

UNB Wrestlers look forward to season

UNB's most successful varsity team looks as if it is ready to regain the AUSA crown it last won in 1982.

The wrestling team which has won 8 of the last 14 titles is so optimistic due to the fact that it has recruited better than any other school in the east. Six recruits, two walk-ons mixed with 8 veterans should lead the Bears past AUSA champion Memorial who have not lost anyone to graduation.

Last year was coach Leo McGee's rookie season. He inherited a team which won ever open tournament and lost the AUSA title on a tie breaker. Instead of sitting back and watching his team grow older, he recruited where he was weak, thus this year's team has the potential not only to win this year but next year and the year after that.

At 112 pounds Ray Ne from Toronto should repeat his performance of a year ago. With the better competition at practice a move from 3rd at the AUSA to second is not out of reach.

The first recruit by Coach McGee was Todd Bursey. This 118 lb. provincial champion from Moncton was sought after by a few schools. He is the atlantic regional champion and with work should be able to upset Memorial to capture an AUSA title.

The biggest surprise of the off season was when 125 lb. wrestler Randy Smith showed up on Coach McGee's door. Smith is a two time OUSA runner up as well as placing 4th and 5th at the CIAU's. Having already sat out a year he is ready to roll. The former York Yeoman MVP has his sights on an AUSA crown and medal at the CIAU's.

The toughest weight class at UNB or for that matter in Canada is 134 with one rookie and 3 veterans all are competing for this weight class. At this point there is not one individual who has emerged from the pack. Captain Brian Bessey is one of two AUSA champions in this weight class from UNB. This Fredericton grad will face a stiff challenge from the other AUSA champion Geary Wilson from Moncton. If either slow down AUSA runner-up Dwayne Wakerell or rookie recruit Paul MacDonald are waiting to take their place. MacDonald was 6th at the Canada Winter Games. Whoever wins this class at UNB should become the AUSA champion. Anyone of the four could win the AUSA's. The losers at UNB will be forced down into the 125 class or up into the 142 class. At 142 they will find Mike Hopper waiting. Hopper is a second year wrestler from Moncton high school.

150 lbs. will boil down to two wrestlers. Veteran Mike Sharpe who already has 2 AUSA medals under his belt and rookie Chris Fucco from Ottawa. Recruited by 5 different universities Fucco could be the prize catch coming from the Ontario pond. He was a two time Canada Age group runner-up as well as placing 4th and 6th at the Ontario high school championships.

Don Ryan from James M. Hill is the question mark on the team. The question is not with his talent, but with his weight.

He may wrestle at either 158 or 190. The major obstacle in this Provincial champion's way is two time AUSA champion Ron Richard who has laid claim to the 167 lb. class. Richard, from Sackville, is favoured to repeat as AUSA champion once a few minor injuries heal.

Dave Bessey at 180 pounds is favoured to regain his AUSA title which he lost last year in an upset to Memorial's Dave Clarke who finished 3rd at the CIAU's. Bessey returned a week after his AUSA loss and gained a small bit of satisfaction as he mauled Clarke 8-1.

The other walk on is Rick Vail at 190 lbs. Vail, from John Renine in Montreal is the most improved wrestler on the team. His continued improvement should lead him to a medal at the AUSA's.

The only other 1983 AUSA champion from UNB is Murray Reid. Reids seems to be picking up from where he left off last year as he seems very strong and should be favoured to repeat as the AUSA champion.

The last wrestler and last recruit is heavyweight Mike Hovey from Chatam. This

James M. Hill grad could be the final piece in the puzzle as he should be able to be in the medal rounds at the AUSA's.

Overall, the team should win a medal in every weight class at the AUSA's. McGee's expectations of the teams are simple. Regain the AUSA crown last won in his year of wrestling for the Black Bears and have the team ranked in the CIAU top ten. His work recruiting should pay off as the combination of rookies and veterans should make these goals reality.

Blazers destroy Saint John Golden Lights

By MARY SCOTT

The UNB Red Blazers women's hockey team scored a two-season high 9 goals Sunday on their way to a 9-2 win over Saint John Golden Lights. It was the second win in a row over Saint John, the week before they had beaten the Lights 4-2 in the Port City.

Sunday's game at the Aitken Center saw the Blazers dominate from start to finish; it took them only 61 seconds to open the scoring as Barb Cox dropped a pass to rookie Paula MacDonald in the high slot, which she whistled into the upper left corner. A minute and 40 seconds later France Thibodeau scored the eventual winner at the 12:54 mark of the period when she took Alison Lee's interception of a Saint John power-play pass, and deked Riley, for the first UNB shorthanded goal of the season. Anne Campbell added a fourth goal before the period ran out to make it 4-0 after 20 minutes.

The second period was relatively low scoring. Saint John's Iris Bodechon and UNB's Alison Lee exchanged goals to make it 5-1 going into the final period.

A pair of third period

powerplay goals set up a 4 goal period for UNB. Thibodeau and Campbell got their second of the game with the advantage, while Leblanc and Campbell scored even up to double their game totals, Bodechon got her second of the game late in the period to round off the scoring to the 9-2 final.

The win gives the Red Blazers a 3-2 record on the season, all in exhibition play, 1 win and 2 losses have come at the hands of boys Bantam competition from the Fredericton area.

The win gives the Red Blazers a 3 - 2 record

This year's edition of the Blazers also is setting a high scoring pace, having scored 24 goals in their 5 games. According to statistics taken from last year's team the team only collected 63 goals in the entire year, they are well on their way to surpassing that mark early in the New Year. Some hot early season scoring efforts have come from some players who last year had up and down years. Last season the line of Alison Lee, Carol Allport, and

France Thibodeau combined for a total of 25 scoring points, five games in this year the trios combined goals and assists stand at 23 already. Allport leads everyone in scoring with

Allport leads everyone in scoring

5 goals and 4 assists. Anne Campbell also has held a hot hand, the little P.E.I. native has only played 2 games because of commitments to the varsity field hockey team, but in those 2 contests she has

collected 3 goals and 3 assists. Those are only some of the Blazers who are finding the range. Blazers coach Mike Power likes the situation, "last year I usually had one line that was scoring at any one time, and I went with them as much as I could in key situations, this year I know whoever is on is more than capable of putting the puck in."

With term papers and projects coming due the Red Blazers will take this weekend off, returning to the ice Monday at 7:00 to take on a team of Bantam boys from the F.Y.H.A.

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