

SPORTS

Deadline for stories is Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. Sports Desk 453-4983.
Co-Editors: Kelly Craig, Frank Denis.

Devils spell success D-E-F-E-N-S-E

Win and tie on weekend puts UNB 10th in country

by Frank Denis

The big question surrounding the UNB Red Devils as they entered the 1990-91 season was would their defence be as solid as last season when they allowed the third fewest number of goals in the ten team league. Well, so far the question has been answered to the pleasure of UNB coach Mike Johnston. The strength of the defense was no more apparent than last weekend when they beat the STU Tommies 3-2 on Friday and then earned a 2-2 tie with last year's National Champions Moncton Blue Eagles.

Friday night's contest was a rematch of the game played two weeks ago when the Tommies and Red Devils met at the Aitken Centre and tied 6-6. This time the Tommies

were the hosts down at the Lady Beaverbrook Rink.

Before the game, players from both teams were predicting it would be a lot more physical than the one played a week earlier; and they were right. The game was hard hitting with each team finishing off their checks with many unpleasantries exchanged.

Steve Kippen opened the scoring for UNB midway through the first period. Kippen managed to get his stick on Rob Boldon's rebound off the end boards and tucked it home. The majority of Kippen's goals are scored from close in. He is able to find some open ice around the goal and anticipates where the puck will go. His play so far this season has earned the praise of Coach Johnston. "Kippen is a fairly consistent player. He's

not flashy or free wheeling, he's a smart hockey player. When he's around the net he has a great touch."

Twenty four seconds after Kippen's opening goal, Red Devil forward Ken Murchison put UNB up 2-0. The Tommies got on the scoreboard late in the period while on the power play as Brent Grant beat a fallen Scott MacDonald.

In the period UNB fired a total of 17 shots at STU goalie Shane Corston and had it not been for some excellent goaltending the Red Devils would have headed to their dressing room up by more than just the one goal.

The second period was a carbon copy of the first with both goaltenders keeping their teams in the game and close, tight checking. The only goal of the period, and the eventual game

winner came off the stick of Tom Gemmell. Before a face-off deep in the Tommies zone, Gemmell received some friendly advice from fans leaning over the glass. Gemmell stationed himself at the top of the face off circle and when Red Devil centre Joey McTamney drew the puck back to him, he wasted little time in firing a shot into the top corner of the goal.

The third period was nail biting time after STU pulled to within one, thanks to Mark Rupnow's goal. However, UNB played the last few minutes very defensively and the game ended with the Red Devils prevailing 3-2.

UNB goaltender Scott MacDonald was named player of the game as he stopped 33 of 35 shots fired at him. For MacDonald the game gave him a big boost of confidence. "I've been struggling all year and I needed a game like this against STU to get me back in the groove."

The Red Devils went from one big game to another on Saturday night when they played host to the Moncton Blue Eagles. The game was a completely different style of hockey. Instead of a bump and grind game like the one against STU, the Moncton game was a free wheeling affair and took a lot of adjustment on UNB's part.

There was no scoring until the midway point of the second period when UNB struck for two quick goals. Jamie Colvin and Clyde Simmons scored

goals just over a minute apart to give UNB a two goal lead. Simmons' goal was a great individual effort as he used his speed down the right side and then flipped a shot high over Moncton goalie Richard Ruest's shoulder. After the goal Simmons treated those in attendance to his celebration dance much to the delight of UNB fans. Before the period ended, Moncton tied the game on back to back goals by Richard Gravel and Richard Linteau.

In the 5 minute overtime period, Moncton had the better scoring chances as UNB decided it would be satisfied with the tie.

Coach Johnston was pleased with his team's effort. "We came out hard and played well in the first half of the game and then Moncton came back on us. Once they got a sniff, they went for the win and not the tie. We had to get at least a point out of this game and we weren't going to give it up, that's why we played defensively in the overtime."

Chris Somers tended goal for UNB in their game against Moncton and earned player-of-the-game honours. Both UNB goaltenders earned player-of-the-game acclaim this weekend thus proving that UNB has one of the best goaltending tandems in the league.

The Red Devils play a pair of games this weekend on the island against UPEI before returning home to host the Acadia Axemen and Dalhousie Tigers next weekend.



Ken Murchison digs for puck while Joey McTamney (35) looks on.

Bloomers split weekend in NS

by Mark MacDougall with Kelly Craig

The Red Bloomers kicked off their opening season with a weekend split in Nova Scotia. It was a fairly good start to the new season and it gave the girls a chance to see just what needs to be done in order to be AUAAs again this year.

Saturday, the Red Bloomers headed to Antigonish, N.S. to play their first regular season game against St.FX. The game was played quite well by the girls and it was hotly contested. The Lady Xaverians managed to stay close throughout the entire game due to some strong 3 point shooting. However, the Red Bloomers were not about to let this contest go. At half-time the Bloomers were up 40-32.

Junior forward, Kara Palmer, led the UNB attack with 22 points and posted 11 rebounds. Junior guard, Jill Jackson, and Freshman forward, Laura Hale, each added

17 points. Laura also came up with 7 rebounds to help the team to victory. UNB won 66-58. Kara Palmer controlled both ends of the court, scoring and rebounding. All in all it was a good team effort that helped put the Bloomers ahead.

On Sunday, the team went from Antigonish to Halifax to play the Dal Tigers. This game was not as well played by the Bloomers as the other game. The shooting was very poor by the Bloomers and it was not until the second half that the team came alive. However, at half time the girls were down 11 points and left the court trailing 34-23 at the half. In the first half, the girls only shot at 36%.

The second half saw a tough rally by the Bloomers that brought them within two points of Dal. Jennifer Hale returned to the team after suffering an ankle injury and put in 12 points for the Bloomers. Kara Palmer came up with only 10 points for the

team. The shooting was very poor by the Bloomers and the game final score showed. The Bloomers lost to Dal 57-45.

According to Coach Mitton, "In both games the team didn't execute when they needed a basket." The turnovers versus the Dal team really hurt the Bloomers. In the first half they lacked intensity and control that they desperately needed on offense. Even though the team rallied back to within two points they couldn't hang on for a win. Angela McLeod was the major force for the Dal team as she netted 23 points.

This weekend the Bloomers are at home in the LB Gym. Saturday at 1:00 pm they take on the St.Mary's Huskies in another Varsity Mania event. During the games the Bloomers Booster club will go all out in the sale of Christmas wrapping paper. These sales will continue on throughout this semester on to Christmas.

Athletes of the Week

Male

Nathan Stairs, captain of the UNB Rebels, has been named the UNB Athlete of the Week. Nathan led the Rebels to wins over Memorial and Moncton in the Moncton league tournament on the week-end.

Coach Paul Belanger felt that, "Nathan played the best offensive volleyball of his career this weekend as he led UNB with 29 kills in 3 matches". Coach Belanger added that, "Nathan and setter Dan McMorran connected almost every time as Nathan had his best match against Memorial with 14 kills."

The Rebels are now off to their best start in five years with 4 wins and only one loss.

Nathan is a fifth year Forestry student from Hunter River, PEI.

Female

Gina Dickenson of the UNB Reds has been named the UNB female Athlete of the Week. As coach Mark Thibault put it, "Gina finally got a chance to show her power (after having some of the setting responsibility), anyone watching the game had to be impressed as I was at this aspect of her play."

The Reds managed a week-end sweep of the visiting St. F.X. team and Gina was named player of the game both Saturday and Sunday as she powered the Reds with 23 kills and 7 service aces.

Gina is a second year Phys. Ed. student from Saint John, NB.

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