

Red Bloomers Falter at CIAU's

Although the UNB Red Bloomers came back from the CIAU Women's Basketball Championships physically empty-handed they gained something that will prove very valuable in future years, that being that very important "experience."

The Bloomers dropped both games they played at the Winnipeg action, losing 77-40 in the opening round to the eventual champion Bishops Lady Gaiters and then in the consolation round falling 62-56 to a team they had beaten earlier in the season, the Winnipeg Lady Wesmen.

Before your start getting any ideas that maybe the Red Bloomers were in a dream world all year and maybe didn't deserve a top ten ranking or a berth at the national tourney, just wait a minute, because they certainly were not made absolute fools of out there.

In the opening round loss to Bishops, the game started very slowly, with almost four minutes gone off the clock when the scoreboard was finally advanced, that being when tournament MVP Lynn Polson hit a 15 footer to start the onslaught. With Polson, 6'2" national team centre Andrea Blackwell, 6'1" Wendy Verrecchia, and rookie Joanne Gordon leading the way the Bishops squad had little trouble swamping the Bloomers.

But hold on, maybe they did. All the game statistics indicate a relatively even game, the Bloomers losing the rebounding numbers by two, etc, all except for one: the shooting percentage. With the Lady Gaiters shooting well over 50%, the Bloomers were definitely off, shooting, only 28%, an incredibly low percentage considering the Red Bloomers

were one of the best shooting teams in the nation this year.

"They're big, they're strong, but most of all they have the experience," commented coach Coleen Dufresne, "they have three players with international experience and that's something you can't take away from them. They have a tremendous ball club, they execute well and if they turn it over they just come back at you again and do it right."

With that loss the Bloomers were now relegated to the consolation round along with Winnipeg, their next opponents, the Laurentian Vees and the Manitoba Lady Bisons. Over on the championship side the semi-finals saw Bishops heading up against the Brock Badgers, and Concordia facing the defending champion Victoria Vikettes.

Coming into Friday's game against Winnipeg coach Coleen Dufresne was expecting her squad to show some people what Bloomer Basketball was all about. After the loss to Bishops, Coleen as well as everyone else, including the Bloomers themselves, felt they would bounce back up and trounce the Lady Wesman.

Well, not quite. The Lady Wesman, who had lost a 46-45 heatbreaker to Brock the day before, came out flying and opened up a 34-22 half time lead, and things looked much the same as the day before, poor shooting and a higher than average number of turnovers.

But finally the Bloomers got rolling in the second half as they put on a gutsy display to battle back to within two of the Lady Wesman, but fair straight foul shots with less than 10 seconds left on UNB attempts to stop the clock gave

the Lady Wesman the 62-56 margin.

In the end the totals were more impressive with AUAA rookie of the year Sue McMaster playing a strong game as she hooped 20 points, while Jennifer George and Jill Jeffrey, who has probably played her last game as a Red Bloomer, hooping 16 and 12 respectively. Winnipeg was led by GPAC Rookie of the year and 2nd team All-Canadian Beth Cochran with 26, the only Lady Wesmen over 10 points.

The other consolation round match up saw the host Manitoba squad upset Laurentian to earn a berth in Saturday's consolation final against Winnipeg, who they aptly beat 64-57 to tally their first win against Winnipeg, it was rumoured to be over 4 years, in a long time.

Over on the championship side, the bells were tolling a familiar tune as Bishops and Victoria both won their respective semi-finals matchups to advance to the finals for the third year in a row. But history failed in its bid to repeat itself as the Bishops Lady Gaiters would have no part of another Vikette championship, so they trounced the B.C. squad 64-49 to take the silverware, actually its called the "Bronze Baby" back home to Lennoxville, Quebec.

It was the four girls who did it to the Bloomers who were doing it again as Polson hooped 20, including 10 from the charity stripe, while Blackwell netted 15 with Verrecchia and Gordon getting 14 and 11 respectively.

Tracie McAra was the top gun for the Vikettes as the national team player swished 18.

Back to the UNB fortunes. One can only chalk up the

Attention Phys. Ed. Grads

A dinner-dance has been planned for April 9th. It will be held at the Lord Beaverbrook hotel. The dinner will be buffet style. For further information see Cathy Ball.

The composite picture is being planned. Make sure you have your grad picture taken soon. For further info see Dave MacDonald or Alice Kammermans.

Next grad meeting will be March 15 at 5:30 LBG Room 210. See you there!

Expressions

This week expressions takes a look at the players of the Express. B.J. MacDonald: To some B.J. is the heart and soul of the Express, but now he's up in Vancouver where he belongs.

Tony Currie: Tony is the hometown boy having spent some of his life in Oromocto. Currently Tony is the leading goal scorer for the Express and has a chance to score 50 goals this season, an accomplishment anywhere.

Richard David: Richard is always circling so its only natural that he reminds me of a bird of prey, waiting for his chance at the kill.

Sylvain Cote: Sylvain is known for being an enforcer for the Express.

However injuries and a demotion have curtailed his act for most of the season. Still Sylvain is a very popular player, his stepping on the ice is cause for a round of applause.

Brian Ford: Though he doesn't have little friends to talk to while he's not busy in goal he does do a rather good job as a netminder. However there's still that rumour that all goalies are crazy.

Gaston Therrien: Currently on the injured list, Gaston is known amongst the fans as the man with the booming slapshot.

Terry Johnson: A hard hitting defenseman, his time in the penalty box shows that. He does a good job of staying on his man, sometimes too good.

Moe Lemay: Though he's only been here for a short while one can tell that he knows how to hustle.

Basil McRae: Every team needs a winger who isn't afraid to mix it up and Bas is just the guy to do it with an average of 3 penalty minutes per game.

The Express have announced that they will be staying here for at least one more year with options for two more years.

showing to experience. "I'm certainly disappointed" stated Dufresne, "but there is no doubt in my mind that in a year's time we will be fighting it out for the top spot and the experience gained here will prove its worth."

It certainly looks good for the Bloomers in 1983-84, with all the rookies, and they're a very talented crop, having that extra year of experience. I guess we will all

just have to hold on to our seats for a while until next year when the Bloomers shall fly even higher than this year, in which they won an AUAA title, going undefeated in league play and capturing the championships with straight wins.

Until then the Red Bloomers will have to sit back and "dream about what was, what is, and more important, what is to come."

Ross Darling Ski Trip

Time and money well spent. I think all forty-four skiers that attended UNB's Ski Fest '83 at Quebec's Mt. Saint Anne would agree on this. From the inibriative pilgrimage from the hallowed halls of UNB campus to the veritable den of iniquity known as alpine chalets at

the foot of Mt. St. Anne Quebec, the trip was deemed a total success. Ross the Boss, trip co-ordinator, said he believed the trip served an

educational purpose as well, in that several students learned of a new alcoholic mixture known as caribou. (The actual contents are still the basis for controversy). The skiing was incredible, the people were friendly and above all there was an abun-

dance of good times to be found. A mash bash and several hot tub parties were highlights of the trip, but undoubtedly there are few Mt. Saint Anne residents who will forget the toga extravaganza. The resounding Yoga calls at a local drinking establish-

ment advertising the party, the famed Toga ski run of Mike McNeil and Dave Slipp (Done at -6° c) as well as the Ms. Mt. St. Anne Strip Toga pageant all served to enhance the Toga atmosphere. The party was capped off by a mass movement in a bedroom adjoining the party room. A caribou reunion will be held tonight at Jim's Place 236 Dundonald St. Bring a friend!

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