

Sports editorial: Fan apathy at UNB

by: Frank Denis

Tomorrow night the University of New Brunswick varsity hockey team will begin their 91st year of competition. The game will be played in the 3,800 plus seat Aitken Centre located conveniently on campus. UNB was ranked in the top ten nationally all of last season and this year they expect to do even better. The team boasts several talented athletes from various backgrounds. Many have played in the Major Junior leagues of Canada against such players as Eric Lindros, Jeremy Roenick and Pat Falloon. This year the team will have in the lineup players who were recently released from the New York Islanders and Tampa Bay Lightning camps. Why am I telling you all this? Well, with all this talent and exciting hockey available, hardly anyone seems to go. In fact very few people attend UNB sporting events.

To understand why this is so you must first of all understand why people attend sporting events in the first place. While I am no sociologist, I have been attending athletic contests at both the amateur and professional levels for years and have come up with a few reasons.

People attend games for a number of reasons. Some attend because of their love for sports. These are the people that will drive across town just to see a game, even though they don't follow either of the teams playing.

The other group of people are those that go to the occasional game because they know someone playing, or they are just curious about what goes on at a game. In other words they go for the show.

Sports has never been just a game in itself. Music is played during breaks in the action. Mascots parade around the stadium hugging children and having their pictures taken. The whole concept of Varsity Mania here on this campus is centered around a side show. In their ads they advertise people to 'Take a walk on the wild side' and give prizes away to those who show the most school spirit at the game and not to the guy or girl who understands why things turned out the way they did.

So when you look at the sports program here at UNB why don't nearly enough people attend. Here at the *Brunswickan* Sports we are trying to encourage more people to go to the games by putting a varsity sport schedule of games that are coming up on the front page of our section. We are also devoting more time to human interest stories rather than summaries of what happened at last weekend's games. We believe that if you, the reader, know more about the athletes participating then you will hopefully go and see them in action.

At all the UNB games in different sports that I have attended a 'show' has been part of the game. Music is played, 50/50 draws take place and trips to Toronto can even be won. What more then can the athletics program do to get you to go?

Well the answer to that is not much else. While the school can't do anything, the students can. As you are all well aware your decision to go anywhere is largely based on how many others are going. 'Want to go to the Social Club?' is usually followed by 'Who else is going?' People won't go anywhere for entertainment sake unless they know a lot of others will be there.

Some people will argue that is not true in sports. Attendance they say is dependant upon how well the team is playing. But look at the Los Angeles Dodgers and Toronto Maple Leafs who in recent years have played very poorly, yet done very well at the box office. To see a game at Dodger Stadium or Maple Leaf Gardens is both an historical and social event. So going to see a game at either the Aitken Centre or the LB Gym should be more of a social event, but they aren't because not enough people attend.

We are fortunate here at UNB to be able to cheer on some top quality sports teams. Not to many schools can boast about having won five league championships last year. Call a bunch of friends and go to the games this weekend. I promise you'll have a good time. If every does call friends, then pretty soon it will be the thing to do here on campus.

I went home to Montreal for the long weekend and had the opportunity of going to the Penguins/ Canadiens game on Saturday. The day I got home the Canadiens unveiled plans for their new arena to be ready for the 1995-96 season. As everyone knows the Forum is a shrine to hockey and once the new arena is ready, will likely be torn down. The Forum is a very special place to see a game and I encourage hockey fans to try and see at least one game there before it's gone. Tickets are tough to get, but the trick is to buy a single seat and then meet your friends during the intermission. Singles were still available for last Saturday's game that morning.

From the stupid question department: Guy Lafleur is supporting the 'Yes' side in the upcoming referendum. A Quebec City reporter asked him last Sunday if he knew what 'veto' meant. Lafleur laughed and said that while he had heard of it he did not know what it meant.

This week's trivia: Which NHL team's nickname is grammatically incorrect?

Last week's answer: The NHL teams with new uniforms this year are; Hartford Whalers, New Jersey Devils, Pittsburgh Penguins and Toronto Maple Leafs.

Campus recreation

Tennis courts

Four tennis courts located above Tibbits Hall are available on a first-come, first-serve basis only. Reservations for individuals are only accepted during the summer, however, groups can book the courts 24 hours in advance by contacting the Equipment and Facilities Manager at 453-4579 during office hours.

Ice Skating

Ice skating for UNB/STU students and Recreation members at the Aitken Center will begin on October 19, Monday to Friday, 12:30 to 1:30 pm. Wednesdays from 1:00 to 1:30 pm is reserved for parents who wish to bring their children (family membership is required). Please bring your I.D. to show the recreation staff attendant for admission. No door admission will be accepted.

Red Cross/Royal Lifesaving Water Safety Instructor II course

This course trains individuals to teach the top 4 levels of the Red Cross Water Safety Program and beginning levels of the Royal Lifesaving Society Program. It runs for 40 hours plus provisional teaching.

Class dates: Nov. 17, 19, 24, 26, 28

March 23, 25, 30, April 1, 3

Prerequisite: WSII + Bronze Medallion + Senior Resuscitation

Registration: begins October 10 at the UNB Business Office

Registration deadline is Nov. 6

FEES: \$75 + text - for UNB/STU students & recreation members \$85 + text - for non-members add \$5 after November 8

INTRAMURAL SPORTS

Referees are still wanted for the following sports:

Ice Hockey Volleyball
Floor Hockey Waterpolo
Basketball

Some experience is preferred, training also provided. Please come to the Recreation office and complete an application if you are interested.

Men's Basketball, Men's Ball Hockey, and Women's Ball Hockey

Registration for men's basketball, men's ball hockey, and women's ball hockey began on Tuesday, October 6. Basketball games are on Wednesday and Sunday evenings. Men's ball hockey games are on Mon., Tues., Thurs., and Sunday evenings. Register early to guarantee a place. Minimum number of entries are accepted for each league. Registration deadline is Tuesday, October 20 at 4:00pm at the Recreation Office.

Co-ed Curling Bonspeil

Registration began on October 6 at the Recreation office for a curling bonspeil on October 20 at the Capital Winter Club. Teams of 4(2 guys/2 girls) with 2 alternates must pay an entry fee of \$10. The last day to register is Tuesday, October 20 at 4pm. Only 8 teams may play, so register early to guarantee a spot.

Co-ed Bowling

Registration began October 13. Only 36 teams are permitted to enter. 2 guys and 2 girls per team. Entry fee per team is \$20. Registration deadline is October 27. Tournament is on October 31 at the Hanwell Bowling Lanes from 1 to 4pm. Bowling shoes are provided, transportation is not provided!

Women's Volleyball

Registration began October 6. Volleyball games are on Mondays and Thursdays. 12 teams is the maximum number to be entered, register early. Registration deadline is October 20 at 4pm in the Recreation office.

Touch football standings

Competitive Red division

Teams	G	W	L	T	F	A	Pts.
The Patriots	4	4	0	0	151	0	12
The Sharks	3	3	0	0	51	12	9
Terminators	3	2	1	0	55	26	7
Neville Norsemen	3	2	1	0	19	8	7
Business Blues	4	1	2	1	6	54	7
Huskies	4	0	4	0	6	79	4
Jones House	2	0	1	1	0	43	3
The Firm	3	0	3	0	6	67	3

Green division

Knights	4	3	0	1	41	14	11
McLeod	4	3	1	0	75	14	10
LBR Red Eyes	4	1	0	3	25	6	9
Civil Maddogs	4	1	2	1	1	44	7
Bridges	4	1	2	1	34	35	7
Aitken Animals	3	1	1	1	32	20	6
Warriors	4	0	2	2	19	56	6
The Riders	3	0	2	1	6	44	4