

Soccer fever alive and well at UNB

By ALBERT EL-KHOURY

Soccer fever is back and the talk on campus of late is whether or not UNB can match last year's amazing 9-1 record. In my opinion, it will be hard but not impossible. As of now, the Red Shirts 1978 version is almost as powerful as last year's line-up. Key members of the team have returned with the exception of Jim (the Greek) Kakaletis who has elected to hang up his cleats and coach Fredericton High School this year.

With the likes of Dania Ebenezzer, George Wood, David Stringer, Nels Anderson and rookie Dwight Hornbrook in the front line, Pierre El-Khoury, rookie Greg Kraft, and Cletus Ntsike in the midfield, Tim Hicks, Ed Hansen, Robert McFarlane, Gerry Murphy and Fernando Da Silva at fullback, and Winston Ayeni and David Harding in goal, UNB is talking nationals this year. Some promising rookies who could fill in for the starters in case of injuries are also attending UNB's daily practices including goalie Allen Palmer, Robert Johnston, Peter Spicer and Bill Buggie.

Last year UNB's success was based upon the combination of a potent and destructive offence, a very versatile halfback line and fullbacks who are not only defensive experts but also dangerous attackers.

Coach Gary Brown's ability and professional skill to make this talent work together as a unit

sparked the team to their best ever performance. This year the same ingredients are in evidence and only a drastic turn of events or lack of desire by the athletes to win will prevent the team from capturing the Atlantic University soccer conference.

Meanwhile UNB's perennial rivals Mt. A defeated the two best teams in Nova Scotia last weekend. They upset St. Francis 3-0 and stunned defending champions Dalhousie 3-1. For once Mt. A coach Jack Drover's prediction of a strong team appears to be borne out by these results. This only means that the already tense rivalry between the two teams will intensify and it will be all the more gratifying when UNB comes out on top. UNB's next game is against Mt. A today at 4:00 p.m. in Sackville. Both teams are powerful this year and are eager to win. Need I say more!

UNB's downfall last year, as a matter of fact for the past three years, has been their inability to beat Dalhousie, a soccer team almost completely made up of English imports. Who could forget that classical championship game between these two teams last year at college field? The game ended in a 0-0 tie after regulation time. With the game still tied after 30 minutes of overtime, the outcome had to be decided by

penalty shots and UNB came out on the short end of a 4-3 score. The approximately 800 fans in

attendance were treated to a game that kept them in suspense from beginning to end. One could feel the tension in the air. The crowd roared in disbelief as the shirts came close on various occasions but could not capitalize

Rugby - impressive win

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obvious leader all afternoon, calling plays and working well from his position. Tall forwards; Pierre Bertrand, at prop, and Tom Wilson, a flanker, also played a strong game. Both players moved on to the ball quickly and were constantly harassing the Exile backs who often used the "up and under". This is a forward kick which can be a good tactical play when positioned properly, but the Exile backs were often forced to use it in desperation.

Near the 20 minute mark the Reds were again threatening. Flanker, Tom Wilson, flipped an overhead pass back to Brian Conheady, the scrum half, and the back line snapped the ball out quickly to Tyler Richardson, the outside centre. Richardson could not pass off but rambled to the Exiles 5 yard line before being tackled. The Reds were quick to regain control and winger Branson slipped through the Exile line to score his second try of the afternoon. Chamberlain split the uprights on the conversion attempt.

on their chances UNB fans will have an opportunity to see these two great teams in action when they do battle Saturday September 30 at College Field. (If the outcome of Saturday's game (a 7-2 thrashing of U of M)

side had little trouble with the Minto Rugby Club. UNB lead from the start and the final score, 38-3, is a good indication that the Reds carried the play to their opponents. Scoring for the Reds was winger Lou Sherer, with 2 tries; single tries were added by the two props, Frank Szeligo and Russ Curotte; scrum half Roger Esty, out centre Rob McGurk, and back Chris Stevenson. Andy Ferrier, the teams out-half had a good afternoon as well, kicking three converts.

A strong Exile attack near the 30 minute mark was halted near the Reds goal line as UNB dug in and refused any more ground. A great kick to the side-line by fullback Chamberlain moved the Reds out of trouble. UNB, lead by the strongly packed forwards, marched right back to the Exiles end where captain Kris McMillan went over the goal line standing up to score UNB's 3rd try. Chamberlain added the convert and the score climbed to 21-9.

The final half, (halves are a gruelling 40 min.), ended with the Reds on the move again, a good indication of the fitness of the squad. The Exiles had a string of older more experienced players but UNB clearly had the edge in conditioning, an important factor for such a short playing season.

A small but enthusiastic crowd was on hand at College Field to cheer on the Reds. There was never a dull moment for the fans as play was fast, continuous and hard hitting.

In Division II play, the Reds 'B'

is any indication of things to come then UNB has a lot to offer and students and Fredericton residents should take advantage of it. Not only will they be entertained, but they will also be supporting a winner.

UNB travels to Mt. Allison this weekend and are preparing for another strong performance. Coach Cockburn is expecting his toughest competition this year to come from the Fredericton Loyalists, the defending league champions. The Reds finished a close second to the Loyalists last year.

If the Reds first game this year was any indication as to how the club will fare this season one can be sure that the Reds already have their sights set on a provincial championship.

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