player trophy, while he, Opie, Florean, Carleton, and Ryan were named to the all-star team.

The Raiders' next home game is tomorrow night at 8:00 with the Dalhousie Tigers coming to town.

## Chuck Cortes- trainer at large

Some members of teams receive publicity and some do not. These members play essential parts in the overall team effort whether they are players or support members of the team.

An important part of every team's support squad are the persons serving in the capacity of trainers. UNB has several trainers who are also registered students. One of these persons is Chuck Cortes, presently working as a

trainer with the Red Raiders basketball team.

Cortes, who also worked with the football team earlier this year, said that he first became interested in training as a freshman when he started helping out with the hockey team.

Cortes said that training consists of taping players prior to games and practices and attending to minor injuries such as sprains and bruises. His work is

done in conjunction with a doctor at games and considers himself as a liaison person between the players and the doctor. He added that the best thing that a trainer could do for a player in the case of a serious injury was to hand the player over to the care of a physician.

"Many people don't take trainers seriously," he said adding that "they look on them as 'gofers' for the team. Actually, they are key people in sports such as football, hockey and basketball." One reason Cortes cited for his interest in the field was that he enjoyed meeting the different types of people involved in athletics and the different types of situations that are presented as far as injuries are concerned.

Cortes said that the types of injuries that he has had to care for ranged from the cuts and bruises to concussions to dislocated joints. He indicated that he hoped he would never have to use a device known as an "oral screw" which is used to pry open the mouth of an athlete who is unconscious and unable to breath normally.

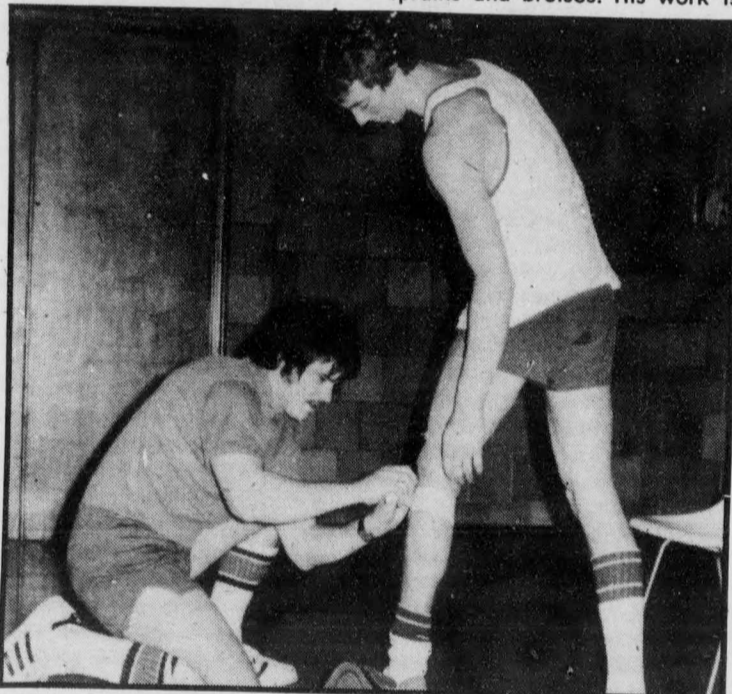
"I hope to go on in pro sports and make training a livelihood. It's exciting," he said as he outlined his plans for the future which include a two year course in physiotherapy. The Newcastle native feels that Doctor Meyers, who is employed by the university as a sports medicine doctor and who served as a member of Canada's team of physicians at the Olympics last summer, has been an inspiration to him. He added that "I'm looking to him for leadership so that I can further my education as a trainer."

Cortes hopes that the program at UNB will continue and improve and stated that he is looking forward to football season next year.

### Divers to host Moncton

UNB's diving team resumes its season tonight at 7:00, when it hosts the University of Moncton. Tomorrow at 1:00 p.m. Mount Allison will try its luck against the team which is undoubtedly the strongest in the Atlantic Provinces.

All divers are back, well rested after the strenuous five-day training camp held in Moncton during the Christmas vacation. The team benefited greatly from the supervision of two coaches, UNB's Jeff Deane, and Jacques LeBrun, from Moncton. Every member shows great improvement and the performances this weekend should be even better than before Christmas.



Chuck Cortes helps out an injured basketball player. Cortes aspires to continue his work in pro sports.

## BUSINESS WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

Jan. 13 - 18th

**FRI.** Pub in the SUB with 'GOOD FEELING' from Halifax

**SAT.** Day at Mactaquac

**TUES.** Hockey Game: Ladies vs. Profs

**STEAK SUPPER**