

SPORTS

Deadline for stories is Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. Sports Desk 453-4983
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Red Devils fall from top spot

Pair of losses leaves UNB in second

by Frank Denis

Two Nova Scotia based university hockey teams combined to put the broom to the UNB Red Devils last weekend as UNB was swept. The Red Devils lost Saturday to the Dalhousie Tigers by a score of 7-3 and then dropped a 5-2 decision to the Acadia Axemen the following day in Wolfville.

The pair of losses makes the Red Devils record 11-10-3 on the season and out of first place for the first time in a while. Moncton now has sole possession of first place following their 7-5 win over UPEI on Tuesday night. That game was Moncton's last of the season while the Panthers of UPEI have two remaining including one at the Aitken Centre this Friday. The Red Devils wrap up the regular season on Saturday against Mount Allison.

If the Devils should win both games this weekend and the Panthers lose both then UNB would finish in first spot

while a win over UPEI would assure the Devils of finishing at least in second spot.

Last Saturday in Halifax was the battle of the top two teams in the AUAA. Heading into the game Dalhousie was ranked number 5 in the country while the Red Devils were number 9. For the first two periods the game lived up to its billing as both teams came out hitting and had their share of scoring opportunities.

Jim Landin opened the scoring at 8:02 of the first period to provide UNB with a 1-0 lead. Stuart Birnie tied the game for Dalhousie as he poked the puck through Red Devil goalie Chris Somers legs. UNB forward Jamie Colvin restored his team's one goal lead after driving to the net and shovelling the puck past the top goaltender in the league, Pat McGarry.

Before the second period had ended however, the Tigers struck for 3 straight goals from George Wilcox, Kelly Bradley and Alan Baldwin to lead 4-2. The 3 goals, according to UNB

coach Mike Johnston was one of the turning points in the game, "I knew we had to stay close to Dal, and when they got a 4-2 lead in the second period we knew we would have a tough third period ahead of us." And a tough third they had.

UNB came out looking for an early goal to narrow Dal's lead to one, but instead they ran into penalty trouble and the Tigers capitalized with 3 straight power play goals coming off the sticks of Derrick Pringle, Wilcox and Joe Suk. "We lost the game on penalties in the third period. The penalties we took put us really at a handicap and we knew right then that we would be in trouble", says Johnston.

Dalhousie coach Darrel Young agrees that penalty trouble cost UNB. "We knew it would be a physical contest and lately some of our guys have been taking some dumb penalties. We're a strong, physical team and I told my players that we needed discipline to beat UNB because

they're a solid hockey team. Tonight we showed some discipline and penalties hurt UNB".

Joey McTamney scored midway in the third period for the Devils to finish the scoring.

On Sunday against the Acadia Axemen the Red Devils dropped a 5-2 decision. Scoring for Acadia were Kevin Knopp, Malcolm Cameron, Paul Sutcliffe, Colin Dustin and Steve Heddington. McTamney and Steve Kippen were the lone UNB markers. The Red Devils headed into the third period with a 2-1 lead but could not hold onto it as the

Axemen scored 4 unanswered goals. In the game UNB outshot Acadia 31-24 yet lost their 10th of the season.

As mentioned earlier, this weekend marks the conclusion of the Red Devils regular season schedule. The Red Devils by all indications will finish in first or second place and will host either UPEI, if they finish in second spot or St. Thomas or Mount Allison if they should finish in first. The action gets underway this evening at 7:30 against UPEI and concludes tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. against the Mounties.



Bloomers in first place

by Frank Denis

Heading into last weekend's AUAA women's basketball action there were 4 teams tied for first place including the UNB Red Bloomers. Thanks to a pair of wins over Memorial University on the weekend the Red Bloomers have emerged from the pack and now are on top in the standings. On Saturday UNB was an easy 71-52 winner over Memorial but then had a tougher time on Sunday as Memorial hung in right until the very end before the Red Bloomers escaped with a 63-61 win.

The wins improves UNB's record to 8-3 tied with Dalhousie. However the Red Bloomers get top spot as they have scored 14 more points than the Lady Tigers. If all goes well UNB should be on top at the end of the regular season as two of their remaining 3 games are against UCCB who have yet to win a game this season and in their final game they will face the Lady Panthers of UPEI who have managed a 5-5 record so far. To make the situation better for the Bloomers all games will be played on their home court.

By finishing first overall the Bloomers will earn the right to host the AUAA championships to be held the 1st and 2nd of March. Last year the Bloomers hosted and won the banner. By so doing they earned a spot at the National Championships in Toronto. This year the CIAU finals will be held at Laval University in Quebec City and the thought of playing at Laval has first year player Shannon Hickey excited. "The thought of playing in a National Championship is always exciting but especially so this year because all the girls talk about what it was like last year. When I joined the team our goal was to make nationals and with it so attainable it's pretty exciting."

Jennifer Hale led the Bloomers last weekend in their wins over the Memorial Seahawks and her performance earned her athlete of the week honors here at UNB. Hale and her sister Bonnie scored 17 and 16 points respectively on Saturday. Judy Dobbin led the Seahawks with her 16 points in a losing cause.

Sunday's game was decided in the final 4 seconds as Jennifer Hale hit a field goal to

give the Bloomers a 2 point lead which held up. Although that was the most important basket of the day, Kara Palmer was top scorer for UNB with 18 points. Both Hale and Palmer are in the top three in league scoring. Hale is in 2nd place, averaging 15.9 points per game while Palmer is 3rd with a 15.7 average. Cindy Flynn of St. Mary's leads the league thanks to her 17.2 average.

This weekend the Bloomers will be out to run their record to 10-3 with 2 games against the Cape Breton Capers on Saturday at 6 p.m. and then on Sunday at 1 p.m. Their final game, against UPEI next Sunday is a Varsity Mania sponsored event and a great time should be had by all.



Athletes of the Week

Male

Female

Claude Cullinan of the UNB Rebels is UNB's male Athlete of the Week. Claude, a former AUAA All Star, had two outstanding games for the Rebels; on Friday he had 22 kills, 3 stuff blocks and 7 digs and on Sunday 23 kills, 2 stuff blocks and 7 digs. The Rebels lost the first match to Udem 3 to 2, but then rebounded in the second to win it by the same margin.

Coach Paul Belanger felt "Claude played solid offensively this past week-end, helping the team out of a recent slump." The win on Sunday kept the Rebels in second place in the AUAA with a record of 8 and 6.

Claude is a third-year Science student from Fredericton, NB.

Jennifer Hale of the UNB Red Bloomers has been named the female Athlete of the Week at UNB. Jennifer led the Bloomers in a two game sweep over the Memorial University of Newfoundland Seahawks, to take over first place in the AUAA. Jennifer had 17 pts. each game and was named player of the game in the second one as she hit the winning basket with just 4 seconds on the clock. The Bloomers won the first game 71 to 52 and then on Sunday nipped the Seahawks 63 to 61.

Coach Claire Mitton was excited with the wins and said "Jennifer once again showed how much a key player she is to us."

Jennifer is a third-year Science student from Truro, N.S.

