

Bloomers ranked ninth in nation

Win tournament to begin regular season

by Bruce Denis
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As the Bloomers head to Nova Scotia today, to play both Acadia and Saint Mary's, they take with them a 2-0 record and a ninth place national ranking.

Last weekend, the Bloomers opened their season at home, hosting an AUAA league tournament. A 12 point victory over the Saint Mary's Huskies gave them the tournament championship.

Prior to the start of the final, pregame ceremonies honoured Bloomer Alumni and outlined the Bloomer's history. Former Bloomers came from all corners of the Atlantic provinces to take part in the festivities and cheer the Bloomers on. They were not disappointed.

At the start of championship game, the Bloomers came out showing their determination scoring 6 quick points before Saint Mary's could get on the scoreboard. The Bloomers executed their offense near flawlessly.

With the score at 11-4 only 7 minutes into the first half, Saint Mary's was forced to call a time out to regroup. Excellent rebounding by Laura Swift and Kara Palmer helped the Bloomers double Saint Mary's 24-12 by the 14 minute mark. However, Saint Mary's finally found their scoring touch in the final 6 minutes of

the half, scoring 10 points and holding the Bloomers to only 5 points. The teams headed to the dressing rooms with the score at 29-22 for UNB.

The second half saw both teams open up offensively. Excellent execution of the ball into the key helped the Bloomers set up some easy hoops, however the Huskies answered with accurate shooting. With only six minutes remaining in the game, St. Mary's had pulled to within 5 points of the Bloomers, forcing UNB coach Claire Mitton to call a time out with the score at 53-48. This tactic proved successful as the Bloomers held on to win 69-57.

Kara Palmer was named Pepsi AUAA player of the game hitting for 24 points including 16 rebounds. Jennifer Hale, who played an outstanding tournament, managed 16 points and Laura Swift posted 10.

The consolation final saw the UPEI Panthers defeat the UCCB Capers 62-46 in what turned out to be a surprisingly close game. UPEI's Heather Campbell netted 19 points and Shayna Allen was UCCB's top scorer with 9 points.

The Bloomers opened the tournament and regular season by doubling the Capers 94-47

last Friday night. UCCB took an early four point lead and the teams were deadlocked at 11 points mid way through the first half. A time out called by the Bloomers allowed them to reorganize and they managed to finish the half with a 13 point lead.

The Bloomers opened up offensively during the second half and dominated the Capers. At the ten minute mark of the second half they lead 71-37, holding UCCB to only 5 points while scoring 25

themselves. A three pointer by Jackie Flieger and a field goal by Shannon Hickey added to the Bloomers totals which eventually lead to a season high of 94 points.

Jackie Flieger's numerous three pointers and outstanding play earned her player of the game honours. The young rookie from Fredericton has developed into one of the team's top forwards.

The St. Mary's Huskies gained entry to the finals by defeating UPEI 45-35 that

same night after a tight defensive game. Sharlene Falk lead the scoring for the Huskies with 10 points and Lori Knickle of UPEI also totalled 10 points.

The Bloomers are looking forward to a rewarding season. At least it is sure that with a 2-0 record, a tournament championship and a 9th place national ranking after the first weekend, they are off on the right foot.



Bonnie Hale lays one up for UNB in Sunday's win over Saint Mary's

Tales from the tailgate cont'd

wander anywhere we like in the stadium. Most of the time we spent on the field level along the sideline. The atmosphere continued to build as both teams poured out of tunnels at opposite ends ready for battle. The crowd erupted.

Penn State jumped out in front early and were never really threatened in the game. A big stand by Penn State's defense late in the second quarter appeared to take all wind out of the Irish.

The atmosphere at the game was unbelievable. The Blue Band provided great entertainment and really got the fans rocking. Their version of Gary Glitter's "Rock and Roll" was especially impressive. Both groups of cheer leaders were working hard as well as the Penn State mascot.

A new attendance record

was set at this game as 96,672 people were in the stadium. The fans cheered their team on enthusiastically. It was interesting that even though the schools were fierce rivals they appeared to have a respect for each other at the same time. The crowd spent their time cheering on their own team, not calling down the opponents.

When the dust cleared Penn State walked off with a 35-12 win. The level of play was outstanding and the entire experience left these two reporters in awe. If you ever get the chance to see something like this do it.

We returned to Cafe 210 to see the Queen Bee and the Blue

Hornet Band. We would like to thank Barry and Pam for sharing their table with us. Special thanks as well go tout to Dr. Revo, Kay Bryant and especially Andy for putting us up at his apartment Saturday night.

On Sunday we began our journey home and reflected on the weekend. Penn State might not be perfect but they certainly do some things very well. The alumni and students are quite attached to the school. Everyone had Penn State on a shirt or hat or something, and most people were buying more that weekend. It would be nice to capture just a little bit of that magic.

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