

The Front Row

by the Sports Editor

Last year I shared editorial duties of the sports section with my famed brother Frank. He was the editor and I did the duties. This year I'm in the FRONT ROW!

Admittedly, bitching and complaining about the new varsity nickname and logo has been done to death. That's why I'm not afraid to admit that I think the name change was a step in the right direction for the Athletic Department.

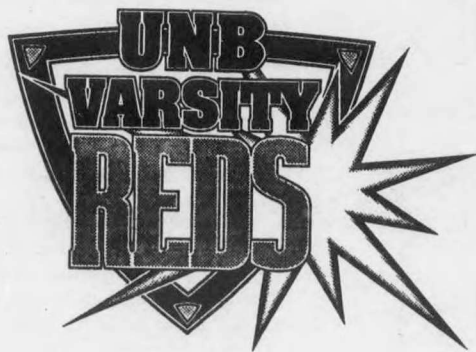
When I left Fredericton and returned to my home in Montreal for the Summer months, I questioned the future in store for a varsity program with the moniker 'Varsity Reds'. In my two years here, I had become familiar with the evil intimidation of the 'Red Devils', the mystic aura of the 'Red Raiders' and the monstrosity of the 'Black Bears'. Even the 'Red Bloomers' nickname conjured an image of tradition and excellence (as well as women's gym shorts). The name 'Varsity Reds' lacks the intimidating imagery which graced all 12 team names last year. "It's just a rip off of the University of Toronto Varsity Blues" I've heard people say countless times.

Maybe, but I've never heard anyone say the 'Varsity Blues' is a boring nickname. Why is this? Because the Varsity Blues have such a steeped tradition, people immediately associate it with excellence.

It is undeniable that UNB's varsity teams also have a distinguished history. It is this history and tradition that have brought the Red Bloomers name an enormous amount of respect. In fact, students past and present have become so attached to the old names for this very reason; they represent the tradition we are so familiar with.

The name 'Varsity Reds' seems to me a good compromise between old and new. It incorporates the traditional 'Reds' and does away with the confusing melee of individual names. In fact, the unity this new name has created between all varsity teams will help culture a new, stronger tradition at UNB. And once this tradition of excellence has been redeveloped, the 'Varsity Reds' name will undoubtedly be revered in all corners of the country.

The Athletic Department also hit the nail on the head with the development of a new logo to complement the nickname. At a press conference held early last week, the logo was unveiled to the public. After a short explanation by it's designer, Dean of Phys. Ed. Terry Haggerty and UNB President Robin Armstrong unshrouded the finished product. Ugh! I thought.. On a white background it looked like a comic strip. Then the designer presented it on a red background. Hmm. Then a black background. Wow! Now, a week later, I think the logo is really attractive and will undoubtedly sell well (at least on black.). Also, the Athletic Department has sold the exclusive printing rights to Valley Graphics who did an excellent job with the preliminary T-shirts and sweatshirts which were presented to members of the media at the press conference. Valley Graphics rep Jonathan Thompson admits "we're really happy to have the exclusive rights and we're excited to see what we can do with the logo."



Despite the aura of skepticism surrounding the whole process of the name change, the Athletic Department has given the varsity program a much needed shot in the arm. Now it is up to the athletes to develop a new tradition.

Back by popular demand is Mark Savoie's weekly column 'View From The Cheap Seats'. Dedicated Bruns readers might remember this always controversial column from Mark's days as Sports Editor. We are all looking forward to seeing who Mark offends this year as well as the vicious letters to the editor in reply.

Athletes of the week

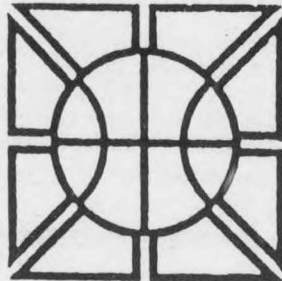
Zurheide named AUAA Athlete of Week

Gray Zurheide and Christa Harris have been named UNB's first Athletes of the Week for the 1993-94 season.

Zurheide scored three of six goals in the Red's 6-2 soccer victory over the Moun Allison Mounties last Sunday afternoon. The second year student hailing from Halifax, NS was also named AUAA Athlete of the Week.

Field hockey goaltender Christa Harris played well enough in New England to earn Female Athlete of the Week honors. The third year student was also a member of the New Brunswick Provincial team that went to the Canada Games. Coach Donna Hornibrook says "Christa lead our team through the exhibition matches in the States and her form should continue through the season."

3 ON 3



BASKETBALL CLASSIC

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
LADY BEAVERBROOK GYM

- Teams of four (including one substitute) must have at least one female and are limited to one varsity team member. All UNB students are eligible.
- Registration continues until September 22 at the Recreation office. The Cost is \$15 per player.

For more information, please contact Clint Hamilton or Pauline Lordon at 453-4579.

Varsity Reds Wrestling Tryouts

Continue the Black Bear tradition!

Monday to Friday
of next week
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
LB Main Gym

Anybody interested, male or female weighing between 99 and 280 lbs. is welcome!

For more information please contact coach Don Ryan at the LB Gym 453-4580



View from the Cheap Seats

by Mark Savoie

A little less than a year ago I had a conversation with a friend of mine who was a former figure skater. She was good enough, that after her competitive career, she toured the United States as one of the serious skaters in an ice show. She was at the time involved in coaching the University of Western Ontario's varsity figure skating team. In other words, she took her sport seriously. So you can understand her dismay when I calmly explained to her that her sport was not a sport.

Figure skating is not a sport. Gymnastics is not a sport. Synchronized swimming is not a sport. Diving is not a sport. As currently competed, ski jumping is not a sport. The reason it is not a sport is because it has a style component. Why, I don't know. When I watch a bunch of crazy yahoos jump off the side of a mountain I don't care how they do it. They can flap their arms and scream like a banshee for all I care. All I care about is how far down the hill these maniacs land. The style points are irrelevant.

Easy solution then. To turn ski jumping into a sport all you have to do is get rid of the style component and determine the winner according to who lands farthest down the hill. Simple enough. Next problem please.

Figure skating, gymnastics, (rhythmic gymnastics!), synchronized swimming, diving. If the Olympics can call them a sport, then why can't I? Am I really such a macho bullshit that the only things I'll call a sport are grunt stuff like hockey, football, and basketball where you sweat and swear and exhibit all the Y chromosome characteristics you can manage. Well. Actually. In a way. Yeah!

Not that it has to be a man's sport for me to call it a sport. I've been a Bloomer UNB women's basketball fan for years. When it comes to tennis I find the women's tour far more interesting than that of the men. (However, now that the Monica Seles out of action I'm no longer convinced of that. I found the US Open to be equally boring regardless of gender.) I also cheered with the rest of Canada to Silken Laumann's courageous bronze medal at the Barcelona Olympics. I am just as outraged as all Canada should be to hear that there is a movement afoot in international ice hockey circles to eliminate checking from women's ice hockey. An overdose of testosterone is not my problem. (I only wish it was.)

My idea of a sport is something involving a physical skill in which a winner can be clearly determined. Thus, any competition where the goal is higher/faster/stronger, or where a score is kept, is by virtue of those characteristics a sport. Competitions such as figure skating, gymnastics, and the others are arts. Just as ballet is an art. Admittedly, each of these requires a great deal more physical conditioning than do sports such as bowling and curling. But so what?

Sport is about competition. Whether that competition is with others or against one's self (as in establishing personal bests) is irrelevant. When an artistic impression component is added it ceases to be sport. Did you know that synchronized swimmers are judged from the moment their names are announced? That they are being judged by the way they walk to the pool? I remember Carolyn Waldo discussing her training regimen prior to the Seoul Olympics and her saying that she had been working on her smile. Working on her smile!? Why the hell should it matter if she had her teeth glossed that morning if we're going to call this a sport? If it is an art then it becomes important that it be aesthetic. But as a sport aesthetics should come from the sight of a body being pushed to its limits, not because the performer is perky and has a bright smile and looks good in tights.

Final statement time. If the winner of a physical skill based event can be determined solely by the basis of higher/faster/stronger or by the accumulation of the most (in rare cases, least) tallies, then it is a sport. If the winner of a physical skill based event can only be determined with the aid of judges, then it is not a sport. It may well be art, but it sure ain't sports.