

SPORTS

Deadline for stories is Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. Sports Desk 453-4983

Red Devils looking to clinch first place this weekend

by Frank Denis

Before the AUSA hockey season began 4 months ago, UNB coach Mike Johnston had his sights on finishing in first place in the MacAdam division. With just 4 games left in their season it looks like the Red Devils will achieve what their coach said they would.

Heading into this weekend's games against Mount Allison tonight at 7:30 pm and UPEI tomorrow night also at 7:30 pm, at the Aitken Centre, the Red Devils are tops in their division 5 points ahead of UPEI. However, UPEI has played two fewer games than UNB. Looking at the situation it seems as though tomorrow's game will decide first place.

"The game on Saturday against the UPEI Panthers will probably determine who will finish in first place. While it is not a certainty, considering the way the league has gone this season, it looks as though first place will be decided tomorrow night," said Johnston.

While it may seem at though Johnston and his troops are focusing only on the game against UPEI, they're not. Despite blowing out the Mt. A Mounties 14-1 in their last

game against them at the Aitken Centre, Johnston says the Mounties aren't to be taken lightly.

"Mt. A always gives up a headache. There won't be any easy games for us the rest of the way. Every team will play us tough."

The Red Devils have a 7-2 record since their Viking Cup Tournament win over the Christmas holidays. That record is even more impressive when it is realized that the team has been struck by a rash of injuries.

Captain Murray Nystrom missed 6 games with a broken nose, but returned last weekend. Others who have spent time on the sidelines include defenseman Rob Boldon (mono) and Neil Hawryluk (groin).

Leading scorer, Trevor Boland, is questionable for this weekend's games because of a blood clot in his leg. Clyde Simmons should return to the lineup after missing a couple of games with a groin injury. Dominic Niro is out for at least two weeks after separating his shoulder on his first shift against St. FX last Saturday.

Last weekend the Red Devils split a pair of games on

a road trip to Nova Scotia.

Chris Somers recorded a 5-0 shut out in goal for UNB against St. FX. Scoring for the Red Devils were Jamie Colvin with two, Joey MacTamney, Mike Cavanagh and Karl Taylor.

On Sunday the Red Devils did not have a good day defensively as 9 goals were scored

against them. They dropped a 9-6 decision to the UCCB Capers in Sydney.

Greg Reid started his first AUSA game of the season in goal for UNB and was pulled midway through the third period after the Capers sixth goal. Coach Johnston says the loss was no fault of Reid's.

"Reid had a tough night in

goal. In the first two periods he had 12 shots and 4 goals against him. We should have won the game early because we played really well. It was just one of those games."

Scoring for UNB on Sunday were Derek Scanlan with two, MacTamney, Gord Christian, Colvin, and Forbie MacPherson.



Red Devil goaltender Chris Somers, seen here against Moncton, recorded his first shutout of the season last Saturday against St FX

Kevin G. Porter photo

Raiders competitive against the best

by Anand Irrinki

After giving number one ranked St. F.X. a run for their money, the UNB Red Raiders are home for the easiest weekend on their schedule. No, Memorial's not in town; the Raiders have a weekend off. Hopefully, the Raiders will use this free time wisely, as next weekend they play 3 games in 4 days.

Last Saturday UNB battled St. F.X., but ended up losing 78-63. The game was closer than the score indicates, but UNB found a way to come up on the short end. The game started out quite close and this got the many fans into the match up. With 9 minutes left in the 1st half, UNB led 25-22. Unfortunately for the Raiders, they decided now was the perfect time to catch up on missed sleep. St. F.X. went on a 19-0 tear and ended the 1st half leading by 17.

All was not lost, as the Raiders came out with a

vengeance during the second half. Twice during this half, the Raiders came within 5. With 5 minutes remaining UNB had 3 chances to cut the deficit down to 3. But it was not to be, and UNB ended up losing by 15.

The game had both its good and bad points. From my vantage point, the refereeing was one of the bad points. The two referees who called this game had just finished doing the Bloomers game. It is tough enough to ref. 2 games in a row, let alone games of different styles. While, I could list numerous bad calls, I won't berate the ref. anymore. Good points for this game include the re-emergence of Craig Isley and the fine play of Marc Aube. Isley left home his fighting gear and showed he could play some ball. He played good defense and also contributed offensively. If Isley continues this perfor-

mance, he will become another forward who can give the Raiders consistent minutes.



Red Raider Marc Aube, came off the bench and had a strong game for UNB

Marc Aube came off the bench and did not have to be reminded what the word box out means. Aube bodied Richard Bella of St. F.X. and kept him off the scoresheet for almost 5 minutes. Another Aube highlight was the two long distance 3-pointers he hit in warm up.

UNB's second game of the weekend was scheduled to be Dalhousie, but the game was cancelled due to "inclement" weather. It has been rescheduled for Monday, February 17 at 7:00 p.m.

For those of you waiting for

the mid-season grades of coaches and players, you'll have to wait one more week. If you have some free time Tuesday evening, you can watch UNB battle the University of Maine Presque Isle at 7:30 p.m.

Athletes of the week

Jill Jackson of the Red Bloomers Basketball Team is the Female Athlete of the Week. Jill scored 12 pts. and had 6 steals from St. F.X. as the Bloomers defeated them 96-66. "Jill's play sparked the Bloomers to an overwhelming win vs. X. She set the tone with her passing and steals on defense. A great game in a key win!", said coach Claire Mitton. Jill was nominated Pepsi Player of the Game for her effort. She is a 4th year Education student from East Riverside, NB.

Andy MacKay of the Red Raiders Basketball Team is the Male Athlete of the Week. Andy led the team in scoring with 18 pts. as the Raiders challenged #1 ranked St. F.X. with a second half comeback. After trailing by 19 at half time, UNB scraped back into form and rallied to within 5 pts. Andy led the charge with 13 of his 18 pts. in the second half. He was 2 for 3 for field goals and had 4 assists. Andy is an Arts student from Wolfville, N.S.