

Red Bloomers On A Roll

by Mark Savoie

The UNB Red Bloomers have now totally recovered from their slow start to the season. They have become the dominant team in AUSA women's basketball because of their play in the last two weeks, but because of their slow start they still need help if they are to host the championship tournament.

Last weekend they played the two teams who are most likely to give them that help, if it is

indeed coming. On Friday they battled the Dalhousie Lady Tigers, whom they had defeated for their first league victory of the season. That game has been miserably played by the Lady Tigers and they were out looking for revenge. They didn't get it, as the Bloomers parlayed a seven point 31-24 half-time lead into a final victory of 53-45.

The next day the Bloomers were the team looking for revenge, as they looked to a

rematch against the league leading Acadia Axettes. The Bloomers did not have their best game in the offensive end of the court, but since Acadia wasn't playing over their heads as they had in the previous meeting of the two teams, their best wasn't necessary. Despite a disappointing first half shooting percentage the Bloomers were up at the half 26-22. The second half was better for the Red Bloomers, and by game's end they were victorious by an uncontested 56-44 score.

The key players for the Bloomers were, as usual, Kara Palmer and Pauline Lordon. Kara struck for a game high 20 points against Dalhousie, while Pauline hit for a game high 17 points against Acadia. Both players were in double figures for both games. Kara's performance is all the more remarkable given that she has a broken finger on her right hand.

Where the Bloomers won the games was on the boards. The Bloomers dominated the rebounding category in both games, out rebounding Dalhousie 35-24 and Acadia 29-15. They were led in this effort by Kara Palmer, who grabbed an amazing 23 of the Bloomers 64 rebounds. Kara has established herself as one of the league's premiere inside players because

of both her rebounding and scoring abilities.

UPEI still has both their games against Acadia left, and still has to meet Dalhousie at home. These games are the only ones where UNB can realistically expect to get help. The big hope is the UPEI-Dal matchup, as these two teams will be meeting in UPEI's new home gym. Therefore the UPEI home court advantage might not be as large as it is normally.

While no games can be called easy, the Bloomers have finished the hard part of their schedule. Their final six games will be against teams which currently have an aggregate 5-20 record. The first two of these games are this weekend, as they travel to St. Mary's this evening and to St. FX tomorrow afternoon. The Bloomers dominated their previous meeting with these two teams and are expected to do so again.



Photo by Glen Vienneau

Lynn Christiansen battling in the paint

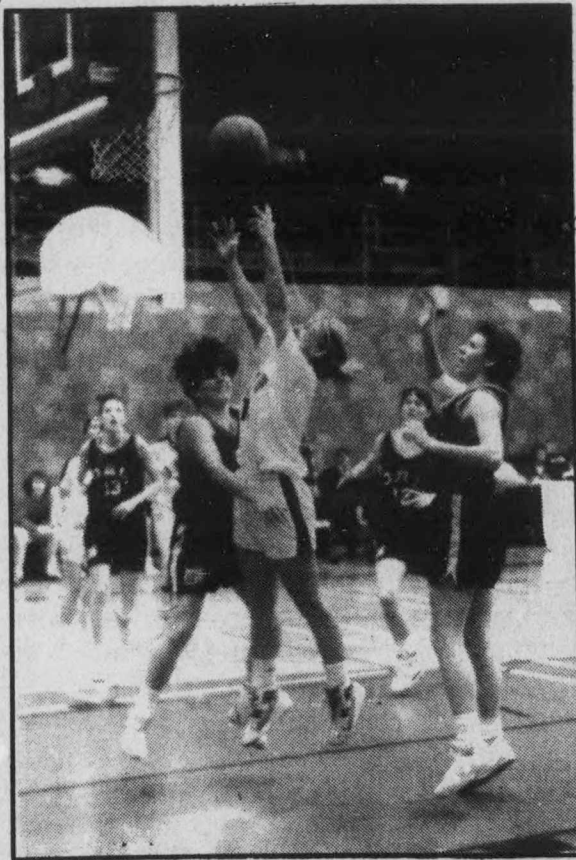


Photo by Glen Vienneau

Lynn Christiansen: the end of a drive

Winning Streak Ends!!!

BY KELLY CRAIG

Conference action this past weekend saw the UNB Red Raiders play host to the Dalhousie Tigers and the Acadia Axemen. Friday night the Raiders dropped a close game 85-75 to Dalhousie. Saturday afternoon the Acadia Axemen gave the Raiders a 96-74 thumping. In both games it was a fight to the finish to decide the winner.

Friday night the Raiders came out strong against the Dal Tigers. Kirk MacDonald quickly shot UNB into an early lead. The first half of the game was all Raiders. By halftime, UNB had earned a comfortable 9 point lead over Da. It was UNB 38, Dal 29.

Unfortunately that was the end of the Raiders streak. Within 10 minutes of the second half, Dalhousie managed a comeback to tie the game. The second half saw the lead continuously change hands. Glen Read shot for 23 points, Roy Coccio added 12 points and Jamie Watt came up with 10 points. However, it was not enough as Dal defeated UNB 85-75.

Saturday afternoon was an even more frustrating day for the Raiders. Acadia jumped into an early lead over UNB and stayed there throughout the entire game. At halftime the Raiders were down by only 9

points. The second half was the clincher. UNB couldn't seem to get into the game and lost 96-74. Glen Read shot for 16 points for the Raiders. Yaw Obeng, Dave Perkins, and Steve Taylor each added 10 points to the Raiders' score.

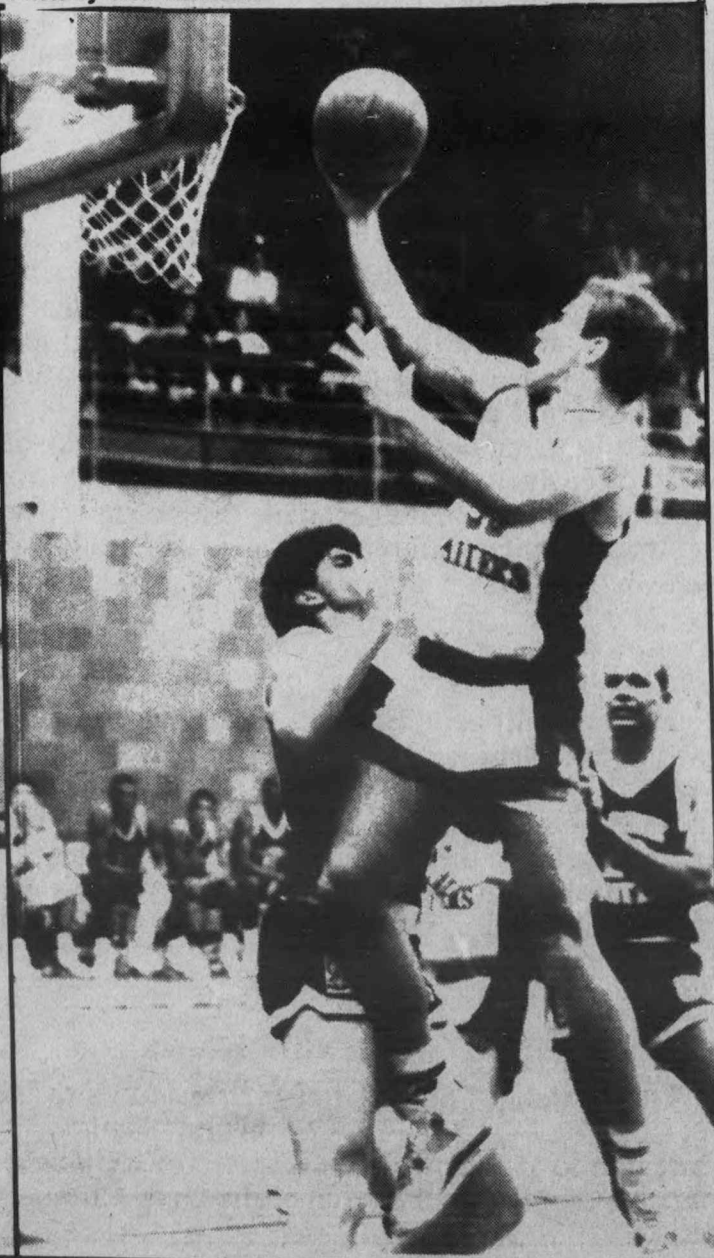
The Raiders have, to date, only won one conference game. However, they have won several other non-conference games. At this time the Raiders are still going from one game to the other. As a team they are still growing and learning. The play offs don't look very good for the Raiders this year, but according to Phil Wright, "We have no real play off goals."

This weekend the Raiders play their toughest competition. Tonight the Raiders will travel to play the top ranked St. FX team. Saturday the Raiders play in Halifax against St. Mary's. Both of these games will be a challenge for the Raiders but a challenge that will be met head on. St. FX is currently ranked #3 in Canada. They are a very tough team to beat. St. Mary's is currently ranked fifth among the seven AUSA teams. SMU was recently defeated by both Dalhousie and Acadia. With the two close games against Dal and Acadia last weekend, the Raiders are up for the challenge.

Photo by Glen Vienneau



Photo by Glen Vienneau



Glen Read from the outside . . . and the inside