

New Season brings new teams

by KEN QUIGLEY
 Sports Editor

The leaves are no longer falling, the sun surrenders itself with great apprehension, while mother nature toys with our phobia of snow, but most of all our favorite teams have withered into their off season. The teams we've seen through their term past have given us cause for pride.

However, our reflection, albeit enjoyable, must remain brief in view of the new wave of athletic teams emerging to make their mark in the winter months ahead.

1984/1985 proved to be a dismal year for the UNB Red Raider men's basketball team. Concluding the season with a two and eighteen record did little to build up respect around the league. Now that they're embarking on a new season, it would appear that nothing short of a miracle could rectify things.

Frankly, it appears that this season, like the last, will have to be taken with a grain of salt. Don Nelson, the Raiders head coach, views his team's chances this year with "cautious optimism." A highlight on last year's play was Dag Rutherford, who earned the rookie-of-the-year award, but now is being labeled as merely "the best of the worst." Dag must take a major role in this year's campaign; unfortunately, he will find too big an obstacle in Don Nelson, who doesn't think he's a great player, and shows little confidence in him at all.

Three players Don does rest a lot of hope in, however, are Fredericton's own Mark Nuwal, Tony Gillespie and Andy Hayward; claiming them to be "the mainstays of the team". They, as well as 6'5" Manford Hoyer and Richard Walker — this summer's recruitments from Ontario — must come up big if the Raiders wish to maintain any chance of gaining a playoff spot.

Don knows that the best his team can place is fourth; behind UPEI, Acadia and St. F.X. His claim that UNB is in the hunt with Mount Allison, Dal and SMU for the fourth spot is a bit wishful; stranger things have happened, however.

In contrast to the depressing season that the Raiders forecast, the UNB Red Bloomers promise to deliver another exciting and successful campaign.



Claire Mitton, Bloomers head coach, exudes confidence, a fact exemplified in her reply to who she thought was going to be tough to beat this year, "the Red Bloomers."

In actuality, the only teams that do stand a chance of causing UNB any anxiety are UPEI, Dalhousie and Acadia.

To flip flop on, we arrive at the UNB Black Bears, a wrestling team whose prospects this year are gloomy. From what was destined to be a dynasty after last year's capture of the AUSA title, their third in as many years, proved to be the end of the beginning. The Black Bears were decimated subsequent to the departure of head coach Leo McGee. 75% of the team jumped ship, including the likes of Chris Fuoco, no. 2 in Canada, and Ron Richard, three-time AUSA champion.

New head coach Wayne Wiggins could have stepped into an easier job, and understandably admits "I would like to be optimistic, but I can't." This year must remain a rebuilding year, and part of this process demands new bodies to get involved. Wayne recognizes that this year will involve considerably more instruction than normal and urges people not to be hesitant in joining up due to lack of experience.

The team which traditionally dominates our winter sports attention falls next on the list. The UNB Red Devils hockey team has already had a chance, over the past four weeks, to display their talents. I'm afraid the message thus far is not promising. Their record stands at 1 and 4 and as head coach Doug MacLean puts it,

"we haven't exactly been terrorizing the league." For a more in-depth report on the Devils' upcoming season, look to Rege Legassie's "Sporting Chance" column.

Sonny Phillips, head coach of the UNB Lady Reds female volleyball team, describes this year, as well as last's, as a "rebuilding year." (A painfully popular term around UNB, I'm afraid). The loss of four Red

starters in the off season and failure to recruit anyone in their place, speaks well of what their chances are this year.

Co-captains Cheryl Matchet and Caroline Campbell have both been around for a while, and have been described as "workhorses" by Phillips. Both must perform well, along with Michelle Walker in center, if they wish to give Mount

Allison and Dal a run for the money.

Their schedule this year involves playing each of the eight teams in their league twice, ending with the top four teams in the AUSA's playing at UNB for the title. Let's hope the Reds have an opportunity to utilize a home court advantage.

Moving onto the men's side of the sport, traditionally coached by Mike Washburn, Eric Bolan finds himself assuming most of the coaching duties for the Rebels. This is due to Mike playing in the CFL with the Montreal Concordes in post-season play. Eric is ambivalent in his wishes for Montreal's fate.

So far the team is 1 and 4, but Eric takes the blame for two of the losses, claiming he had the wrong lineup in. As for placing, "I hope to finish third for the year" says Eric, who plans to finish behind Dal and U de Moncton. If the Rebels receive big performances from Chris Moore and Kevin Bolan, they can dramatically alter their last year's record of 0 and 18. I've seen Moncton play, and I was not impressed. UNB has the opportunity to make this their year, for the play of Dal and U de M have been plagued with inconsistency.

Beavers dive into season

by DAVID G. THOMAS

UNB men's swimming team captain Peter Woodward won his first AUSA Invitational event last weekend in Dalhousie. Woodward, a fourth-year physical education student, captured wins in the 100-meter and 200-meter breaststroke events.

"Woody is swimming very fast for this time of year. His times are very close to be personal bests. A lot of his success this season has to do with the training he did during the summer," said Beaver coach Mich Oliver.

Although there were several good individual performances on the weekend, the team as a whole did not fare as well. A strong Dalhousie team won both the men's and women's team titles, while UNB took third in women's and fourth on the men's side.

Many of the UNB swimmers were rested on their best events last weekend so that they could be mentally prepared for Oliver's demands in the next few weeks.

Returning AUSA champion Jackie Hatherly chose to swim

some of her good events, losing a close race in the 400 IM in a time of 5:17:52 to the winning time of 5:17:08. Coach Oliver expects that performance to be ranked second or third in the country before the Christmas break. Hatherly also picked up a 3rd in the 200-meter backstroke and a 4th in the 200 IM.

Sue Verhille also had a good meet. She placed second in the 100-meter freestyle, third in the 50-meter free and fourth in

the 200-free and 100-meter backstroke.

UNB relays fared well on the weekend with the men being narrowly beaten in the 400 medley and the women nabbing third third spot.

Both the men and women placed third in the 800-meter freestyle relays.

Coach Oliver says that the team is right on schedule for an overall second-place finish at AUSA championships in February.

Blazers begin new league

by MARY SCOTT
 Brunswick staff

The UNB Red Blazers women's hockey team will begin something this week they have never had in their previous eleven years of existence, a regular season schedule. The Blazers will play this year in the Fredericton Youth Hockey Association Bantam Rep Division.

Their first game was last Wednesday when they took on the York Arena team. UNB will play their first 'road

game' in the Nashwaaksis

Blazers 4 - York Bantam 3

Arena tomorrow at 3:30, and then return home for a 7 p.m. game at the Aitken Center against the Coliseum Bantams Monday. The setup in the Rep Division has each city rink with two teams, and the teams play their whole schedule in the city; any travel is independent of their FYHA schedule.

In other years, the Blazers played a full exhibition

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