

Fourth and long Sports commentary by Jamie Colvin

A special guest appearance by Dom Deluca, who has been looking forever for at least one person to cheer on the Chargers with him. Here's what he has to say on the changed fortune of his squad.

Well football fans, lightning has struck in San Diego. Being one of the handful of Charger fans possibly in all of Canada, I have a legitimate reason for ranting and raving over the resurgence of the "Lightning Bolts". The so-called hapless Chargers have made huge strides since the early season and have become a possible playoff contender. They have taken a miserable record of 0-4, and have incredibly progressed to a record of 7-5 and in a second-place deadlock with the 'Elway-less' Denver Broncos. It seems an eternity since the days of the offensive juggernaut headed by the likes of Dan Fouts, Kellen Winslow, Charley Joyner, John Jefferson and Chuck Muncie fascinated the fans with a relentless and productive barrage of firepower.

But now we see a new Charger team with a talented mixture of offensive and defensive players. Over the past 4 years the Charger defence has come into its own and opposing touchdowns are now coming few and far between. Players like Leslie O'Neale and Junior Seau have come to the forefront along with unsung heroes like Blaze Winters and Gil Byrd inflicting pain to all ballcarriers and bringing a positive winning attitude to the city of San Diego.

Meanwhile little known quarterback Stan Humphries has fine-tuned the Charger offence that has some NFL critics scratching their heads in total disbelief. With a supporting cast featuring powerhouse running back Marion Butts and the likes of others such as Ronnie Harmon and receivers Anthony Miller and Sean Jefferson, this team is confidently racking up victories en route to a possible berth in the playoffs.

The Chargers winning 7 of their last 8 can become the first team in NFL history to start the season 0-4 and possibly make the playoff round. Also, congratulations are in order to field general Bobby Ross (ex- of Georgia Tech), for enthusiastically instilling the winning spirit to his players. He also deserves full marks for his effort to rejuvenate a team that has wallowed in the ranks of the 'pitiful' for far too long.

With the likes of the struggling Seahawks, and the 'Jeckyl & Hyde' Raiders upcoming in the schedule, do not be surprised to see San Diego continue it winning ways, but even if this team should not make it out of their division we cannot ignore the miraculous turnaround that has Charger fans at Jack Murphy Stadium totally ecstatic.

Is it just me or is Cincinnati Red owner Marge Schott one of the most repulsive persons in baseball. Schott who has had a history of racial slanders is again in hot water. A former black employee of Schott has quoted her as saying "she would rather hire a monkey than another nigger." This comes after she patronizingly called 2 of her ball-players her "million dollar negros." Baseball has already a tarnished racial record that came to an ugly front when a L.A. Dodger executive suggested blacks lack what it takes to manage at the major league level. This utter garbage got him fired and perhaps even helped a few black managers into the majors but it is clear that the problem persists. The league must harshly discipline Schott for her statements—even a lifetime ban. This should not be deemed too drastic a treatment for a lady who keeps a Nazi swastika armband at her home. Baseball has no room for people like Schott.

Golf's ultimate glory; The Skins Game. This past weekend saw four of the games premiers players for head to head on what had to be the prettiest if not most challenging courses on the tour. At Big Horn, Fred Couples, Payne Stewart, Tom Kite and 'the Shark' Greg Norman locked horns for a purse totalling \$500,000, (what recession?). Couples has proven all of '92 that he is the best in the world with the swing that is as fluid as any in the history of the game, lost only to last years Skin's champ Stewart (who had less number of skins but more cash). A great day for golf and a tribute to the sport - more than \$50,000 of that purse went to worthy charities.

Murray's Trivia Corner

Staying with golf, and more specifically the Skins Game, Stewart became one of only three golfers to win back to back skins titles. Name the other two and the years that they won.

Hint #1 First repeat winner was a magician with the putter.

Hint #2 Second back to backer missed a large part of the season prior to repeating with a serious back problem.

Last week's trivia answer: Elmer Lach, Maurice Richard and Toe Blake made up the Punch Line.



Bloomers off to Lethbridge

by Bruce Denis

After an up and down early season, the Red Bloomers women's basketball team heads off to Lethbridge, Alberta to earn some much needed respect. The team will play 3 games in the University of Lethbridge invitational tournament between January 2nd and 4th.

The Bloomers head into the tournament with a 4-1 AUAA league record, good enough for first place. Coach Claire Mitton is happy about the opportunity to travel. "We are very excited about the trip. It's a nice to be able to get the exposure to the different styles of play against a different conference."

The trip should give the Bloomers some valuable experience for the Nationals in March. January 2nd will see them open the tournament against the University of Regina, the following day they will face the University of Calgary Dinosaurs and they will close the tournament on the 4th against the host University of Lethbridge.

"Regina is the only team in the tournament that I have faced in my years as coach of the Bloomers. They are a very scrappy team. Otherwise, I know that Calgary is a good shooting team, they like the perimeter and run and gun style of play, Lethbridge likes to play a controlled, power inside game." says Mitton.

Despite the diversity of the teams at the tournament, the Bloomers are a team that can overwhelm their opponents with their own style of play. Coach Mitton thinks so. "We can play all styles of basketball, it will be just a matter of how well we can adapt to the teams out west."

Also at the tournament are Brandon University and an unannounced team from the States. The Bloomers will leave on December 31st and return on the 4th. With the Red Devils success at the Viking Cup in Camrose, Alberta last year, the Bloomers will head out west hoping to uphold the UNB tradition of excellence.

The season hasn't been all that easy for the team. They ran into trouble two weeks ago when they fell to the UPEI Panthers. That put them out of first spot in the league for only the second time in two seasons. "We had some breakdowns that weekend. We could have had a little better result but it didn't turn out that way," said Mitton.

Last weekend saw the Bloomers come back and take two road games, beating Acadia 58-45 and St. Mary's 78-69. Despite the wins, Mitton has seen her team play better.

"The last two games we shot 25 for 65 and 26 for 65. We are getting alot of shots but their not going in. We're shooting at about 40% right now. If we can get up to about 48%, we'll be winning

games by larger margins."

That's what the team will need to come away from Lethbridge with a championship. They will also need some more input from their key players.

"Laura Swift and Kara Palmer have done a good job for us this fall. Although I don't think they have played to their capabilities consistently and I think that's a problem with the whole team. We haven't hit full stride yet." Says Mitton.

Mitton does feel that the team will come around to realize its full potential and dominate as it has in the past. "I think we're as competitive as anybody in the nation, so if we play as well as we're capable of playing, we will do okay."

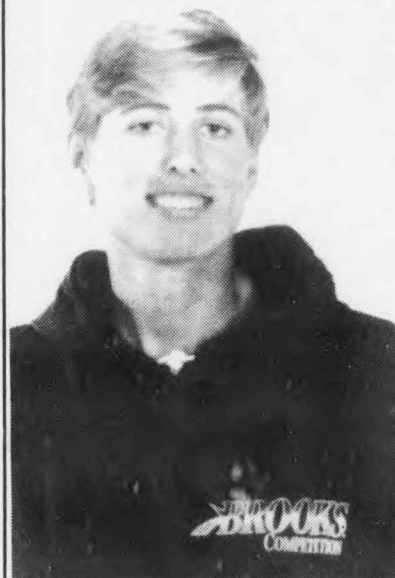
*The Brunswickan
would like to wish
the Red Bloomers
the best of luck
at the
Lethbridge
Invitational
tournament
this holiday break*

UNB Reds finish third at Moncton tourney

The University of Moncton hosted their annual invitational women's university volleyball tournament over the weekend with teams from Dal, Mt. A., UNB, U de M, St. F.X., St. Mary's, UPEI and Acadia participating.

The UNB Reds captured third place honours defeating U de M in the bronze medal match 15-2, 15-8, 9-15 and 15-4. Dal took top honours by virtue of a three games to two victory over Mt. A who took home the silver medal. UNB's Carla Mason was selected to the tournament all-star team along with Kris Ouellet from U

de M, Cathy Ramier and Carla Edwards from Mt. A and Chris Frail and April Delorme from Dal. Dal's Tara MacIntyre was named the tournament MVP. UNB and Dal are currently tied for first place in the AUAA league with five match wins apiece. This tournament completes the first half of the schedule for UNB who clash with Dal in their first match in the New Year. Coach Al McGarvie is very pleased with the Reds third place ranking behind the two most experienced ball clubs in the AUAA league Dal and Mt. A.



Laumann forced to cancel speech and visit

Olympic bronze medalist Silken Laumann has been forced to cancel her visit to Fredericton and the UNB campus. Laumann has been suffering from a bad cold and is also due to have surgery on her leg early next week. Her doctors have recommended that she take it easy over the weekend. Replacing Laumann today will be Mike Spracklen her rowing coach. Known to be a good speaker, Spracklen will be talking in the Main Gym today at 10:30am along with the coach of the eights boat that won gold in Barcelona Admission is free and everyone is welcome to attend



UNB Lady Reds in volleyball action last weekend in Moncton.

photo by Scot Hall