

Bloomers Third In Concordia Classic Tourney

The UNB Red Bloomers were on the door step to fame in the semi-finals of the Concordia Classic Women's Basketball tournament Friday evening Nov. 25 in Montreal as they battled the defending CWIAU champion Laurentian Vees of Sudbury, Ontario, winners for the last 3 years through a double overtime thriller before bowing out by a score of 73-65.

The game was as physical as anticipated because of the "inside" movement of the Laurentian offense which concentrates on their three big people continually flashing through the foul lane area via ball cuts and screens. The Bloomers denied these flash pivots very well which threw the Laurentian offense off stride.

Both teams played full court pressure defense. Laurentian also effectively employed a three-quarter court zone press. It was the tough defense played by both teams which had knowledgeable fans impressed but it was the dramatic finish of each period which had all the fans on their feet screaming. The game got so exciting and the crowd noise so loud that the announcer at the scoring bench began a play-by-play announcing from the middle of the second half to the finish of the game.

UNB jumped to a quick 10-4 lead but the cool of the Laurentian team held firm and they rallied for 13 straight points. At this time, the crowd wondered if UNB might be

blown out as Acadia had been the night before - going from an 18-0 deficit to lose 91-48 to Laurentian. However the Bloomers proved themselves by recovering to trail 32-31 at half-time. From then on the game was very close with the teams battling defensively and working hard for every point scored.

Kathy Jennings made two key freethrows in the last minute to tie the score at 56-56 for Laurentian and a last second shot by UNB just missed. The first overtime period saw the teams trade scores for the 5 minutes and finished at 61-61. In the second overtime Cathy Maxwell, a tournament All Star, fouled out and Sylvia Blumenfeld injured her knee but returned later to finish the game. UNB trailed 67-65 when Blumenfeld left and when Laurentian scored again to make it 69-65 with 1:31 remaining the Bloomers had to gamble stealing the ball but could not, as Laurentian closed out the score 73-65.

Outstanding for the Bloomers, although the game was a true team effort by the UNB squad, were Cathy Maxwell and Carolyn Gammon who played in her first university game after recovering from a broken finger. Defensively, Sylvia Blumenfeld did a tremendous individual job on Chris Critelli, the National Team Star of the Laurentian team, holding her to 10 points for 50 minutes and blocking her off the offensive boards which frustrated Critelli to no-end because Chris is the best in Canada at offensive rebounding.

Also to be commended is the team defense of the Bloomers which even twice denied the Laurentian team a shot in the 30 seconds allowed.

As well as being disappointed with losing such a close and hard fought game, the Bloomers sustained a blow when Janet Proude injured her knee early in the game. However, the injury may not be as serious as her previous knee problems and it is hoped that she recovers soon.

The team can however draw consolation from the loss when recognizing their ability to play Laurentian so closely. As well, two other Bloomers had the flu for this game so next time a full team may make a difference.

The other Bloomer games and indeed all the other games of the tournament are anti-climatic in comparison to the UNB-Laurentian duel.

To reach the semi-finals, UNB had opened the tourney with a hard fought victory over Bishop's

62-58. This team showed excellent outside shooting and speed at all positions which gave the Bloomers some early match-up problems defensively. The Bloomers trailed at half-time 34-32 due to several turnovers but rebounded in the second half to control the game and end the Bishop's threat.

UNB really showed its strength in their final game versus Concordia for the third place finish in the Classic.

Despite their exhausting loss, the night before to Laurentian, the Bloomers snowed Concordia under from the opening whistle to lead 44-18 at half-time. Even playing only half-court man-to-man defense they ran the score to 82-36 to win the third place spot.

Laurentian went on to defeat a tall and exciting team from Southern Connecticut 69-62 in the final game of the tournament.

BISHOP'S 62-58		CONCORDIA 82-36		LAURENTIAN 65-73	
PTS.	REB.	PTS.	REB.	PTS.	REB.
D.N.P.		9	3	18	0
6	0	4	5	4	0
6	2	4	12	5	1
10	0	8	4	17	9
16	6	21	4	11	5
3	8	2	3	6	3
10	6	Injured		Injured	
4	4	D.N.P.		D.N.P.	
Liedy Scholten	D.N.P.	18	8	Did Not Play	
Laura Sanders	2	3	4	6	5
Patty Sheppard (Capt.)	5	4	4	6	2

Swim team looks strong

It seems that UNB's varsity swimmers have over-emphasized the hard work and training required for competing with the team so much so that prospective new members have been scared off. Team numbers have decreased during the fall training program. Travelling to Mt. Allison this past weekend were a total of seven women and eight men. This lack of depth, on the women's team, was the only reason for Mt. Allison's slight victory in that division. The men, as expected, recorded a resounding win over Mt. Allison's men's team.

The results of the meet do demonstrate the potential of UNB's varsity swim team this year. The team, however small, is made up of all quality swimmers each of whom is capable of qualifying for this year's CIAU's. The team will be training intensively over the Christmas holidays here in Fredericton. Coach Barry Roberts has set up a program of two two-hour practises per day and is including specific weight training and flexibility programs.

It is extremely important that the past two and a half months of training are not lost by even a one week lay-off at Christmas. The three week break will give the swimmers the chance they need to get in the hard distance, endurance, and strength training that is essential in order to swim a fast race.

UNB's men's team looks keen and strong this year. They have only to get in some strength and endurance training in order to pull out another team victory at the AUA conference meet. The men began last weekend's meet with a medley relay consisting of Bruce Williams, Vango, Paul Steeves, and Iain Sinclair and captured first place. They went on from there to win every race except for the 50 free.

John Bennett proved to be a strong long distance freestyler winning both the 1500 and 400 freestyles. Bill Emery, the team's main middle distance freestyler, took the 200 freestyle and placed second in the 100 free. Iain Sinclair, a strong sprinter maintained dominance in freestyle by taking the 100 free and recording

second places in both 50 and 200 free.

Rob Davis, a versatile butterflyer and Imer, added to the team score with his wins in 200 fly and 200 IM. Bruce Williams, conference champion backstroke, looked very strong for this time of year with his 200 backstroke win and second place 200 IM finish.

Another strong, talented swimmer, Paul Steeves, placed well in both 200 IM and 200 backstroke. Mike Sinstadt did well in his specialty, breaststroke, by recording another first place finish for UNB.

UNB's women made a good bid for the victory in last weekend's meet. Mt. Allison has acquired a few rookies who are veterans to the swimming scene and had twice as many in numbers as UNB. UNB's women demonstrated the quality of their team with four first place finishes, and numerous second and third place finishes.

Individually, rookie Karen Stangroom swam her way to three wins, finishing nearly one and a half minutes ahead of the competition in 800 free. She also took the 200 IM and 200 breast with a fair amount of ease.

Veteran Kathy Gaul looked her usual strong self - she won the 100 free finishing 4 seconds ahead of Mt. Allison's Pam Matthews - quite a lead for a sprint race. She also placed second in the 500 free and 200 backstroke.

Randi Stangroom and Ginny Bradley, two women who in the recent past have represented the AUA conference at CIAU Nationals placed well in their freestyle and IM events. Deidre Pretlove, a rookie, swam extremely well placing second in 200 breast and third in 100 free.

Kathy Miller placed fourth in 100 free against strong competition. Debbie Whittemore faced strong competition in the person of Sue Jones of Mt. Allison, a Division II Nationals medal winner, in both her freestyle events but put up her own competition placing third in both 200 and 400 freestyle and second in 200 fly.

The race for points came right down to the last relay for the women. However, there is a CIAU ruling which allows each swimmer

to compete in only three races including relays. After the eleventh previous races each swimmer had already swum the three allowed races. A team was entered as exhibition and proved their actual superiority by beating Mt. Allison by nearly 40 seconds. UNB has the quality but needs depth desperately.

In the past UNB has done extremely well in the swimming scene. However, the caliber of swimming in Canada has risen sharply in the last few years and we are now third in the world. Yes, third in the world!!! Unfortunately UNB has not heightened its quality and quantity proportionately. The university just does not offer the financial attractions and superior training situation that many other Canadian universities do. The large number of top quality swimmers coming out of the age group level are not even considering UNB as a choice of school where the training and competition are as good as the education. Consequently UNB must find all its talent in local situations such as the Fredericton Aquanaut Swim Club.

The top priorities of the UNB varsity swim team for the immediate future are, first of all, to regain as many of those swimmers who turned up at the first few training sessions as possible. Secondly they are keen to train intensively during Christmas in order to be ready for the heavy meet schedule during January and February. Now that the team has really decided what it is aiming for all that remains is for each member to contribute as much as they can towards reaching that goal.

UNB sent a total of fifteen swimmers to Mt. Allison - a number which Mt. Allison more than equaled. Surely UNB, a school of five thousand, can turn out a team with proportionally more in numbers than a school of four thousand like Mt. Allison. Anyone who turned out for the team at the beginning of the school year or who thought about turning out is asked to contact Coach Barry Roberts Dept. of Phys. Ed., 453-4579, before you leave for the holidays.

Devils lose two

By JEFF IRWIN

The UNB Red Devils did not fare very well on their weekend trip to PEI. The first game was fairly good but the Red Devils managed to lose 8-4. The second game, on Saturday night, was a higher calibre of hockey. Going into the third period the score was 2-1 for UPEI, but the Red Devils could not tie it up and lost 9-1.

Coach Don MacAdam of the Red Devils said that he attributes this to a mental block that seems to tell the players that they can't

score. He also said that this was "foolishness and that everyone of the players on the UNB squad has the potential to score and that they should get all the loser ideas out of their head and get it together!"

Another attributing factor was the defence did not play up to par said MacAdam. "All the players on the Red Devils have played on high calibre hockey teams in the past and have done very well until now, I don't understand it."

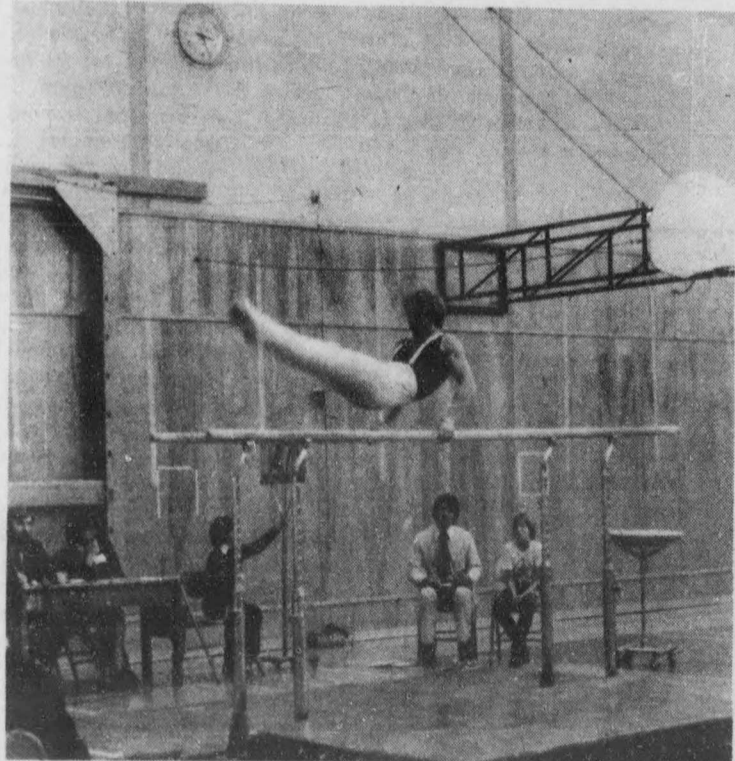


photo — kavanagh

Ken Salmon, a fourth year member of the gymnastics team finished third overall in last weekend's competition. See story pg. 27