

Raiders will aim for

by bob goodine
brunswick staff

The UNB Red Raiders have zeroed in on the Northeast college conference basketball championship. In two home games last week, the Raiders defeated the Ricker College Bulldogs 71-52 and the Fort Kent State Bengals 88-77, bringing their season totals to nine games won and two lost.

UNB now have just one meeting left, with the Bengals in Fort Kent, and a Raider victory will force a tie if not gain them the league honours. Fort Kent are eight and one for the season but they still have to play Ricker in Houlton. So a combination of a Bengals' loss and a Raiders' win will bring the NECC goodies home to UNB.

UNB defeated Ricker for the second time this season last Wednesday. The game was not as exciting as the one at Ricker and the Raiders walked off with a 19 point margin.

Dave Nutbrown played up to his usual standard and led in the scoring. He hooped a total of 22 points, eight coming from his nine tries at the line. High man for Ricker was Steve Hamilton with 15.

Other double-digit results were recorded by Bob English, 14; Bob Bonnell, 12; and Ricker guard, "Dippy" Osborne, 10. The remainder of scoring for UNB came from Gord Lebel, 8; Fred MacMullin, 6; Peter Barr, 3; Ron McClements, 3; Alex Dingwall, 1; and two from Kenny Pike in his first game as a Red Raider. Along with Pike, Art Stothart was brought up from the JV's by coach Don Nelson to serve as a guard.

NUTBROWN SCORES 40

The Raiders, fresh from their win over Ricker, played host to Fort Kent State Bengals last Friday. This was the tie-breaker for the NECC standings and a do-or-die situation for UNB. The 88-77 victory from the Raiders was the visitors' first loss this season. UNB are now in first place with 18 points.

The match was a sports highlight of the UNB - STU Winter Carnival. Trophies were



Lon Mullin breaks through the defence and blasts the puck by the X goalie to score UNB's first goal.

brunswick photo by dave macneil

Devils win carnival game

UNB Red Devils came up with a strong effort last Saturday to gain a well-deserved win over defending Maritime champions, St. Francis Xavier X-Men. It was UNB's first win over St. F.X. since 1964, and was a timely boost to Devils' playoff hopes.

This game left UNB with a 7-5-1 record, compared to St. F.X.'s 8-7-1 mark, and left Acadia as the main competition for a playoff position.

Lon Mullin, Pete Ross and Perry Kennedy scored for UNB. Jack Doyle scored the lone opposition goal. Mullin scored in the first period with each team two men short when he had the X goalie at his mercy. Doyle's goal came in

the second. He beat Lelievre cleanly from 15 feet.

Rookie Ross scored the winner for the Devils early in the third period. He took a pass all alone in front of the X net. Kennedy scored the insurance goal with a backhand into an empty net after a short goalmouth-scramble. UNB outshot St. F.X. 35-25.

The game was the most exciting home contest of the year, despite lackluster play at times. UNB had the pressure on in the first and third periods when its goals were scored. The Devils outshot X 13-5 in a chippy first period and 17-5 in the third when they missed several scoring chances.

The visitors pressed UNB in the second. The Devils had trouble clearing the puck but Lelievre was steady in the onslaught. After Ross scored at 3:12 of the third, the largest and most receptive crowd of the year felt the pressure mount, as the clock moved toward the end.

The Devils and their followers were frustrated time and again but Kennedy finally slipped the puck home and clinched the game.

UNB now has four road games left in the regular schedule. Tomorrow the Devils are at St. Dunstan's, they play two at Memorial next weekend and finish at Universite de Moncton Feb. 25.

Volleyball is full-fledged

The UNB-men's volleyball team will be in Wolfville tomorrow for the Maritime intercollegiate finals. This marks an important step toward making volleyball a full-fledged varsity sport at UNB, where basketball gets top billing in gymnasium sports. Only in their third year as a men's varsity team, the volleyball players have come around well, and rank as another potential winning squad at UNB.

Under coach prof Malcolm Early, the team participates on a level not far beneath the basketball team. With three practice sessions a week and play in all-day tournaments on any weekends, the team gets considerable preparation for the important tournaments on many tournaments ahead. The game itself is for six-aside teams, and requires a high degree of team play with individual skill and important factor. Most of the 13 players currently on the squad are about 5'11", not particularly tall for volleyball players.

Early feels that height is as important for volleyball as basketball, not only for spiking but for better reach in the backcourt. However, UNB should be a contender in the finals tomorrow, and if successful, advanced to the Canadian finals at Mt. Allison early in March.

As well as entering the intercollegiate finals, UNB also plays in the senior classification, and is entered in the Canadian seniors finals, also at Mt. Allison in March. In tournaments to date, UNB has often competed against senior and highschool competition, besides other universities. In an invitational tournament hosted by UNB last month, a senior team from Fredericton Junction defeated UNB in the playoff final. For many years, junior and highschool teams from that area have fared well against squads from bigger population centers throughout eastern Canada.

This craft brings up an interesting point for all sports in New Brunswick. With the specialization of coaches and instructors that is now possible in New Brunswick because of the consolidation process evi-

dent in the province, UNB would be in a position to take advantage, more than any other Maritime university, of the improved level of native athletes. There would be more than 1000 male freshmen from New Brunswick each year coming to UNB. The improved coaching and gym facilities in the provincial highschools should ensure UNB of a solid core of athletes in just about all sports.

With volleyball especially, good coaching and even modest gym facilities should be adequate in producing a winner, if the athletes are willing. The varsity coaches at UNB should have more players to choose from and better quality players as highschool standouts will, to a great extent, replace those who are on teams merely because they show up.

In volleyball, UNB could easily have another winner in the "players' sport" category. While not a galmorous and exciting from a spectator's viewpoint, UNB has a healthy collection of champions in so many sports that are ignored by most students on campus. The way things are going, volleyball will probably be another case in point.

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