



The Varsity Reds Field Hockey team at the Fredericton Airport Sunday. Lying down in front, Becca Wright. Front Row (l-r): Krista Harris, Natasha Connell, trainer Gina McNeil, Stacey Bean, Krista Thompson, Tanya Whalen, Stacy Gallant and head trainer Angie Arseneault. Back Row (l-r): Jodi LeBlanc, Tami Legere, Josette Babineau, Wendi Gallant-Voutour, Kelly McCormack, Dianne Rogers, Charla Currie, Lana Comeau, Kim Richard, Tammy Jewer, Shaughn Coles and Beth Wright. Photo by Kevin G. Porter

## A Season With the Varsity Reds

*Our Sports Editor reviews the colourful season played by the UNB Women's Field Hockey team, including their near-win of the national championship*

*by Bruce Denis*

The Varsity Reds Field Hockey team has wreaked havoc on their AUAU opponents for the last five years. Returning this year with some key recruits, they were hell-bound and determined to make the best of their silver medal performance at last year's national championships.

The Reds took their legacy south of the border to begin the season in early September. They managed to down Brown, Harvard, and Lasalle but fell to Providence College, Boston University and UMaine. "The tour was excellent and we lost those three games by only one goal. The reason was fitness; the other teams have been training since August," said coach Donna Hornbrook.

The UPEI Panthers were the first to fall prey to the Reds as they opened the regular season at home on Chapman Field. The Reds won 3-0 and 5-0 in a pair of games as Josette Babineau netted six of the eight goals while Kelly McCormack and Wendi Gallant-Voutour added the other two.

Having already played on turf during their American tour, the Reds swept the St. Mary's Huskies right off their famed field taking the two games by scores of 1-0 and 2-0. Babineau handled all the scoring for the Reds and notched her first CIAU Athlete of the Week award for her efforts. Goalies Krista Thompson and Krista Harris shared in the shutouts. Sweeper McCormack also played well enough to garner UNB Athlete of the Week honors.

After a two week break, the team visited UPEI to notch another couple of wins. They opened the weekend with a convincing 6-0 decision but they let down their guard the following game allowing the first regular season goal against them.

Senior/rookie Stacey Bean proved to be the difference as she popped in the winner to preserve UNB's perfect record with a 2-1 win. Bean was named UNB Athlete of the Week.

Hornbrook said "Stacey's work ethic, maturity and leadership have made her a real example for the team."

The season ended on Chapman Field with a couple of games against the Huskies. Babineau scored four more goals in UNB's 3-1 and 3-0 routing as they finished the season with an 8-0 record. She managed to finish the season with 17 of the team's 25 goals, good enough to win the league scoring title by 14 goals. A stellar effort in her last year of university eligibility. Bean was second with 3 goals while Gallant-Voutour was third with 2.

Before heading to the AUAU Championships, the Reds managed to settle a score with UMaine as they notched a 1-0 home exhibition win over the Black Bears in preparation for the title tournament.

After travelling to Halifax, the team squeaked by UPEI in the AUAU semifinals but took St. Mary's by storm, shelling them 3-0 to claim their fifth consecutive championship. With a ticket to the CIAU's in her hand, Hornbrook said "We are a very good team going into the national competition and the team is very capable of winning a medal and meeting our goal for the season."

Krista Thompson, Stacey Bean, Josette Babineau, Kelly McCormack, Wendi Gallant-Voutour and Tanya Whalen were all named AUAU First Team All-Stars.

The following weekend, the team returned to Toronto for the first time since last year's silver medal performance. After being amicably bumped off the practice field by the Toronto Argonauts, the Reds handled the defending national champion University of

Victoria 1-0. Bean scored the lone goal. That same night they managed a tie against number 1 ranked UBC as Babineau had the equalizer. At that point it was beginning to look a lot like last year.

In semifinal play, Babineau gave the Reds a 1-0 win over the Alberta Golden Bears and a spot in the national championship final, the second year in a row, against U of Toronto. Playing in their own backyard, UofT put an end to UNB's trek taking the game 2-0. Goalie Krista Thompson was the only Red named to the tournament All-Star team but the defensive tactics of Dianne Rogers proved equally essential to the team's medal.

The silver medal tasted a little sweeter when the team was received at the airport on the same night. A wall of cheers welcomed the girls home from one of their most successful seasons. But after being named CIAU Player of the Year earlier in the week, Babineau said at the airport "I'd give anything, I'd trade in all my awards just to have the whole team experience the feeling of winning a national championship."

The team finished the season with a total win-loss record of 16-1-4.

After all was said and done Hornbrook wrapped up the season saying "I think after a bit of time we'll gain some perspective and say 'hey, we are second in Canada' and how many teams can say they were in the final two years in a row. We have to be very happy about that."

(The Sports Editor would like to thank Features Editor Mimi Cormier, Mark 'PMT guy' Morgan and Phillip Space for their help in making this feature. Special thanks to Stacey Bean for her contribution.)



**REDS**  
FIELD HOCKEY



Tanya Whalen (l) and Kelly McCormack show off their medals. Photo K. Porter

AUAU Regular Season  
UNB 3 vs. UPEI  
UNB 5 vs. UPEI  
UNB 1 @ SMU  
UNB 2 @ SMU  
UNB 6 @ UPEI  
UNB 2 @ UPEI  
UNB 3 vs. SMU  
UNB 3 vs. SMU

AUAU Championship  
Semifinal  
UNB 2 vs. UPEI  
Final  
UNB 3 vs. SMU

CIAU Championship  
UNB 1 vs. Uvic



The Toronto Argonauts welcomed the Varsity Championships. Becca Wright posed with Mike on the front page of the Toronto Sun. PMT by M