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# UNB finishes second at UNB Open

by Mark Savoie  
Brunswickan Sports

The UNB Varsity Reds finished second in both the men's and women's races at the UNB Open held at Odell Park last Saturday morning. Fortunately for UNB's hopes for the AUAA's next weekend at the Université de Moncton, both teams managed to finish just a few points out of first place. Both teams finished second behind the Dalhousie Tigers, the women by eight points and the men by seven.

This result is particularly promising for the women, since their second best runner—Melanie Spinney—missed the race

because of an injury. "With her placed in where she should be the race is very very close," commented coach Tim Randall about her absence. "It's a bit of a hip problem. Hopefully, it's not going to be anything that's going to keep her from running in the championships."

If Spinney is able to run in Moncton then the V-Reds will have a tremendous one-two punch in her and Jennifer Phillips. Phillips finished second with a time of 18:55 at the five km long UNB Open, being passed by UdeM's Julie Dupuis in the final 200 metres. Phillips had managed to take command of the race from the halfway point on, but found her-

self outkicked on the final stretch. However, because UdeM did not field a full team, Phillips received first place points for her race.

Phillips was joined in the top ten by both Bev White (5th, 19:51) and Megan Roushorne (9th, 20:12). Also, Michelle MacWhirter (11th, 20:41) and Jenny Spinney (12th, 20:51) finished just out of the top ten. Unfortunately for UNB, however, all five of Dal's counters finished within the top ten for a total of 30 points. St.FX finished third in the race with 62 points. UdeM did not actually field a complete team, and with the exception of race winner Dupuis were not competitive.

The men's team had their best effort against AUAA competition this year, placing three runners in the top ten. James Murphy started the race as the fastest of the university runners, falling behind just independents Neil Manson and Bill Steel. However, he was passed by UdeM's Michel Boudreau and Matthew Gaudet in the last half of the 8.6 km race and finished third in 28:48. "I started off pretty strong," commented Murphy. "I felt good for about halfway through the race and then I began to hurt, and felt like a piano dropped on top of me."

Murphy was joined in the top ten by Andrew Dunphy (7th, 29:24) and David Fraser (8th, 30:04). Brad Johnson (11th, 30:8) and Kris Carpenter (12th, 30:32) rounded out UNB's counters. Just as with the women, however, Dal managed to place all five of their counters within the top ten for 34 points. UdeM finished third with 54 points despite having the two best university runners in the race.

This was the last race that the V-Reds will run before the AUAA's in Moncton next weekend. They face that meet with varying degrees of confidence. Jennifer Phillips, for one, thinks that they have a good shot, especially once Melanie Spinney returns. "We're always really close to them [Dal]," she observed, "so even though we haven't beaten them yet, I think it's going to depend on the day." James Murphy is slightly less confident, though he remains optimistic, saying, "I think we've got a good chance to have a good showing." Coach Tim Randall is also guardedly optimistic going into the AUAA's. "We finished second, so hopefully that will motivate them to want to work a little bit harder and race a little bit harder. Maybe it will make a difference [at AUAA's]."

So far this season, the V-Reds have yet to prove that they can defeat Dalhousie under race conditions. If they expect to earn a trip to London, Ontario for the CIAU championships, then they must step up their performance—and the women should hope for the return of Melanie Spinney from injury—in Moncton next weekend.



Jennifer Phillips (middle) broke ahead from this small pack only to be caught at the finish. photo by C. J. Turbide

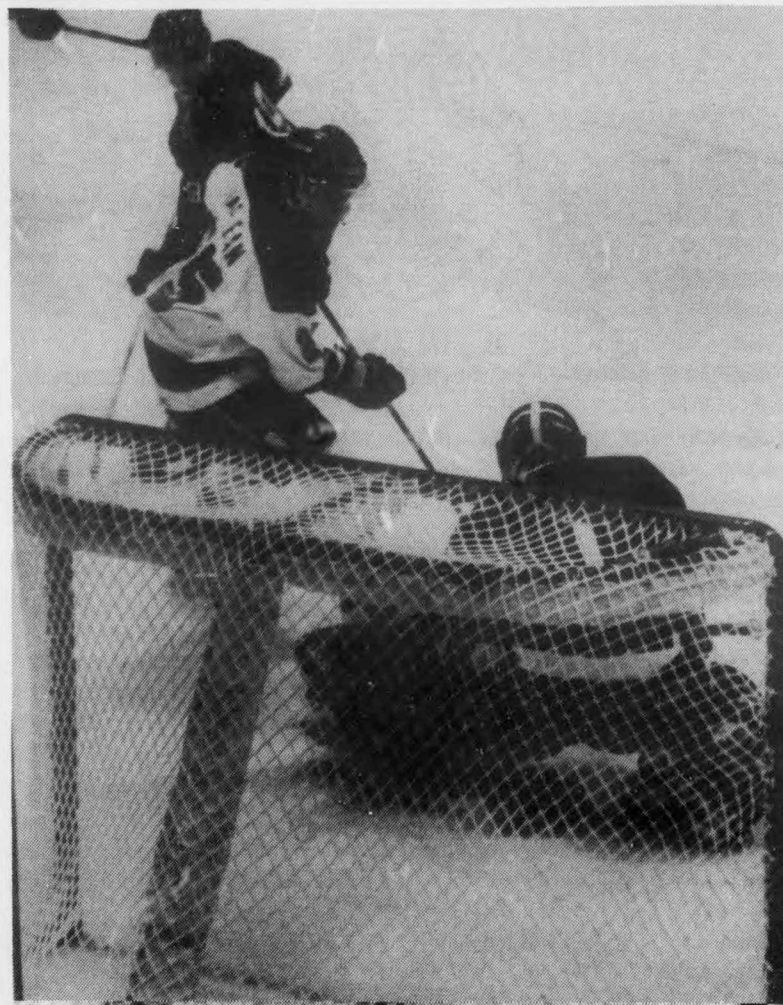
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One of the few scoring chances the V-Reds did not capitalise on during the River City Shootout. photo by Judson DeLong

## River City Shootout

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The V-Reds were never really challenged, despite Gilmore's goal late in the period.

Just before the start of the third, the shootout which gave this 'tournament' its name took place, where some players seemed more eager to send messages than score goals. STU seemed to be affected more by this than UNB, as they conceded five powerplay goals on 70 minutes of penalties (including five misconducts) to UNB's zero goals on 26 minutes (with two misconducts). The first three goals were scored by Toby Burkitt and the fourth by blueliner Chris Nadeau. Dax MacLean completed the scoring by placing the puck into the same corner he'd beaten Burns in throughout the shootout (top gloveside).

With the tension that accompanies the Battle of the Hill, some were questioning the value of extending it with two meaningless games. UNB coach Danny Grant explained, "Playing 2 games here against St. Thomas doesn't cost us a lot of money."

"We're probably playing in the only league where you play exhibition games during the regular season. We don't have the luxury, like most teams, of starting on the 1st of September and

playing six exhibition games and going into the season." AUAA regulations do not permit training prior to the 1st of October, while the regular season schedule began on the 13th.

Both Grant and his players pointed out that any extra games were welcome. "We're still in training camp, still trying players out," stated Grant. Veteran Toby Burkitt commented, "We're still a young team with a lot of new faces so any extra games are going to help us."

However, with the major penalties called in these games counting towards the season count, several players have come closer to suspensions. If a player amasses four misconducts or four game misconducts then he will be suspended indefinitely or for the remainder of the season, respectively.

Grant once again expressed confusion about the number of penalties called. "We're a pretty disciplined hockey team that likes to play the body, the way the game should be played. They're not head-hunting."

Right Wing Trevor Boland added, "It's difficult. Some [referees] are calling lots, others less. The concept is good but they need to be more consistent."

While not the most exciting or meaningful games in the history of the rivalry, they did at least give extensive practice to the powerplay and penalty killing units of both teams. These units are likely to be in some demand if the frequency of calls does not start dropping rapidly.

UNB have the upcoming weekend free before facing their toughest test of the season thus far. November 4th they enter the Dalplex to take on the Dal Tigers, who have started the season on fire, going 2-0 by a total score of 18-10. The following afternoon the V-Reds are in Wolfville, NS to take on the Acadia Axemen who also stand at 2-0.

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