## -Field Hockey Dominance (yawn) from V-Reds

by Mark Savoie **Sports Editor** 

It shouldn't be this easy. The Varsity Reds have once again demonstrated that they remain the team to beat in the AUAA after convincingly destroying the St. Mary's Huskies 3-1 and 3-0 last weekend. The games weren't actually that close, since the domination disfield belonged in the same league.

teams actually created a bit of a scare later rookie Jolene Bourgeois made it for the V-Reds. They ended the first half trailing 1-0, despite having had the run of the play for the entirety of the half. However, on the Huskies only trip upfield, usually stalwart goalie Krista Harris nonchalanted the minor threat into a St. Mary's goal.

Still, Coach Stacey Bean discounted the impact of the goal. "I wouldn't say trailing by that 1-0 score. it was scary. We had them on the run and we couldn't put it in the net. It's just we weren't capitalising on our chances. I mean, it's our first game of the season, so I'm more than happy."

Bean may have found it easier to be so happy with the team's performance after watching them explode for three goals in the final fifteen minutes of the second half. For the longest while the

dive to her right.

Finally, however, the intense pressure resulted in Shonaugh Coles knocking one past Morih for the tying score at 20 minutes. Then, for the first time in the match, the Huskies showed some life, playing UNB even for the next ten minutes and actually giving Krista Harris the chance to redeem herself. This presplayed by UNB was such that one began to wonder if the two teams on the 31 minutes when Kim Richard launched a counter-attack which gave Coles her The first contest between the two second goal of the day. Three minutes 3–1, and the game was over.

The suspense didn't last nearly so long the next day, as Rebecca Wright converted UNB's first penalty corner of the match into a 1–0 lead after just three minutes. Ironically, SMU played the V-Reds comparatively even during the first half, but still saw the half end with them

The second half was all UNB, with Krista Harris not being forced to handle a single shot. The St. Mary's goalie was much more busy, and V-Reds Dianne Rogers and Shonaugh Coles each scored early in the half (the 8th and 13th minutes respectively) to remove what little doubt there had been about the outcome.

Stacey Bean was adamant that the second half looked like a duplicate of team had to work very hard for the victhe first, with near constant pressure tories, a sentiment which was echoed being established by the V-Reds, only by three goal scorer Shonaugh Coles. to have that pressure turned back by the Coles, however, indicated that the work stellar efforts of St. Mary's goalkeeper ethic of the team is such that UPEI and Sabitha Morih. Morih was even able to SMU will be hard put to compete with thwart Charla Currie on a penalty nine the V-Reds. "We had to work really hard

minutes into the half with a dramatic to do it," said Coles following the second win, "but I suspect that we can work just as hard, if not harder, for the rest of the year."

Given the degree of dominance displayed by her charges, it becomes a challenge for Bean to find things to work on in practice. Her topic for criticism (minor though it was) last weekend was the defence, despite the fact that they had very little to defending to do.

"It's a matter of watching the defence when the ball's at different points on the field," explained Bean when pressed about how she could tell that the defence needs work, "and just in terms of our zones, zoning up their hits; we just have to clean that up a bit. We've got some new kids who don't quite know their responsibility yet in that zone, but they're playing amazing, so you can't take that away from them. Our defensive rotation just needs a little sharpening up and we're ready to go, firing on all cylinders."

The only slightly negative happenstance of the weekend for the V-Reds was a minor injury to Kim Richard. Richard was struck upon the index finger during Saturday's game, and eventually received a couple of stitches as a result. This still wasn't enough to force her to miss the next game on Sunday.

The next pair of matches on UNB's traipse to the CIAU championships are this weekend at UPEI. UPEI and SMU have already played to a pair of scoreless draws, and it is expected that the UPEI Panthers will prove just as incapable as was SMU at providing the V-Reds with a real challenge.



One of the few times St. Mary's goalie Sabitha Morih saw the ball moving away from her. photo by Maria Paisley

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