

SPORTS

SCENE

Eric Drummie Sports Editor

EX - COACH SUCCEEDS

By MIKE POWER

Not much has changed for Don MacAdam, he still loves the game of hockey, he still cares for the players on his team and in return holds their respect, and he still cares for the UNB Red Devils.

Just to refresh your memory, MacAdam was a player with the Red Devils in the early Seventies, but is best remembered for eight years coaching the Devils, he left UNB after the 84-85 season to coach Major Jounior A hockey in Ontario and has now moved to Detroit as an assistant to the NHL's top coach Jacque Demers.

Good Memories

When you talk with Don MacAdam these days, as I did in the hallowed halls of Maple Leaf Gardens, among the first questions he asks is how the Red Devils are doing. When he is told that the sad record of his old team is well deserved, he feels sincerely unhappy. Many men would not, MacAdam was the last coach to bring a hockey title to UNB, that was 1983-84 when they lost to Toronto in the CIAU Semi-finals, but he is also remembered for a public outburst condemning the University Administration for

their lack of support. Those remarks brought him considerable heat from above, even though they were true then and are true today. MacAdam is yet another in the long line of quality coaches this University has let slip away (see Dave Nutbrown, Collean Dufresne, Tom Coolen, etc.) but he still has mostly good thoughts for this Fredericton University "I like UNB. I

am today. I could be bitter at some of the stuff I had to put up with, but why ruin good memories." MacAdam goes on to say that he wishes the Red Devils all the luck in the world, but believes that two poor years of recruiting will take a serious toll on the program. "It could take them four or five years to recover from that unless they get lucky."

The Future

from Demers during his Fredericton Express days paved the way to Detroit. "Really it doesn't get any better" MacAdam says. "We have a good team in a great city and the best building in the League." Pointing with his hand he says, "Look around, I mean this is Maple Leaf Gardens, this is the NHL, where else do you want to be?" With the success of the Red

that to take a head coach job that might only last a year or so."

Today

On of MacAdam's jobs is to form a link between the players and Demers, a man whose schedule does not allow him to spend as much time as he would like with his players. Always a "players coach" this is a job well suited for the PEI native. "I enjoy working with the guys, they have some pretty high expectations placed on them and you have to look after their confidence, or sometimes give them a boot in the rear." One Red Wing who is MacAdam fan is Bob Probert. The big winger credits him with having a big peice of Proberts turnabout from goon to all star winger. "Donnie is a guy you can approach when you have a problem, he builds you up. Both him and Jacque are so positive and support you, its easy to play for those guys." All that sounds like things you used to hear from his players on the Red Devils. Some things never change, and in the case of Don MacAdam, that's a good truth.



Photo by Bill Troer

UNB player puts his arm up in victory over Moncton in AUA final '84.

mean, would I have stayed there that long otherwise. Look, I met some fine people there, I had some great times, the work I did there and the people I met got me where I

Of his new position with the Red Wings, MacAdam says he couldn't be happier. It was always known that he wanted to move on to the NHL someday, and the respect he earned

Wings this year MacAdam is being talked about as future head coach material, "I want to do that, no question, but I'm in no hurry. I'm happy right where I am, I'm not dumping

BLAZERS FLAME DIES

By W.G. HALE

Their longest season is over. The UNB Red Blazers wrapped up 6 months of hockey with a pair of losses at the Dominion Ladies Hockey Tournament in Toronto.

The Blazers fell 2-0 last Friday to Lakeside Bearcats of London, Ont. "We were really flat in that one", says UNB coach Mike Power, "but we

still dominated much of the game, we just couldn't put the puck in the net." Power believes the surroundings might have had an effect on his team's play. The Tournament featured 179 teams, and the rink was packed for the games "We aren't used to that stuff, I was a bit in awe, so I suppose the players may have been also."

In the second round UNB

ran head on into the defending world champions the Hamilton Golden Hawks. Despite losing the game 5-1 the Red Blazers may have played their finest game of the year. The Golden Hawks routinely beat teams by 15 or 18 goals, so a four goal difference was looked on in a very positive manner by the team. The biggest reason for UNB's showing was the play of veteran goalie

Wendy Dickinson, "I was the story of the game." Says Power, "It was Wendy at her best, we have seen her like this before, when she's on there is nobody better." At times the capacity crowd rose to their feet to cheer for Dickinson despite being partisen for Hamilton. Barb Cox got her ninth goal of the year for UNB. An assist by Carol Cooper on that goal wrapped up her

fourth straight team scoring title.

UNB finished with a 6-16-1 record earned in Tournament and exhibition play. The record was deemed acceptable by Power, "I'm not crazy about it, but we said we had two years of rebuilding to do, so one down and one to go."