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VARSIITY NEWS

Former soccer team members hospitalized

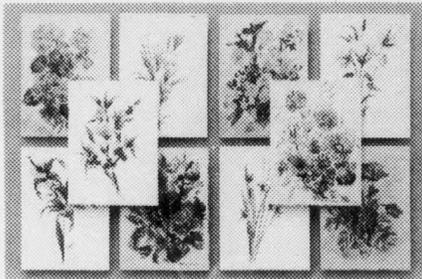
The Varsity Reds soccer team was saddened in recent weeks by news of two of its alumni.

Malcolm Lightfoot, a former team MVP and AUAA All star forward was involved in a car accident last week. His vehicle struck a moose on the way to the local airport, causing the windshield to collapse on his head. The impact tore the roof of the car off. Also in the car was his girlfriend. Lightfoot was rushed to hospital and remained on life support until earlier this week. His condition has improved but he remains in intensive care. Lightfoot's brother was arriving at the airport after being abroad for five years.

The Reds assistant coach last year, Dave Rouse, was diagnosed with Lukemia in August. Rouse had expected to return to the team this year before receiving the news. The well respected and affable coach is undergoing chemotherapy and expects to watch both UNB's home games this weekend.



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Soccer faces tell-tale weekend

Host SMU and SFX in a pair of four point games

by Bruce Denis
lowly and abhorrent sports writer

Gary Brown didn't expect to be heading into this weekend's two game homestand with two losses under his belt.

The Varsity Reds soccer coach also didn't expect to be without AUAA MVP Gray Zurheide for the beginning of the season.

Zurheide has a stress fracture on the outside of his right foot that will require another four weeks to heal. The fracture stemmed from a crack in his foot acquired during a game over the summer. He is already walking and will be working out in the pool shortly. Until then, the Reds have put their hopes in rookie Matthew Compton.

Compton netted both UNB goals this season including the lone goal in last Sunday's 2-1 loss to Mount A and the season opener against U de M in a 2-1 losing effort at home two weeks ago.

Brown is philosophical about the team's losses. "I know we can play better. We need to look at what we did wrong and learn from our mistakes. We need to be more consistent. I'm hoping we can play a better transition game. We've been doing too much kick and run."

Varsity Red fans will get their first real look at Compton this weekend when the team plays host to St. FX tomorrow and St. Mary's on Sunday. Both games are slated for a 2 pm start at Chapman field.

Brown recruited the 17 year old, Montague, PEI native over the summer and is already satisfied with his performance. "Compton is one of the few players who have made a smooth transition from high school soccer to the AUAA. He's very coachable, he listens well and executes our game plan perfectly. Matthew will compliment Gray on the wing when he returns. He's quick and shows a lot of



Reds Tony White kicks the ball up the field against Mt A.

Photo by Jason Urquhart

savvy with the ball."

Until Zurheide returns, Brown is trying to zone in on the teams tactical weaknesses. "We need to use our midfield more effectively. Our forwards haven't been using the midfielders to their advantage during the first two games. We don't have enough transition from the backfield to the forwards."

This weekend eight points are on the line because the Reds are playing out-of-province teams. Though it's still early in the season, this weekend could vault the team back into the thick of things or it could leave them at the bottom of the well.

"We're looking for eight points this weekend but we're still in the running if we come out with four. With the return of Gray Zurheide we expect to finish the season very strong."

The Reds made their sacrifices to the AUAA gods this week because both visiting teams are arriving off kilter. Defending AUAA champions St. FX were recently forced to forfeit a game to SMU after using an ineligible player in a 1-0 victory. Meanwhile, SMU were pummeled 4-1 by UPEI last Sunday and come to

Fredericton with their tails between their legs.

UNB is becoming comfortable with their new line up after making some changes before meeting Mt. A. Brown says "We don't make any cuts. We simply move players from our A team to our B team. Both teams practice together. The system works well for us, in the event of injuries, our B team reserves are ready to come in right away."

This system also allows Brown to keep an eye on bubbling talent. "We have guys show up to camp with a lot of talent but they aren't in game shape. They work out with the B team and usually by mid-season they're ready to move up. The perfect example was Neil Unsworth last year. He started with our B team last year and found a spot with the Varsity team by the end of the season."

For now, it's up to the A team to come through. This weekend's games on home turf will give the Reds the ideal opportunity to find their niche before slipping into a rhythm that could force them to miss the playoffs for only the third time in 22 years.

Reds face tough competition

by Maria Paisley
Sports Editor

The UNB Varsity Reds field hockey team will be facing tough competition in the AUAA this year.

The Reds have lost 8 players from last year - including CIAU Player of the Year Josette Babineau, Tanya Whalen, Wendi Gallant-Vautour, Kelly McCormack, and Stacy Bean, now the assistant coach of the team. Chatham native Krista Thompson is back as the goalie after playing on the Jr. World Cup Team and has the possibility of being selected for the Pan-American Games.

Coach Donna Hornibrook states this year "the key is to play as a unit, not counting on one player"

The Reds team earned a berth in the CIAU championship for the second consecutive season after going undefeated in the AUAA league for the fourth consecutive year. At the CIAU's the team earned a silver medal for the second consecutive year.

Last year's team won a number individual honors including 6 AUAA All-stars, 4 All-Canadians, 2 Academic All-Canadians, 3 Jr National Athletes, one CIAU tournament all-star and a league and CIAU MVP.

Rachel Bartlett a recruit from Sarnia, Ont. played for Ridley College and was named

the Athlete of the Year. She was a prolific goal scorer in the Ontario High School Conference and played for the Ontario Provincial Team.

Recruited from Oromocto is Lindsay Toole who played for OHS earning Athlete of the Year and was on the NB Provincial Team..

Fredericton native Jonna Potter joined the Reds after playing for FHS, were she earned the FHS MVP Defense, and the NB Under 18 Provincial Team.

The Reds won the home opener on Saturday against SMU 2-0 but weren't able to finish off a perfect weekend tying at 0 on

Sunday. At the Toronto tournament UNB and SMU battled to a scoreless tie the weekend before.

The game Saturday remained scoreless until the 54th minute when Diane Taylor tipped Natasha Connell's cross into an open side. Six minutes later Shonaugh Coles added the insurance goal. On Sunday the Reds ran into SMU's Sabitha Masih's, last year's rookie of the year, goaltending and had to settle for a scoreless tie.

The Reds will be travelling to the Island this weekend to take on the UPEI Panthers for games on Friday and Saturday.



Diane Rogers does battle with SMU player. Photo by Kevin G. Porter