

SPORTS

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UNB Red Blazers win round one

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Brunswickan Staff

The UNB Red Blazers Women's Hockey Team played their first game of the season against another women's team, and came away winners. Sunday the girls travelled to St. John to meet the Golden Lights, one of two teams, the other being from Moncton, that the Blazers must defeat to take their fourth straight N.B. Senior championship. The girls took a hard fought 4-2 win with a pair of unanswered third period goals.

Joanne Gillies got 2 goals for UNB, she opened the scoring midway through the first period, linemates Sandy Ward and Carolyn Boushel assisted. She got her second with the score tied 1-1 late in the second period, Carol Allport and Carol Cooper got assists on that goal.

Before the period was over however, the persistent Saint Johners came back to tie on a powerplay goal by Sharon Hughs, setting the stage for some third period heroics from two of the Blazers.

Team Captain Carol Cooper rushed up ice from her defense position to score the eventual winner at the midway mark of the period, Allison Lee got the only assist. With 2 minutes left in the game Carol Allport got an insurance marker, as she whipped the puck over a falling Barb Riley, France Thibodeau and Chris MacLoon got helpers on that goal.

The 4-2 win is only counted as an exhibition game but with the short schedule the girls play (25 to 35 games), every game means so much.

On Monday night the Red Blazers returned to the friendly confines of the Aitken Center for a game with the Nashwaaksis Bantem boys team. The game marked the first time this season that UNB had their whole team together for a game, the final addition being Anne Campbell, who had been late joining the team because of other commitments, she proved to be worth the wait.

The teams battled through a scoreless first 20 minutes. Then the boys struck for a pair of quick goals around the 5 minute mark of the second. Before the period ended however the Blazers came to life, as Allport cut the Nashwaaksis lead in half.

It proved to be an exciting third period, as the Red Blazers hit stride and matched the boys, in fact they outshot them 16-14. Campbell opened the period by tying the game on a perfect setup by Paula MacDonald. But the tie was shortlived as Barry Naugle put

the Bantems back in front with an end to end rush 15 seconds later. It took UNB just two minutes to tie it up once more, as Allport collected her second of the game, being set up by linemates Alison Lee and France Thibodeau.

The wide open pace caught the girls however, the Bantems got two quick goals from Darcy Monahan and Quentin Gunter to apparently nail down the win. The Blazers would not cooperate, Sandy Ward found Cooper alone in front of the net to close the

team to within one with 5 minutes left on the clock. With goalie Wendy Dickinson on the bench UNB twice came close to tying the game, Campbell was outstanding winning 4 straight face-offs. It was not to be, the Bantems put the win away with an empty net goal at the 19:48 mark to make the final

score 6-4. Despite the loss everyone seemed happy with the way the team had played, in particular coach Mike Power, in a phone interview with this reporter he talked about the weekend, "We look-

ed sluggish against Saint John to be honest, but it took a lot of

character for the team to come back the next night and play that well. You ask if we are better than last year, well I think we are, one thing for sure, we are a lot more exciting."

The Red Blazers return to the ice this Sunday as they host the Golden Lights at the Aitken Center in a 5:30 game. Remember to come out and support Canada's fastest growing women's sport — Hockey, admission is free.

Raiders drop 2 over weekend

Coach Nelson was quite pleased with the Red Raiders effort in both halves. He feels

that given a home court advantage, the Raiders may surprise the UPEI team.

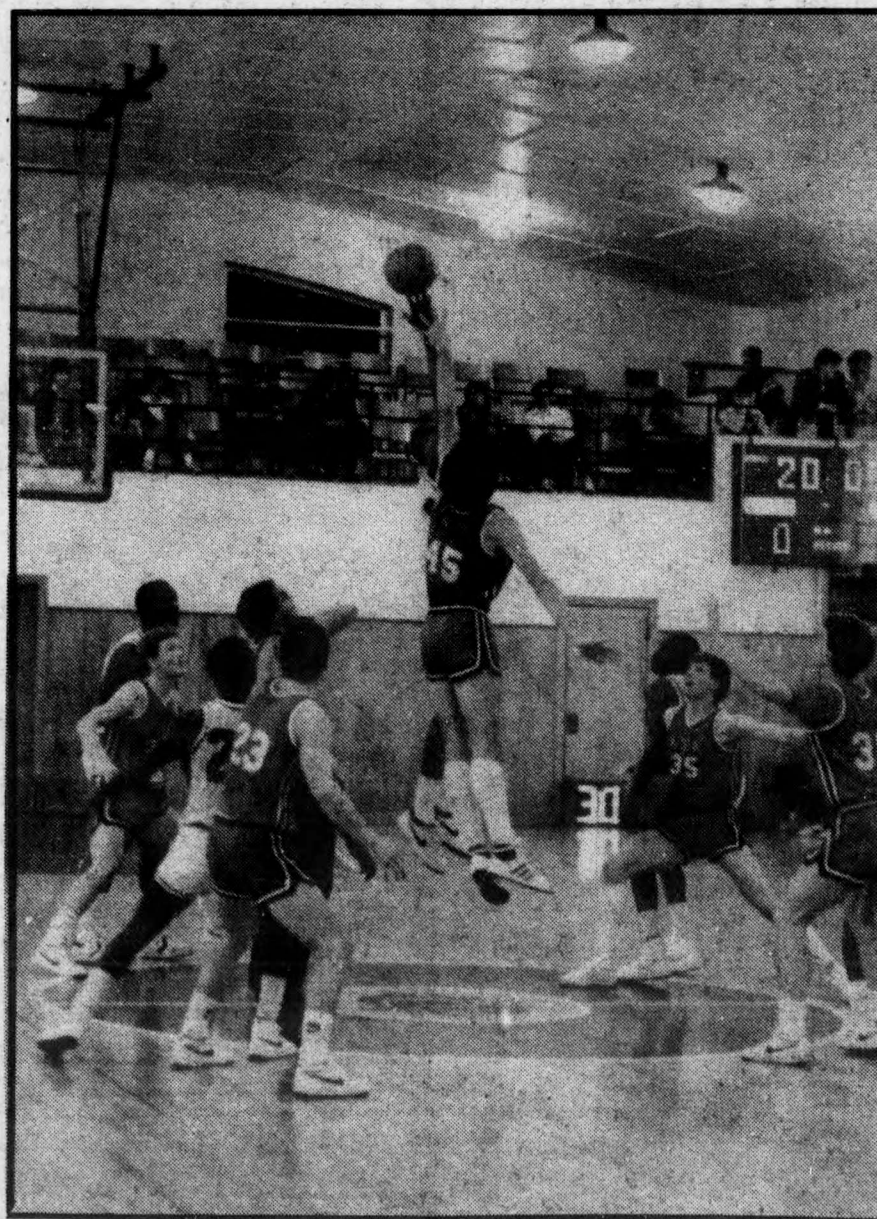
The Red Raiders are looking forward to playing this team in the future. This weekend UNB play host to Mount Allison University. This promises to be a competitive two-game series of AUAA basketball.

In the second game the Red Raiders displayed a strong defensive effort in both halves. The end result was a 77-64 loss to the Panthers. UPEI led by only one point at half time.

Tom Gillespie and Mark Newell combined to score 17 and 15 points respectively. UNB center Dale MacIssac hooped 10 points to add to their cause.

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The opening tip-off of Saturday's game vs. UPEI. Dale MacIssac of the Raiders goes up for the ball.