

Red Devils fighting for important playoff spot

By TERRY MACPHERSON

For UNB's Red Devils this is going to be an extremely crucial weekend. Presently they are locked in a three way tie with Mount Allison and UPEI for the fourth and last playoff position in

the Atlantic Intercollegiate Hockey League.

Saint Mary's and the University of Moncton have strangle holds on first and second positions respectively. Also as things stand now the surprising X Men from Acadia are in third place. It is conceivable that

they could drop from that position as they face some tough competition in these last two weeks of the season.

The competition in the league has been close throughout the season and the results of the action this weekend could very well determine which teams will be "hanging up their skates" when the playoffs roll around.

It has been a long season for the Red Devils, who have had more than their share of ups and downs. Prior to the beginning of the season they looked very impressive in a Hockey Canada Tournament held in Moncton. There, UNB finished second behind the hometown Blue Eagles. Other teams in the tournament were from Mount Allison, UPEI and Saint Thomas.

After the tournament the team began to slip gradually until it came to a point where a playoff berth was perhaps too much to expect. There are of course, many reasons for this let down as one player indicated - just plain bad luck, no one was scoring with consistency, everyone was down on themselves and discouraged. To add to this Coach MacGillivray points to the fact that his team, which he considers his strongest in five years, has had more than its share of injuries. Most notable of these is of course, team captain, Bob Keefe, last year's team scoring leader, who broke his arm in a contest with St. F.X. MacGillivray also added that a

couple of suspensions at various times in the season proved costly. Then, there is the fact that there are a lot of rookies on the team - fellows just up from high school or from a year of junior hockey who lack experience. Another important factor was the play of Greg Holst, the fiery center, with perhaps more potential than anyone in the league. For a while he seemed to be concentrating more on putting his fists in an opponent's face than a puck in an opponent's net.

However, anyone who has seen the last few UNB games, must admit that the team has been playing better hockey and is coming on strong. They are playing as a team, the defence is becoming more consistent and the forwards are starting to back-check. Gord Hubly, the goalie, has been one of the more underrated of the players and yet he has been reasonably consistent throughout the season. Perhaps, even better things can be expected from him if the defence and forwards keep up their work. MacGillivray feels the team received a moral boost when they nearly defeated St. Mary's, who are ranked number two in Canada. The younger players are gaining experience and consequently the team has been able to hang on to games rather than go out and lose them in the third period.

One of the big differences, of course, is the change in attitude of

Greg Holst - even though it is perhaps a forced change of attitude - if he has one more fight he is out for the season! Holst is a fantastic and entertaining Hockey player and UNB is fortunate to have him. He was destined to play for the Quebec Ramparts in one of the top junior hockey leagues in Canada until he decided to come back to UNB. Anyone who saw Holst's exhibition in last weekend's games (6 goals in 2 games) cannot question his ability. In talking of his change in play he commented, "I have a few personal problems straightened out. I am concentrating on the basic fundamentals of hockey and not so much the crowd pleasing rough stuff. Some of the opposition are trying to provoke me into a fight knowing that I'll be kicked out of the league. I am trying to avoid that but I am not going to be intimidated!"

Another bright spot for UNB is that Bob Keefe has started skating with the team and appears to be in surprisingly good condition. He is expected to join the team for the final game in two weeks and will be ready for the playoffs if the team gets in.

This weekend there are games here against Mount A on Friday night while on Sunday the Red Devils travel to Moncton for an afternoon encounter with the Blue Eagles. These are both "must" games for the UNB squad.

Mount A does not have any exceptionally good players, but is a well balanced, big, rough team who have given UNB a hard time in previous encounters. Both the players and Coach MacGillivray believe that they can take the games. The Moncton team is a powerhouse and they have the league's leading scorer, Ron LeBlanc, leading their attack. Moncton will be without their best defenceman Emery Johnson, who is out for the season with a shoulder injury. UNB beat Moncton last Friday night and they could do it again Sunday. However, it was noted that it is difficult for a visiting team to win in the J. Louis Levesque Arena in Moncton when the place is jammed with boisterous fans cheering for "their" team.

This brings us to a sore point with the UNB Coach and Team. They are not at all pleased with the fan support that they have received this year at home games. "The only time they (the fans) cheer is when we are in the lead," was one player's quote. Another team member stated "if only they realized what it seems to a team to know that there is a rink full of fans who are supporting them the whole time, not just when things are going good." MacGillivray believes that the proper fan support can give a team at least a one goal advantage. He says the fans are there in numbers but they are not the shouting, excited typed of fans who are capable of stimulating a team and giving it a lift when needed.

The UNB Red Devils are still in contention for a playoff spot and you as a fan can do your part by getting out to the game and giving your vocal support. It really makes a difference - just ask a team member or Coach MacGillivray.



Gord Hubly makes another fine save off a Moncton player breaking in on him in an action packed game played last Friday. UNB won 6 - 5.

Photo by Bob Boyes

Rough weekend for Raiders, Bloomers

By BOB MARSHALL

On Friday night at Dalhousie the Red Bloomers played perhaps, their finest game of the season. The Bloomers, without the full time services of their centre Anne Fenety, almost staged the upset of the season before losing 72-65.

The game was a see-saw contest all the way through with the lead changing hands many times. At half time the Bloomers led by the score of 33-31. Early in the second half the Tigerettes went ahead by seven points but the Bloomers were not through. With eight minutes left to go in the game the Bloomers tied the score.

At this point the Dalhousie height advantage began to take control. Limiting the Bloomers to one shot on most occasions the Tigerettes took control of the game and won by the seven point margin.

The Dal. squad was led by Rose Johnson with 20 pts. while 6 foot Helika Huddoffsky added 17 and Wendy Moore had 15. Joan Selig, one of the important cogs in the Dal. offense, had 12 points and played an all-around fine game.

Helen Jensen played another fine game for the Bloomers leading them with 16 points. Most of Jensen's points came when Dal. was attempting to pull away and were instrumental in keeping the Bloomers close. Janet Goggin added 12 to the UNB effort while Lynn Kirk scored the same number.

The difference in the game was Dal's rebounding strength and foul shooting. The Tigerettes outbounded UNB by the total of 54-42 while they outshot the Bloomers 10-3 on the foul line.

The Raiders ran into three tough clubs this past week and as a result they lost all three. These losses came at the hands of Dalhousie University, Acadia University and the University of Maine, Presque

Isle. For those who wonder why we lost all three it must be remembered that the combined records of these clubs is 23-10.

On Friday night the Raiders ran into a very hungry Dalhousie Tigers and were mauled 85-59. The Dal squad came out firing and hit 9 of their first 11 shots to take a 18-3 lead. Controlling both boards the Dalhousie team scored almost all will taking a 51-25 lead. The second half was a whole different story as the Raiders came charging back. With a team effort UNB narrowed the score but it was an insurmountable lead and the Tigers came out with the 85-59 victory.

Keith Johnson led the Dal effort with 16 points while John Godden added 15 to the tally. These two played a great role in the game. Johnson, a former Raider, came off the bench to score his points, many in the second half keeping the Raiders at bay. Godden controlled the boards and played a dominant role on the Dal defense.

Tom Hendershot led the Raiders with 16 points, 10 of those in the second half. Ken Amos added 14 as he had 8 points from the foul line. The Ruiter brothers added 7 each to the effort with Steve being particularly impressive coming off the bench.

The Raiders didn't seem to be ready for the first half and the Tigers' hot hands didn't help the cause. In the second half the Raiders came out to play ball and came up with one of their better team efforts in outscoring the Tigers.

SUMMARY: UNB (59): Ken Amos 14; John Wetmore 2; Tom Hendershot 16; Dick Slipp 6; Brian Boyd 2; Blaine MacDonald 5; Van Ruiter 7; Steve Ruiter 7; Personal Fouls 10; Foul Shooting 15-24.

On Saturday the Raiders ran into the Acadia Axemen, the powerhouse from Wolfville and it was a

real blood bath. The 1,100 fans on hand reminded one of the Romans coming to the Coliseum to see the Lions, Acadia, excute the Christians, UNB.

It was definitely not a good night for the Raiders as the final score was 111-61. Perhaps I am being a little harsh as UNB gave it everything they had but it was not to be. Acadia went ahead quickly as Joey Wells led them to the half time lead of 54-31 by scoring 25 points. UNB was led in the first half scoring by Blaine MacDonald who scored 10 points.

UNB made one good run at the Axemen when they were down by 20 points early in the first half. Led by MacDonald the Raiders came storming back to within 5 points much to the concern of the Acadia fans. At this point Coach Gib Chapman called time and settled his squad down. After, they came out shooting and made the game a runaway.

In the second half it was a total team effort which enabled Acadia to outscore the Raiders by a total of 57-30. Blaine MacDonald again led the UNB squad with an 11 point half.

Joey Wells led the Acadia scoring with a total of 29. Rick Cassey added 17 to the Acadia cause and four other players were in double figures. Blaine MacDonald led the Raiders scoring with 21 points while Tom Hendershot added 8. Steve and Van Ruiter again added 7 points each.

SUMMARY: UNB (61): Ken Amos 4; John Wetmore 2; Tom Hendershot 8; Van Ruiter 7; Brian Boyd 6; Blaine MacDonald 21; Dick Slipp 6; Steve Ruiter 7; Personal Fouls 11; Foul Shooting 5-8

ACADIA (111): Joe Wells 29; Jon Beausang 6; Rick Cassey 17; Paul Talbot 10; Glen Taylor 10; Tom Staines 12; John Borodko 5; George Beattie 8; John Dionisi 4;

Gord West 10; Personal Fouls 14; Foul Shooting 9-11.

On Tuesday night the Raiders met University of Maine at Presque Isle Owls, one of the powerful college clubs in Maine. The Presque Isle squad went away with a 85-75 victory in a hard fought contest.

UNB went ahead early in this contest with Tom Hendershot and Ken Amos leading the Raiders out to a 25-18 lead. University of Maine then employed a press which forced the Raiders into costly mistakes and Presque Isle took the lead never to be headed.

The half time score was 48-33 for Presque Isle and while the Raiders kept coming they never got the lead hence the final score 85-75.

The Owls were led by Chuck Underwood with 16 points while Bart Wyman added 14 to the effort. Three other players were in double figures with Butch Marble having 13, Ed Marshall 12, and Andy Palmer 11.

The Raiders were led by Tom Hendershot's 16 points. There were five other players in double figures for the Raiders. They were John Wetmore, Ken Amos and Dick Slipp with 12 each while Van Ruiter hooped 11 and Blaine MacDonald threw in 10.

SUMMARY: UNB (75): Ken Amos 12; John Wetmore 12; Tom Hendershot 16; Van Ruiter 11; Dick Slipp 12; Brian Boyd; Blaine MacDonald 10; Steve Ruiter 2; Brian French; Scott Fowler; Personal Fouls 22; Foul Shooting 7-17.

SUPPORT THE UNB RED RAIDERS TUES. FEB. 20 WHEN THEY HOST THE MT. A HAWKS. THIS IS THE LAST GAME OF THE SEASON AND WILL PROBABLY BE THE ONE TO DECIDE WHETHER UNB OR MT. A MAKE THE PLAYOFFS.