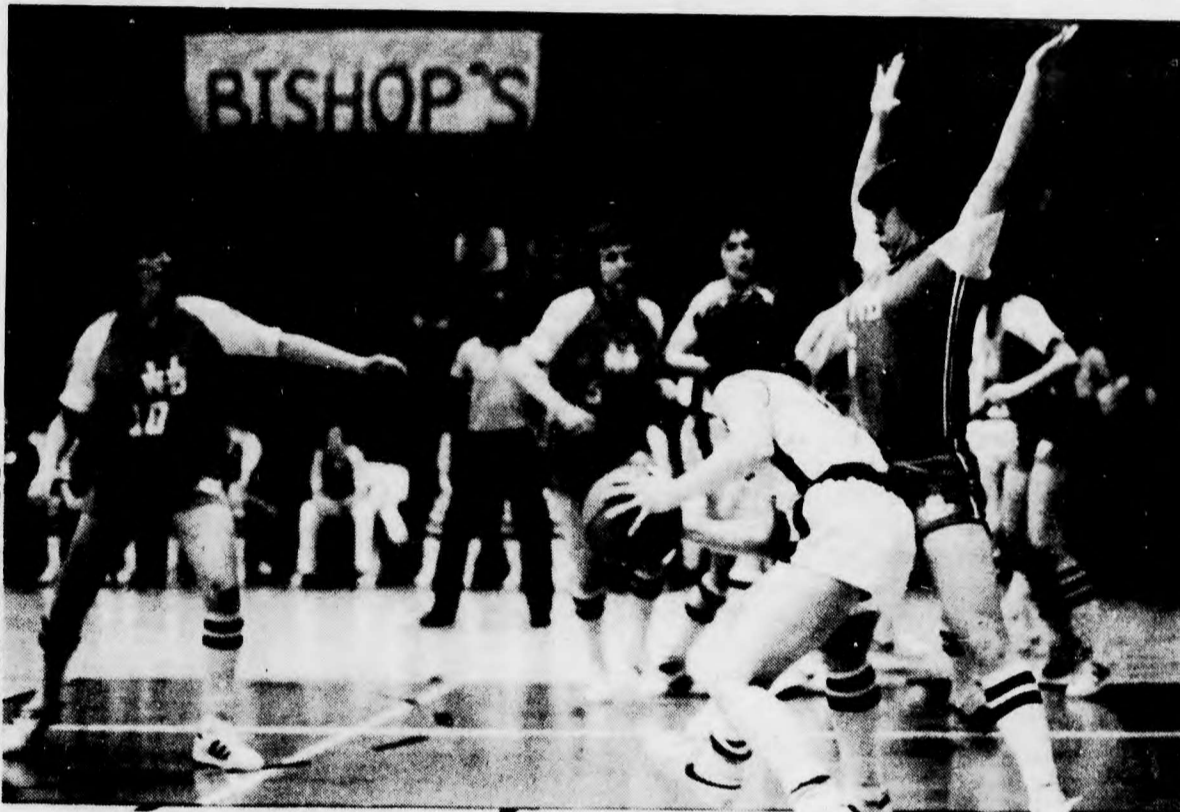


# Bloomers go to Guelph

No one expected the Red Bloomers Women's Basketball team to win the Atlantic Conference. No one expected them to go to the Nationals. No one expected they would finish as the fourth place team in the country. But they did! The UNB Red Bloomers returned home from 3 tough games in Guelph, Ontario, Defeating 3rd ranked Calgary, holding their own against Victoria the eventual national champs and losing a close one to Winnipeg for a surprising 4th place over all finish.

Two weeks ago the Bloomers pulled the unexpected by emerging AUSA champs. Riding on this high they entered national competition as underdogs from a supposedly "weak" conference. In their first game against the Calgary squad the girls proved they were representing a strong conference. Calgary boasted Canada's Player of the Year named at the CIAU banquet Wednesday night- Janis Paskevitch, a 6'1" forward who averaged 22 points a

game in season play. UNB's Ann McClellan did a superb defensive job on this superstar keeping her to 15 points thereby throwing off Calgary's entire offense. The game began poorly for the Bloomers as they worked out the jitters from being at a national tournament (for most girls it was a first). They fell 14 points behind but managed to bring that to a 7 point half time deficit. Coach Coleen Dufresne sparked the team at half time, for the Bloomers came out a different team. They outscored the stunned Calgary squad 16-2 in the first early minutes of the 2nd half. Joanne MacLean shot daringly from long range to score 22 points with a 61 per cent game average. McClellan fought her way inside for a fantastic 28 point performance. Laura Sanders added 9. All points became vital in the dying minutes as Calgary desperately tried for a comeback. The Bloomers held their lead to win 68-65, the biggest upset of the tournament. The girls were ecstatic and proud most of all at the team effort and hustle



ROBYN CHALONER Photo

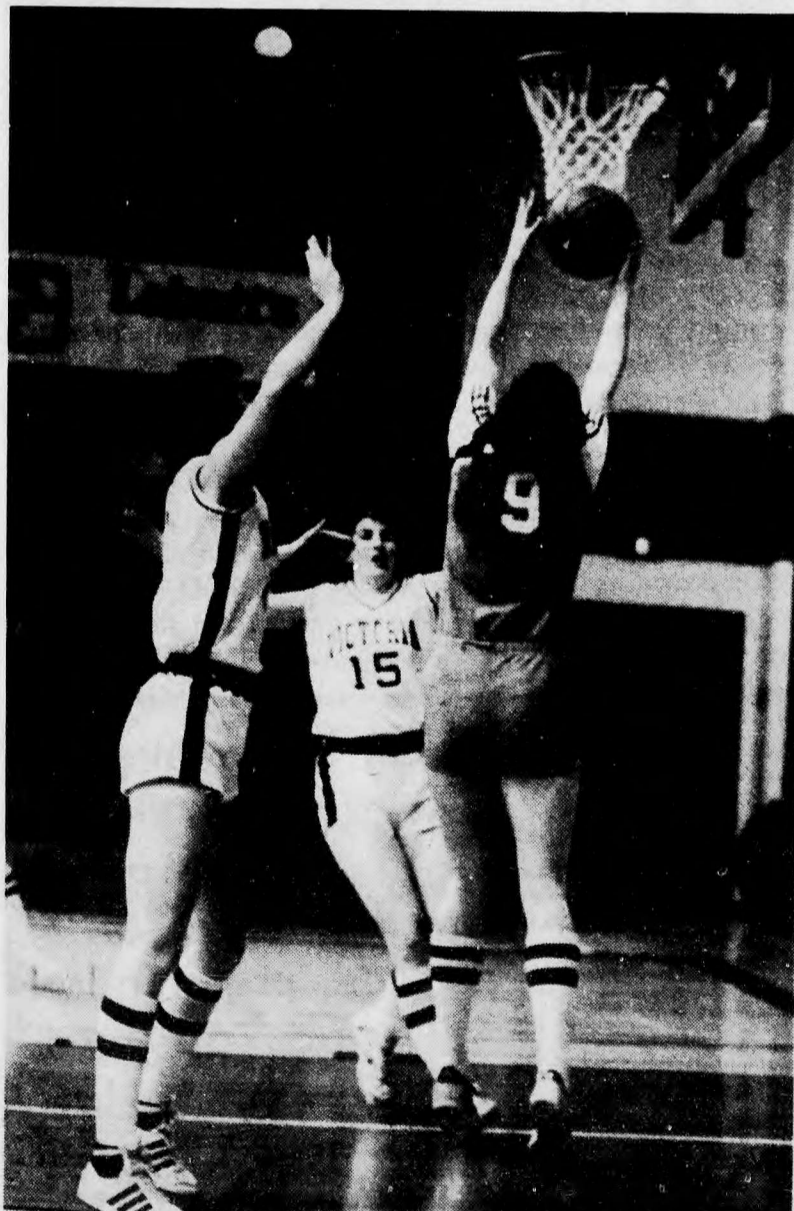
**Carolyn Gammon 0 Joanne MacLean showing tenacious defense versus Victoria**

displayed. Many spectators were impressed and commented on the team's full court pressure style of play, an exceptionally difficult defense to maintain for forty minutes. The victory lifted the Bloomers into the winners round, assuring them of a finish in the top four.

Friday's game against Victoria was both a victory and a defeat. It was a victory in that the Red Bloomers proved that they could play with the top team in the country. Although the final score showed Victoria had won, the girls from UNB had to be proud of their performance. The Victoria girls were big and had national team players, All-Canadians and tournament all-stars to their credit. The Bloomers had desire, tremendous team effort and were playing up to their potential. Once again Ann McClellan came up with a super offensive job shooting 50 per cent from the floor for 19 points. Laura Sanders netted 14, shot 100 per cent from the foul line and hauled down many needed rebounds. Lesley Nason and Joanne MacLean both aided offensively with Nason storming on the boards as well. Two breakaway layups by Carolyn Gammon in the last few minutes gave hope to turn the game around. At 3:08 UNB was down by 8. The extreme intensity of the two games proved too much to handle as U of Victoria gave a final surge scoring undeserved baskets to win

76-61. The Bloomers were disappointed but rightfully pleased over their joust with the top team in the country. The final game for 3rd and 4th place was a heartbreaker. The girls were tired from the strenuous tournament pressures but they rallied to lead through most of the match against Winnipeg. MacLean came up with 16 points to lead the Bloomers and Gammon followed with 14 points. McClellan rebounded well and valuable defense efforts by Nason and Jill Jeffrey helped keep the Bloomers on top. Once again, the last few minutes told on the girls as the 6 foot

plus Winnipeg monsters plowed their way into the key for several lay ups. The final score 59-52 placed the Bloomers as fourth in Canada. Throughout all games players who saw less floor time were nevertheless vital to the team, made their contributions. Sandy Hill and Lynn Estabrooks were often called to substitute and played commendably. Anne Steeves and Caroline Hamilton-Irving displayed team effort and dedication at their first nationals and will carry the experience for the future. Congratulations to the Bloomers '80-81!



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**Ann McClellan puts it up for two points in U.N.B.'s game vs Victoria.**



BOB BROOKS Photo

**Leslie Nason, Coach Coleen Dufresne Joanne MacLean hold AUSA trophy.**