

UNB REBELS

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Rebels Climb To Second

By Mark Savoie

Despite their slow start, the UNB Rebels have finally reached second place in the AUSA Men's Volleyball League. This is important as only two teams will make the playoffs. The Rebels passed the UdeM Blue Eagles last weekend by taking two matches in Moncton 3-1 and 3-0.

They started slow in their first match, played last Saturday, losing the first game 14-16. They then roared back to life, taking the next three games by scores of 15-5, 15-9, 15-10. This win tied the two teams for second spot. The next day the Rebels started and finished strong, sweeping the match by scores of 15-10, 15-6, 15-9.

The team was lead on the weekend by second year student Claude Cullinan, who was named UNB Male Athlete-of-the-Week for his efforts. Cullinan was named player of the match for Saturday's contest, hammering an impressive 22 kills. He missed the early part of the season because of illness, but now is back to form.

Cullinan's absence to start

the season was sorely missed, as it was then that the Rebels lost their first four matches. These losses included three to defending and perennial champions Dalhousie.

Dalhousie is almost assured of hosting the AUSA Championships because of the Rebels slow start. If the Rebels hope to have a chance in that championship they

must prove that they have the ability to defeat the Tigers. They will get their chance this weekend when they travel to Halifax for a pair of matches against those Dalhousie Tigers.

The matches will be played tomorrow and Sunday, and the Rebels must be looking to take at least one, if not both.

Reds Axe Acadia

Volleyballers improve to 7-3-0

by Tim Lynch

The UNB Reds improved their record to seven wins against three losses last weekend in the Main Gym. The Reds were victorious over the Acadia Axettes in three games straight Saturday night, and they then eked out a three-games-to-two decision in Sunday afternoon's contest. UNB's record in the new year is now perfect with four wins. Much of their recent success can be attributed to certain personnel changes.

These changes will alter the Reds' strategy for the remainder of the season. Last term, UNB lacked a bonafide power hitter and concentrated heavily on their defence. Head coach Mark Thibault explains the team's new offensive outlook. "A lot of the strategy is going to be centered around Louise Berube who just joined the team. She's a big, strong power hitter . . .

Meredith Mladineo is back off the injury list, and she's key to our offense."

Incidentally, Berube was named UNB Athlete-of-the-Week for her 30-kill effort during the weekend.

The Reds scored 15-12, 17-15, and 15-3 game victories Saturday night for the victory. However, Sunday's match was much closer as the Reds narrowly captured the fifth and deciding game 15-13.

UNB opened the contest with a 15-13 win, but they dropped game two by a 15-9 count as the Axettes found some holes in the Reds' backcourt defence. Acadia convincingly captured the fourth game 15-6 after UNB had won game three by a 16-14 count. Krista Moore powered the Axettes offensively. She recorded 22 kills and created much havoc for UNB serve-receivers with her authoritative

serve laced with topspin. Meanwhile, newcomer Berube led the Reds with 12 kills. Both Deanne Robinson and

Julie Campbell added stellar offensive showings, as well.

At times, the Reds' offence

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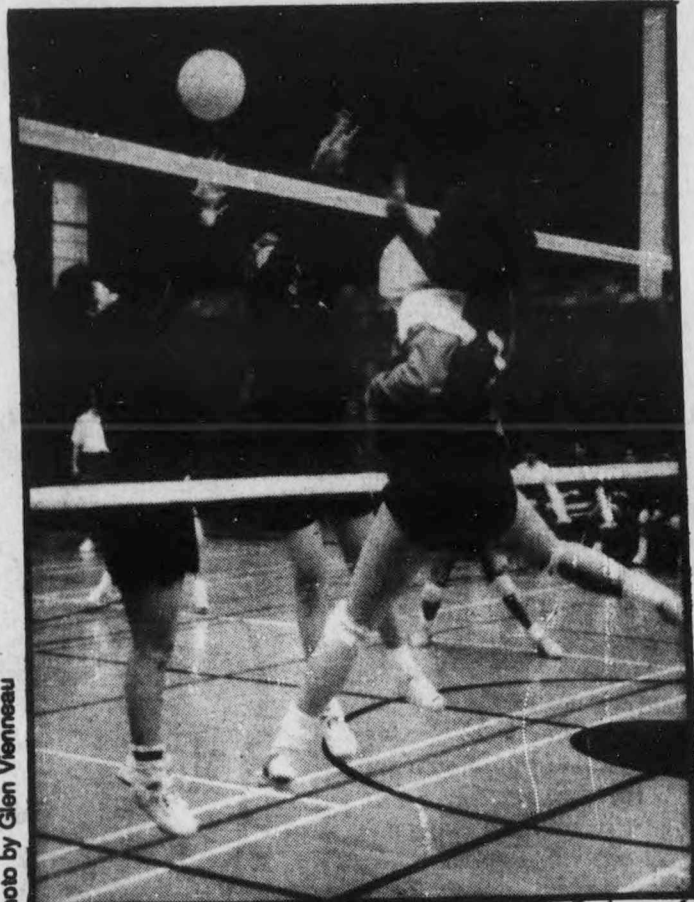


Photo by Glen Vienneau

Two UNB Reds rise to block an Acadia smash. The Reds won both matches against Acadia last weekend.

Bloomers To Host Panthers

by Mark Savoie

The UNB Red Bloomers will get their chance to make a strong statement towards hosting the AUSA Women's Basketball Championship Tournament when they host defending champion UPEI in The Pit tomorrow evening at 8:00 p.m. UPEI currently has a 4-1 record, following an upset loss to Dalhousie last weekend. The Bloomers are at 3-2 to open the season's second half, and a convincing win against the Lady Panthers will go a long way towards a first place finish.

UPEI has supplanted the Bloomers as the dominant team in the AUSA. Last year's rookie laden Bloomers handed the Lady Panthers their first defeat in the last three years; but were defeated by Dalhousie in the semi-finals for the third year in a row. All three of those losses came on the

Island as UPEI has continually playing this weekend, and she earned the right to host. If the Bloomers were to win tomorrow night's game by 18 points or more they would then be in control of their own destiny. Should they win by less than 18 points, they will need help. This is as a result of their season opening upset loss to the Acadia Axettes. Acadia is presently 6-0 and is thus in control of their own destiny as well. However, the tough part of their schedule is coming up as they play Dal twice, UPEI twice, and UNB once more.

The status of one of UPEI's best players is presently unclear. Stephanie Smith, one of the best competitors in the league, has been having academic problems and did not write any of her Christmas exams. As a result the UPEI administration has reportedly suspended her from the team. This remains unconfirmed, but it is likely that she won't be

playing this weekend, and she may be done for the season. The Bloomers hope that the absence of Stephanie Smith and the advantage of playing in The Pit will give them the edge they'll need tomorrow night. Coach Claire Mitton is excited about playing in the Main Gym in front of the loud Varsity-Mania crowd. She is so enamored with the Main Gym that she has arranged to have next weekend's games against Acadia and Dalhousie transferred there from the Aitken Centre.

Last weekend this year's Bloomers played an Alumni squad in an exhibition match. They came away with a 79-52 victory, leading 72-30 at the half. Pauline Lordon and Jennifer Hale both had big games offensively, but Kara Palmer lead the way with 19 points. The entire team is healthy and is back in shape after the holiday layoff, and is looking forward to an exciting second half.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Claude Cullinan of Fredericton, NB has been named as this week's UNB Male Athlete-of-the-Week. The 19 year old, 2nd year science student helped the Rebels volleyball team to two victorious matches over UdeM on the weekend: A member of the NB Canada Games team in 1989, Claude's weekend stats were: 31 kills, 4 stuff blocks, and 4 digs. He was named the player of the match after Saturday's contest with 22 kills, 3 stuff blocks, and 4 digs. According to coach Belanger "Claude played two strong and consistent matches to help the Rebels move into sole possession of 2nd place, and the last play-off spot in AUSA league play."

Louise Berube of Fredericton, NB has been chosen as this week's UNB Female Athlete-of-the-Week. The 24 year old, 4th year education student helped the Lady Reds volleyball team to two victories over Acadia on the weekend. She led the team in kills both matches with a weekend total of 30, and was named player of the match on Saturday. According to coach Thibault "Louise's addition to the team since the Christmas break has given the team an added dimension which they were lacking, that of a big power hitter."