

Blazers need support

By RON CAMERON

The UNB Red Blazers ladies hockey team continued a successful season on the ice last weekend as they split a pair of games with Fredericton area bantam teams. Off the ice things did not go as well, more about that later.

Sunday the Blazers played the Nashwaaksis Elks, a team they had lost to in two previous games by 5-3 and 4-2 scores. The bantams got off to a good start as Dan Gilbey beat Sue Keirstead low on the stick side at the 2:45 mark of the opening period. It was the only goal by either team in the period.

In the second period the Blazers put the game away as they exploded for 4 goals in a four minutes span. First the line of Sandy Ward, Anne Campbell, and "Boom-Boom" Cox struck, as Ward scored two 11 seconds apart with both her linemates assisting. A minute and fifteen seconds later Alison Lee and Joanne Gillies combined to shake Lori Bertin free and the veteran winger beat goalie Jeff McGinn cleanly with a wrist shot. The fourth goal came on one of hockey's most exciting plays, at the 6:18 mark of the period UNB were awarded a penalty shot when a bantam defender gloved the puck in his crease. Center France Thibodeau was designated by Mike Power and she showed why as she deked McGinn to the ice and tucked the puck under him, and the Blazers were up 4-1.

Things went the Blazer's way the remainder of the game but they could not add to their goal total, despite

carrying the play to Elks, a problem which has dogged UNB all year. It was a problem that almost cost them the game as Nashwaaksis struck for two goals in the game's last 4 minutes, and held a two man advantage for the final minute and a half. But excellent penalty killing by Thibodeau and Campbell kept the win intact.

In Monday's contest UNB took on the Ceco Bantams. As with the day before the boys went up quickly on a first period goal by Jason Perkins, and there would be no more scoring until the 6:29 mark of the third

period when Cox got her fifth goal of the year to tie it up. The tie was short lived as the bantams got two quick goals from Bill McMullin and Mark Lacey to go up 3-1 and 11 minutes remaining. Cathy Dickinson narrowed it to 3-2 with a goal, but the boys salted the victory away with Lacey's second goal to make the final score 4-2.

The Blazers announced the Blazer of the month before the Sunday game. There was little surprise in the selection of the team captain Carol Cooper. Cooper was the most valuable player in the pro-

vincial tournament which saw UNB take their third straight provincial championship. The two runner-up positions were Joanne Gillies and Diane Leblanc.

Off the ice the Blazers continued their struggle to raise funds to attend the third annual women's national tournament in Edmonton. The Sport New Brunswick governing body rejected the Blazers application for financial aid leaving the N.B.A.H.A. the only provincial council not supporting their champion. The girls now depend on their own fundraising and any aid the University can give.

Bears finish close second

By BRIAN BESSEY

The AUAA wrestling championships took place on February 18th in Antigonish. The UNB Black Bears finished second to Memorial University. The two teams tied with 41 points each but Memorial was awarded the championship on the basis they had four gold medals compared to UNB's two gold medals. Mount Allison finished third with 27 points. St. Francis Xavier was the other team competing and they finished last with 18 points.

UNB had eight wrestlers in the finals out of 12 weight classes. Two won the gold medal and six won silver medals. The other 4 wrestlers finished in third.

The gold medal winners were Ron Richard at 76 kg. and Murray Reid at 95 kg. Richard wrestled extremely well in beating all three of his opponents easily. Reid didn't have any problems

either in pinning both his opponents in less than 30 seconds.

The Black Bears silver medalists were led by the gutsy performances of Gary Wilson at 57 kg. and Wayne Wiggins at 86 kg. Wilson wrestled with damaged knee ligaments and had to wear a knee brace, despite this he still finished second. Wiggins despite a bad hamstring still managed to beat the defending AUAA champion at 86 kg. to finish second. Dwayne Wakerall lost his final at 65 kg. by a heartbreaking 3-2 decision. Dwayne had to wrestle up a weight class because of injuries and still did a very good job.

The three other 2nd place finishers were Mike Sharpe at 68 kg, Troy Shanks at 72 kg. and Dave Bessey at 80 kg. They all lost decisions in their finals. Bessey lost his decision 5-5 because the opponent had a 2 point exposure.

The four 3rd place finishers were Raymond Ng at 51 kg, Terry Laurence at 54 kg, Mike Hopper at 61 kg and Colin Codogan at Heavyweight.

Terry Laurence, just to make his weight class had to lose 26 lbs since the start of the season in September, going from 145 lbs to 119 lbs. Laurence is to be commended for his tremendous job of self discipline.

Ray Ng and Mike Hopper both wrestled well but not well enough to finish higher than 3rd. Codogan was asked to beat his opponent from Memorial and he did to finish third. Codogan wrestled his best match of the year in beating him.

Also a big thanks goes out to the trainer, Debbie Mayo who did an excellent job for the Black Bears this season.

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