

Red Devils meet their match in Maine

Host Acadia and Dalhousie this weekend in important matches

by Frank Denis

ORONO, Me. After opening the AUSA hockey season with four straight wins, the UNB Red Devils tested their skills against the top US college team, the University of Maine Black Bears in Orono last weekend.

On Friday night in front of a standing room only crowd of 5,300 the Black Bears posted a 9-2 win and followed that up on Saturday with an 11-1 win again in front of more than 5,300 fans.

While Saturday's 11-1 game would seem to be more one sided it wasn't. In fact Maine led 1-0 after the first period and 2-1 midway through the second before they scored 9 unanswered goals.

"Up until the 10 minute mark of the second period, we played better than they did. We controlled a lot of the play but they're the type of team that once the momentum swings and they get the opportunity, they jump all over you" said UNB Coach Mike Johnston.

"Unfortunately we got frustrated and took some dumb penalties. They realized this and

began to play with some confidence and when a highly skilled team like that plays with confidence, it will hurt you."

Johnston found a lot more positive aspects about the Saturday game than he did after the Friday game.

"On Friday night we started out on the wrong foot and couldn't get back in the game. On Saturday we could have won the game, but we let it slip away."

On Friday, Maine led 4-0 after one period and 7-0 early in the third before UNB Trevor Boland scored while shorthanded. Boland scored UNB's second goal while on the power play at the 11:02 mark of the third.

Cal Ingraham led Maine on Friday by scoring four goals.

Maine forward Peter Ferraro who was a first round draft pick of the New York Rangers last June agreed with Johnston that UNB played a better game on Saturday.

"On Friday, we jumped all over them in the first period and I don't think they were ready for us and then on Saturday they

came out a lot harder because they knew what to expect."

Forbie MacPherson scored UNB's lone goal on Saturday while Paul Kariya led Maine

with a goal and three assists.

Despite the pair of losses Johnston is convinced his team can do better against the top ranked team in US college

hockey.

"I really believe we can play with Maine, even after a pair of losses like that."



Action around Chris Somers and the UNB goal was often last weekend against the University of Maine. Maine won both games by scores of 9-2 and 11-1.

photo by Frank Denis

Notes from Maine

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The following sign greeted spectators as they entered the Alford Arena in Maine; Restrooms go right, Athletics store left, Concessions right and Skyboxes left. Yes that's right, the arena has 11 skyboxes. According to one Maine supporter they cost over a thousand dollars a year with a minimum lease of 10 years.

UNB forward Alasair Still made the trip, but did not play as he is recovering from a deep thigh bruise that could keep him out of the lineup for two months.

The University of Maine Black Bears have 14 players playing for them that have been drafted by NHL teams. As well they have Paul Kariya who is expected to be a top five draft pick next season.

Officiating was different down there. Not only did the refs miss a few calls, but they had two referees that could call penalties instead of the usual one. It makes a lot more sense to have two.

The bus that was supposed to take a bunch of UNB fans down to the games never went because there were no UNBers who had committed to it. Several professors from the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation made the trip as did a number of parents and UNB students.

There was a thirty piece band in attendance at both games supplying some entertainment. A band would be a welcomed addition to the Aitken Centre for Red Devils home games.

The Black Bears have a weekend tournament in Alaska at the end of November as well as tournaments in Los Angeles and Cleveland, Ohio before the year is over.

Maine goalie Mike Dunham played last year on the U.S. Olympic team in Albertville, France. He was a backup for Ray Leblanc.

On Saturday the Devils had the choice of either taking in the Maine-Delaware football game or shop in Bangor. Everyone chose to shop. It was interesting to see college football USA style even if Maine did get blown out something like 53-16.

The Alford arena underwent major renovations last year. More seats were added as well as the skyboxes. When the rink was unavailable the Black Bears played their home games in Portland.

It was interesting to see that overall there were not a whole lot of Maine students at the game. Some would say that students can't afford the 11 dollars for a ticket, but on game day student tickets are put aside and can be picked up for free with a student card. An estimate of the number of students at the game would be about 1,300.

AUSA standings

AUSA Men's Soccer Final Standings

West division						
	W	L	T	FOR	AGN	PTS
UDM	5	4	3	17	18	13
UNB	5	5	2	19	17	12
MTA	4	6	2	17	26	10
MUN	2	6	4	15	24	8
PEI	2	8	2	10	29	6

East division						
	W	L	T	FOR	AGN	PTS
DAL	10	1	0	31	5	20
SMU	7	2	2	24	7	16
ACA	5	4	2	9	12	12
SFX	1	5	5	8	12	7

AUSA Football Standings Final					
	W	L	FOR	AGN	PTS
SMU	8	0	266	70	16
MTA	4	4	210	189	8
ACA	3	5	201	208	6
SFX	1	7	95	305	2
UNB	0	0	0	0	0 (when?)

AUSA Hockey standings

MacAdam division				
	W	L	T	PTS
UNB	4	1	0	8
STU	4	2	0	8
UDM	3	2	0	6
PEI	0	5	1	1
MTA	0	4	0	0

Kelly division				
	W	L	T	PTS
ACA	4	0	1	9
SMU	3	4	0	6
UCB	2	2	0	4
SFX	2	2	0	4
DAL	1	1	0	2

CIAU top ten

Field Hockey

1. Victoria
2. Toronto
3. British Columbia
4. York
5. New Brunswick
6. Alberta

Ice Hockey

1. Regina
2. Acadia
3. Waterloo
4. Alberta
5. Toronto
6. New Brunswick
7. Guelph
8. Saskatchewan
9. Western Ontario
10. UQTR

Football

1. Saint Mary's
2. Bishop's
3. Queen's
4. British Columbia
5. Western Ontario
6. Guelph
7. Wilfrid Laurier
8. Calgary
9. Toronto
10. Mt. Allison