

Red Bloomers: pride of Canada

The bus ride home from Montreal was made a lot easier last weekend for the UNB Red Bloomers as they showed the nation that they are indeed in the top three teams in the women's basketball world in this country.

After convincing wins over Ottawa (50 pts) and Winnipeg (28 pts), the UNB Red Bloomers advanced to Saturday's final of the Concordia Classic Basketball Tourney, against none other than the defending national champion Bishops Lady Gaiters.

A lot of people thought "blow out". But it was not to be as the Bloomers showed the Gaiters they were not the same team they had faced and beat by 30 plus points at last year's nationals.

They are now what looks like the Gaiters successors as national champions and as Wayne Hussey was quoted as saying "before they were a bunch of kids, now the difference is night and day."

The big story of the weekend was the play of rookie post Janet Nichols who hooped 26 points in the

course against Bishops. Her performance tended to overshadow other outstanding performances from Jennifer George, Marg Jones, Sue McMaster and others.

"Up until last weekend we were sort of a mystery, even to ourselves" comments Assistant Coach Andy Cheam, "but now we know that we can play with anyone."

"If Bishops is the top team in the nation" Cheam adds, "then I feel that on any given night we can beat them and win a national title."

And so you can Andy, and the big difference is experience. Last year they had a lot of raw talent, this year its controlled and experienced.

"Janet (Nichols) played well for us" beams Cheam.

"She not only scored 26 points but controlled the defensive boards, which is

something we have to be able to do at the national level to be successful."

After the stellar performance the lords of the CIAU

decided UNB was worthy of a number two ranking this week, something you have

to go back a ways to find here at UNB.

This weekend the Bloomers are off to Orono for a tourney at UMO.

Besides the host team, other competition will be provided by Ottawa and Mt. Allison.

"Even though the competition may not be the tops," comments Cheam, "there is a lot that can be

learned in those games. It gives the younger kids a chance to play and get the experience they need to help the ball club."

Whatever way you look at it, all that can be known for sure is that the Bloomers are probably going to be one of the top teams in the

nation this year, and who knows, maybe Coleen Dufresne's promise will come true - maybe she will bring a "Bronze Baby" here to UNB.

Raiders gain split

The Red Raiders split their conference opener at Mt. Allison last weekend with a 71-72 loss on Friday night and regained their spirit with a 76-69 win on Saturday. Friday's game was decided at the foul line resulting from a "questionable call" stated Coach Nelson. The Mount Allison player went to the foul line with the clock expired,

missed the first shot but sunk the second resulting in a one point win. The second game was more of U.N.B.'s style, with Tony Walker scoring 19 points, Chris McCabe with 18 points and Mark Newell with 15 points.

This weekend the Raiders are off to Toronto for three exhibition games. Thursday, the Raiders meet the University of Toronto Blues,

these two teams will meet again in January at the Holiday Classic. Then the team is off to McMaster for their Pinky Lewis Tournament. U.N.B. will play McMaster

at 8:30 p.m. with the consolation game at 6:30 p.m. and the championship at 8:30 on Saturday. U.N.B. was thoroughly beaten by McMaster last year 114 to 89, but returned with a knock-out 101-68 win.

This years Holiday Classic will take place on January 6-7 at the Aitken Center. The University of Toronto will meet the University of Southern Maine at 7:00 p.m. and U.N.B. will face Guelph at 9:00 p.m. on Friday with the consolation at 1:00 p.m. and the Championship at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday. Tickets are \$3.00 per day for adults and \$1.50 per day for students, including U.N.B. and S.T.U. students. We hope to see a large turnout to cheer our team on.

FORESTRY CHRISTMAS PUB

Saturday Dec. 3

Sub-Cafeteria 9:00 - 1:00

Tickets at the door

FA members - \$2.00

Non members - \$2.50

Prizes and Draw

Supported by Moosehead

Free throws

By JEFF WHIPPLE

Janet Nichols got to play a bit from the movie "Rocky" this week. Her heroic performances against some of the country's top big people, including national team star Andrea Blackwell, made the 6'2" rookie from Mt. Pleasant, PEI, the talk of the country this week, as was the whole Bloomers team. Janet scored 26 points against Bishops in the finals of the Concordia Classic, and while the Bloomers lost the game, they showed the nation that they are capable of winning a national title - this year.

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Jennifer "Lefty" George's performances this weekend was also nothing short of stellar. A sports writer for the "Gazette" left nothing unsaid when he described Jennifer's shooting as having the crowd on the edge of their seats.

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The Red Bloomers have had a long history of winning. Three times in the last twelve years the Bloomers have finished second at the nationals. In 1972 the Bloomers lost to UBC 74-69 at Saskatchewan and two years later fell to UBC 67-53 in Winnipeg. Then in 1976 the Bloomers fell 50-42 to Laurentian, those Championships being held in Guelph. Only three times in those years has the Bloomers failed to appear at the nationals.

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The Red Raiders continue to struggle. Last weekend's split against Mt. A. was surprising to some people, but really everything was pointing to some close games. Mt. A. had some luck recruiting and, well we all know the problems of recruiting here at UNB.

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You have to feel for Chris McCabe and Donnie McCormack. Here they are in their last year in Collegiate Basketball and UNB is struggling to stay out of the basement. The young guys all know that this team will be a winner in a couple of years after they get some experience but it will be a lo-o-o-ling year for Don Nelson's troops this year. But knowing Chris and Donnie, as well as the rest of the guys they will do it all with the style and class that exemplifies both of their careers here at UNB.

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The Raiders are going into some more tough action this coming weekend as they are travelling to TO. for games with the Blues and McMaster Marauders. Both teams should give some stiff competition, the kind of competition they are going to need to become legitimate threats to some of the top AUBC squads.

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A lot of people have been asking me for my NBA picks. Well, not to sound like I'm jumping on the band wagon, because anybody who knows me also knows I'm as diehard a Philadelphia fan as the A.Q. is a Jets fan (bless his heart). I'll sum it all up in one word. Sixers! They'll beat the Lakers in the finals in six. The rest of the leagues just doesn't matter, much like the Bloomers in the AUA.



"Have you ODeD on basketball again?"