

Will the Bloomers ever lose? (NO)

The Red Bloomers continue to edge slowly toward that peak they must be at the first week of March to have a shot at a national title. They continue to dominate the AUAA, downing the UPEI Lady Panthers 85-42 last weekend, as well as defeating the University of Maine at Orono 83-59. These two scores show just how much better they are than the rest of the conference, as UPEI was the last inter-conference opponents left to hear from. So far only one team has come within 20 points of the powerhouse and that was St. FX. who held the Bloomers to a 17 point win.

The specifics of the weekend, for all of you who are interested in those matters, were not a real surprise as far as any unexpectedness goes. Janet Nichols led the Bloomers in the Friday encounter with Orono as the 6'3" freshman post hooped 22 while Marg Jones had 13 while Bonnie McKenzie added a dozen.

In Saturday's action against the Lady Panthers it was AUAA scoring leader Jennifer George with 17,

with Marg Jones and Janet Nichols hooping 13 each. That win left the Bloomers with a 10-0 regular season mark with just two weeks left in the season, and all hands are pointing to another defeated season.

Some rough edges remain in the Bloomers game, especially with the problem of tending to get sloppy at times, which may be attributed to a lack of competition.

"I thought the intensity was great from everyone", commented Bloomers Assistant Coach Andy Cheam after the Panthers game, "Everyone we put in the game worked really hard and we were especially happy with the play of the kids coming off the bench."

The Bloomers bench, as most of the conference knows, is as strong as any starting five in the league, and that may be the key as they head down the stretch.

"Collectively our bench scored 42 points", added Cheam, "which was just a super job, and showed everyone was in the game, whether they were on the floor or on the bench."

"We were still a little sloppy at times but the intensity was there and the

desire to win was there and that was something we were happy about."

As the season rolls down towards the end, the

Bloomers continue their quest for the undefeated season with a pair of games this weekend. Tonight the Bloomers start their two game homestand as they take to the Aitken Centre floor at 6 o'clock with the St. Marys Belles providing the

sacrificial lamb while tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. the St. Francis Xavier X-ettes will be in town for their return encounter. Note the games will be played at the AUC, the only time the Bloomers will be up the hill this year.

UNB Reds host Dal Tigers

By IAN SUTHERLAND
Brunswickan Staff

Volleyball fans are in for a treat this weekend, when the UNB Reds women's team hosts Dalhousie Tigers in a pair of matches at the Main Gym.

The Tigers, who are currently ranked first in the nation by the Canadian Inter-universities Athletic Union, feature two national team players in Karin Maessen and Karen Fraser. The Reds, meanwhile, have been improving all season and currently find themselves in a battle for the fourth and final playoff position with St. Francis Xavier X-ettes. UNB has a record of 6-4, with UNB

travelling to Antigonish next weekend for the final two matches of the season against St. FX. The X-ettes are 4-6 on the season.

"We lost seven players from the team we had last year, so we knew we were in a rebuilding situation," UNB coach Sonny Bolden

said. "Sue Woods was an AUAA all-star for five years and Alice Kammermans was a second team all-Canadian. When you lose people like that..."

Bolden had only two returning starters to work with when the season began; Paula O'Brien and Cindy MacDougall. While

Campbell is the lone person putting the ball in position for the power people to score points.

Monique Boulay of Fredericton has been leading the team in "kills" all season, while Cheryl Murphy - younger sister of the hockey team's Paul - are two other players who have been instrumental in the gradual improvement of the Reds over the course of the season.

UNB has played against Dalhousie just once this season, with the Halifax school blacking UNB 3-0 at Sherbrooke. While UNB played well enough that day, Bolden said Dalhousie was doing everything right.

both are solid performers, the team was missing the power aspect of its game. Four newcomers have helped the Reds improve over the year, with Bolden seeing a bright future for the squad.

The team's new setter is Carolyn Campbell from Hartland, who Bolden says has the potential to become one of the best setters in the conference. In UNB's one-setter, five-hitter system,

"There's no question they have a very good team," Bolden said. "Along with Maessen and Fraser, Brenda Turner is a very good middle hitter and they have a Czeck girl named Simona Bortel who is 5'10 1/2".

The match on Friday night is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m., while on Saturday action gets underway at 1 p.m.. All students are admitted free of charge.

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