

Bombers' chances at title blown in Acadia loss

After it looked like the Bombers had been given new life, the bubble burst, as the Acadia Axemen stole away with a 23-17 win on a mushy College Field.

Earlier in the week, it had been learned that because of using an ineligible player, Dalhousie would have to forfeit their win over UNB. That gave the Bombers a 3-1 record, which meant that wins over Acadia and St. Mary's would have given them the title. Unfortunately, the high hopes were to no avail, as Acadia, led by speedy Scott Crighton upset the Bombers in an exciting comeback win. With both their quarterbacks hurting, the Bombers had to rely on the running game, as the attempts to pass by Forbes and Malcolm led to disastrous interceptions. Although the running game was good once again spearheaded by Bob Clive, who scored two touchdowns, it wasn't enough to keep the Bombers out of trouble. The defense was good on all but a few disastrous plays, with John Johnson and Larry Jack standing out. The pass defense was good, allowing only their first touchdown pass in five games. The real disappointment had to be the right side of the offensive line, who were blown back into the ball carrier twice on third down plays, resulting in the Bombers losing possession of the ball at key times.

The game started out well for the Bombers, as Dave Kent intercepted a deflected pass at the Acadia 38. Four plays later Doug Gallagher connected on a 13 yard field goal to give UNB a 3-0 lead. After giving up the ball twice on interceptions, the Bombers finally

got in real trouble when Acadia picked up a UNB fumble at the 25 and tied the score with a 30 yard field goal. In the second quarter, a 32 yard passing play to Jamie Porteous set the Bombers up on the Acadia 28. After three carries, Bob Clive had rolled in for his first of two touchdowns. With the convert the Bombers took a 10-3 lead into the half. At the start of the second half, Acadia picked up an interception and later a fumble to put them in Bomber territory, where Deonisi hit Crighton for the Acadia touchdown. A blocked kick at the Acadia 30 set up a UNB score soon after, as Bob Clive drove 22 yards for the touchdown. With the convert, UNB took the lead 17-10. UNB kept Acadia hemmed in for the next 15 minutes, but half way through the fourth quarter, Crighton for Acadia returned a punt 108 yards for his second touchdown. With the ball at midfield, UNB gave up the ball on downs, and the Axemen stunned the Bombers on the next series with a 50 yard run by Crighton. Three plays later, Acadia had scored, taking the lead 23-17, which they held until the end.

Bob Clive was again great, with another 100 yard plus performance, but in the end it was the seven turnovers which killed the Bombers as much as Crighton's explosive runs.

Tomorrow at 1:30 the league leading St. Mary's Huskies arrive to battle the Bombers. This is the last game of the season, so get out and cheer the Bombers on to a winning season when they upset the powerful Huskies of Halifax.



Scott Crighton of Acadia, who was poison to the Bombers last Saturday takes off on his 108 yard touchdown run on a punt return which helped Acadia comeback to take the game 23-17.

Ironmen win Provincial Crown

On Saturday UNB won the rugby championship of New Brunswick by whipping the Fredericton Loyalists 20-0. Against the churned background of the Raceway field, Rick Adams, the captain of the Ironmen, accepted the MacNair Cup for his team and promised that UNB would be more than ready for the Caledonia Cup battle against the Nova Scotia champions here in Fredericton on November 18th. Should UNB triumph in that all-important game they will have won The Triple Crown of Maritimes rugby: University Champions; New Brunswick Champions; and Champions of the Maritimes. There can be little doubt that when the academic year is done the Ironmen will be seen to have the finest record of any UNB team.

Playing conditions at the Raceway were grim - worse than the snow and mud was the coating of ice which, quickly shattered, sliced the players' thighs and left them streaming blood. But neither mud nor ice could impede the power of the Ironmen as they trampled and dominated the Loyalists from beginning to end. In the first half fullback Barry Ward made two penalty kicks for 6 points and lockforward Bill Sullivan smashed through would-be tacklers from ten yards out for a touchdown to give UNB a half-time lead of 10-0. The second half saw the University backs at their best, as they passed with well-timed precision, faked out Loyalist defenders, and combined for two touchdowns, the first by left-wing Brian Lucock, the second by outside-centre Hugh Dickison. Rick Kent who has developed into an indefatigable halfback converted Dickison's try. UNB controlled virtually all phases of the

game, and it seems fair to say that the Loyalists almost never threatened to score. The outstanding player for the City team was Peter Pacey, former captain of the Ironmen, who almost single-handedly attacked UNB with his power-running; but Pacey's former team-mates tackled him mercilessly and he never broke through.

So, in the chill gloom of this late November afternoon, UNB won a title they richly deserved. Better-conditioned and playing finer rugby than their opponents, they finished the league season with 5 victories and 1 defeat (a protested defeat at that), and won out over the highly touted Saint John Trojans and Loyalists. UNB played both of these favoured teams twice, and the point totals are of interest: UNB scored 65 in the four key games, while the Trojans and Loyalists were able to make only 12 points against the Ironmen. It will be apparent to those of you who know rugby that UNB tackle as well as they kick and run with the ball.

Coach Bob Cockburn feels that this is UNB's best team since the sport was revived here in 1967. In past years, he remarked, UNB had "star" players—the slashing hooker Tony McCurdy; Bob Kay, a brilliant running back for two seasons; Clark Fitzgerald, probably the best all-around back ever to play rugby here; and the durable wing-forward Peter Pacey. Never before, however, had a UNB club played together so well, and on no previous club had morale and spirit been as high. Speaking of Saturday's match, the coach was especially pleased with the 80 minutes of all-out effort given

by left prop Peter Asser, and with the backfield: "Barry Ward came into the line from his fullback position time after time to strengthen our attack, scrumhalf Peter Silk and flyhalf Rick Kent got the ball out quickly and cleanly to the centres, and Brian Lucock had a fine game on the wing — his try was well-earned. On the other wing, Dave Baird tackled with his customary vigour; at one point he sprinted sixty yards to cut down a ball-carrier and erase the Loyalists' vest scoring chance." When asked about UNB's chances against the Nova Scotia winner (either Pictou County or Dalhousie), Coach Cockburn observed that UNB had defeated Dalhousie a couple of weeks ago for the University Championship. He then recalled how a fit, aggressive Pictou County team beat the Ironmen in the Caledonia Cup Match in New Glasgow last November. "Between now and the 18th," he said, "we must train harder than ever before if we mean to win that big silver trophy and if we want to celebrate on the night of the 18th."

Finally, five Ironmen played for the Provincial all-star team in the Eastern Canadian Provincial Championships in Toronto: Barry Ward, Hugh Dickison, Bryce Eldridge, Jim Neville, and Rick Adams. N.B. lost to Ontario in the semi-finals and to Newfoundland in the consolation match, but consider this: all of N.B.'s points were scored by UNB players: Barry Ward made a number of penalty kicks, and the always-dangerous Bryce Eldridge scored New Brunswick's only touchdown.

Next, THE CALEDONIA CUP!



The Ironmen crushed the Fredericton Loyalists 22-0 last Saturday on their way to winning the Provincial title, to go along with the University championship they won two weeks ago. Next in line is the Maritime championship on the 18th.

Photo by Bob Boyes