

UNB SPORTS

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Devils Bounce Back Against Moncton

By Frank Denis

What a difference a week can make! After playing one of their poorest games of the season against St. Thomas two weeks ago, the UNB Red Devils took on the University of Moncton Blue Eagles last Friday night at the Aitken Centre and put together one of their best games of the year. UNB dominated the number two team in the nation and won 6-1.

For the Red Devils, it was a total team effort. Their power play unit worked almost to perfection as they scored four goals, and their penalty killing team even contributed a goal. The team was missing four regulars from the lineup and relied heavily on players who have seen limited action so far this season. Players like Jamie Coluin, Corey Anquetil, Scott Bridges all played well and earned the praise of coach Mike Johnston, "Those guys knew before the game that they had big roles to play, and they came through and played excellent."

When the game began, UNB came out flying and dominated the play. Moncton does not begin well when they play away from home and the Red Devils knew if they could set the momentum for the game early on they would have a

good chance of winning.

Defenceman Rob Boldon, who is not noted for his goal scoring exploits opened the scoring for UNB at 6:36 of the first period. The second Red Devils' goal was scored by a forward who is known for his goal scoring talents. Steve Kippen picked up a loose puck in the crease and fired it past Moncton goalie Michel LeBlanc. The Blue Eagles best scoring chances of the period came when they were playing shorthanded. However, the period ended with UNB ahead 2-0.

The Red Devils came out flying in the second period and wasted no time in adding to their lead. Mike Sutherland put UNB ahead 3-0 with his goal just 9 seconds into the period. Midway through the period Moncton began coming on strong, and it looked as though UNB might be slowing down, but then Dominic Niro scored what proved to be the team's biggest goal of the game. With his team playing shorthanded, Niro blocked a Moncton shot from the blue line, collected the puck, and reached the length of the ice with two Moncton players on his tail. Just before shooting Niro was tied up and didn't get a decent shot away. Luckily, a Moncton skate was there to put the puck in for UNB's fourth

goal. The goal lifted UNB's intensity level back up to its previous level and for the rest of period UNB controlled the play.

The Blue Eagles got their only goal of the game early in the final period, however, with less than 6 minutes to go in the game Kippen scored his second goal of the game and then twelve seconds later Niro scored his second of the game to round out the scoring.

Moncton has been averaging 6 goals per game this season and had it not been for UNB goalie Chris Somers, they might have scored that many Somers, named player of the game, was extremely sharp and gave up very few rebounds. More importantly, when UNB let up a little bit, and the Blue

Eagles began pouring it on, Somers lifted his game up a notch and kept his team in the game.

After their disappointing game against STU two weeks ago, the Red Devils needed a big win and got it. Captain Jamie Lehman says that their win last week should go a long way in their performance against St. Thomas tomorrow night at 7:30 pm at the Aitken Centre. We should come out flying against St. Thomas. "If we can't get up for that game something wrong". Have faith that the UNB Red Devils will come out and avenge their loss two weeks ago against the Tommies.

In other Red Devil news, there has been a lot of rumours

circulating regarding the status of forward Serge Ouimette, the Daily Gleaner reported that Ouimette had quit the team. This is not so. Ouimette who is in civil engineering is sacrificing hockey to improve his grades. He practices with the team twice a week and will play a few games before the end of the regular season. Ouimette has been an important part of the Red Devils success this season and continues to be so.

The Tommies also managed to defeat Moncton during the weekend with a 6-5 victory Saturday night at the LBR. Also, Acadia downed UCCB 6-4, UPEI edged Mt. Allison 5-4, and St. FX clipped Dalhousie 5-4.

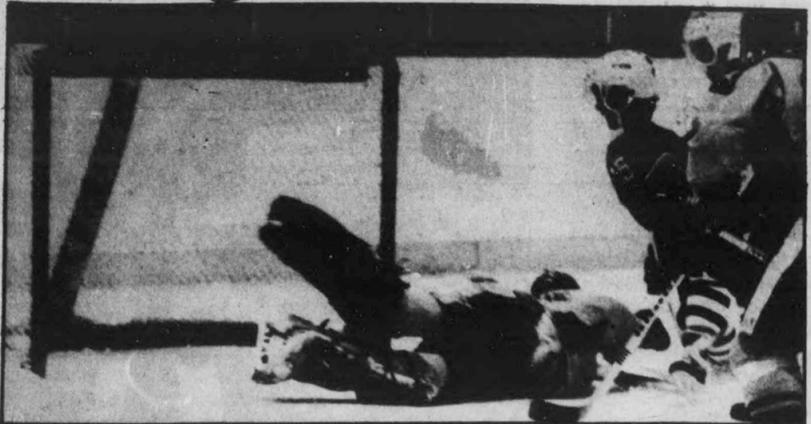


Photo by Glen Vienneau

Tough UNB hockey around the UdeM net. The Red Devils won 6-1 against 2nd ranked Moncton.

Blazers Winless In Nine Straight

By Ron Cameron

The UNB Red Blazers continued to struggle in NB Ladies Hockey League play, but they may be seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

Despite losing both their games last weekend there was reason for optimism in the UNB camp. On Friday the Blazers traveled to Moncton to take on the first place Right Spot team, who were unbeaten in 9 games, with UNB at 0-7 it appeared a mismatch. It was not. The teams played a strong up and down game that was scoreless after one period, Moncton sniper Stacy Wilson broke the tie early in the second period but the powerful Moncton team were unable to follow up and the period ended 1-0. Wilson and line mate Joanne Vautour scored in the final period while UNB was unable to crack the shutout of Giselle Gaudette as the Right Spot skated away with a 3-0

win.

Sunday in Saint John the Red Blazers played the Port City Flyers, one of the teams they must catch to make the League playoffs. A first period power-play goal gave the Flyers an early lead that stood until midway through the final period. When a 3 on 1 resulted in Port City going up 2-0. UNB, to their credit, did not roll over and die. In fact for the final 3 minutes of the game they stormed the Port City net, and that finally resulted in a goal. Chris MacLoon deflected a shot by Lisa Rowe with 38 seconds left, but that was as close as the Red Blazers would come as they lost for the ninth time in nine games, 2-1.

So in spite of the awful record, UNB coach Mike Power has seen a silver lining. "We played so well, its the first time in a long while, before Christmas in fact, that we were actually in both games until the end. I don't believe in false praise so I can honestly say the team is twice as good as when

we came off the December break." Power credited a couple of Christmas break additions and a new team attitude with the change. "We got April Wilson back from her practice teaching, and Lisa Rowe is a rookie we found late in the first term, there are two experienced confident players, they help on and off the ice. Also I think we are coming

together as a team. The rookies are starting to understand the game and the systems involved, at times early on we just chased the puck around, but now they are playing their positions."

The next action for UNB will be their first home game at the Aitken Centre since November 19th. "Five of our last six have been on the road,

and our only home game we had to play at Keswick Valley, so getting back to the Aitken Centre for three in a row will be a boost." The Red Blazers will take on Port City Sunday at the AUC at noon. "I think we need a win" says Power "we almost had this bunch last week, we should have had them, and I think Sunday we will break through."

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Pauline Lordon of Chatham, NB has been chosen as this week's UNB Female Athlete-of-the-Week. The 22 year old, fifth year Education student played a key role in the basketball Red Bloomers' 68-64 victory over the UPEI Lady Panthers on the weekend. Pauline had 18 points, 6 rebounds, and 5 assists on her way to being named Coca Cola Player-of-the-Game. According to coach Mitton "Pauline had a key performance and a solid offensive effort in a big game," and "Pauline made some

important shots to spark the Bloomers to victory."

Brian Woods of Norwich, England has been named as this week's UNB Male Athlete-of-the-Week. The 20 year old had a very strong weekend for the Beaver swim team with some terrific times in two meets. His results on Friday as the Beavers defeated the University of Ottawa 69-12 and lost to the University of Sherbrooke 48-38 were: 1 - 400M IM, 4:52.62, 1 - 100M FS :57.07, 1 - 200M FS relay, and 2 - in the 400M MR. On

Saturday his results were: 1 - 400M FS, 4:16.00, 1 - 200M BS, 2:31.24, 1 - 200M FS, 1:58.96, 1 - 100M FS, 54.10, and 2 - in the 200M FS relay as he was named the outstanding male swimmer of the meet. According to coach Fisher "It was a really great weekend for Brian as he established personal best times in 3 events. Brian has the potential to win 3 events at the AUA championships, and to qualify for the CIAU's in March."