

Soccer: Inaugural season Soccer: One minute away from CIAUs

by Sam Morgan
Brunswickan Sports

The Women's soccer team finally got onboard as Varsity Reds this year. After years of competing below the varsity level, the women got to show exactly what a quality team they are.

Even though the team was composed entirely of AUAAs rookies, the V-Reds started their season with an impressive outing over UPEI by a score of 3-2. Don't let the low margin fool you, this first game was intense as any.

The V-Reds quickly got out of the gates with a 4 and 0 record under the leadership of experienced Co-Captains Nina Brokopp and Bea Scholten and, let's not forget, the tutelage of Coach Miles Pinsent. The V-Reds were able to face a multitude of talent from various universities without faltering.

It seemed at the time that goaltender Karlene Bishop could have done her job more comfortably on the bench, thanks to the stellar performance of the full-backs and the aggressiveness of the forwards.

Leslie Hachey proved that mid-way through the season she was the girl with the golden feet, everything she touched turned to goals. She captured the touch early on which made her a force to be reckoned with in the latter half of the season. With the overall dedication and

fortitude shown by the women, the V-Reds seemed unbeatable.

However, like all fairy tales, they end and the V-Reds suffered their first loss when the MUN Sea-Hawks took to the field on a cold and bleak October afternoon. The V-Reds lost in a tight one by 1-0. The performances of Brokopp and Bishop are really what kept the game score as low as it was.

The V-Reds literally stumbled themselves to a fourth place finish after a couple of disappointing games before season's end. Bishop, Brokopp and especially Stephanie Steel were all injured by the time the team's last weekend was over. But the good news was that the women would be going to the AUAs with a respectable 7-2-3 record.

The AUAs were held in Wolfville, with strong teams representing UPEI, MUN, St FX, Acadia, and Dal. It all ended the way it began, but only with an ironic twist, the dreams of an AUA crown slipped through the V-Reds fingers by a 2-1 loss to UPEI, who they initially defeated in their first game.

Pinsent was named AUA coach of the year. As well, Brokopp, Scholten and Hachey made it as AUA all-Stars. Hachey also received a roost on the CIAU 2nd All-Canadian team.

Even though no crowns were won, the V-Reds women proved that Women's soccer is alive and kicking at UNB.

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The UNB Varsity Reds Men's Soccer team started much like the Women's, with a convincing victory over the hapless UPEI Panthers. The previous year, the Men were completely written out of the playoff scene. However, under Coach Gary Brown the V-Reds number one priority was to make it to the AUAs.

From the onset of the season it looked as though Gray Zurheide would be leading the team to glory. But Zurheide would concede the fact that the team had great input from the swift Swedish majesty of Mattias Manderberg, Campbelltonian Ben LeBlanc and the stonewalling of goalie to balance the team.

The highlight of the season came as UNB fought their way back from a two

goal deficit to tie UdeM at 2-2. This was accomplished without the expertise of Zurheide who was sidelined with a chronic foot injury. It was a hard pressed match, with an intense and aggressive Moncton team, it only seemed natural that the V-Reds give up and die. However, the tying goal by Rheel LeBlanc signaled that UNB was in for the long run and UdeM was going to have to be satisfied with just a tie.

Like the Women's team, the Men suffered their first loss midway through the season to the UPEI Panthers. The Panther's, already beaten previously by the V-Reds, surprised the team with a stunning 2-1 victory. Brown insinuated that the poor ground conditions may have played a role in UNB's first loss. The team at this point stood atop the AUA

standings alone, however with the loss, they shared top spot with the Dal Tigers. The playoffs were looking more and more of a reality.

Glory hit at the tail-end of October. The V-Reds finished up the season with a 6-2-3 earning themselves a bye in the AUAs and 2nd place in the league.

After a convincing victory over SMU at the AUAs it looked as though the V-Reds were going to take it all, but Dalhousie happened.

The Tigers and V-Reds played in the finals pretty much scoreless for the length of the match. In the 89th minute Dal broke for a goal and dashed UNB's hope for an AUA title.

Next year the Men will have to concentrate their efforts a little more, even without the likes of Zurheide, who's not returning to the ranks.

Cross Country: Off-track Tiger Trouble

by Peter J. Cullen
Brunswickan Sports

What started as a season of promise ended on a flat note for both the men's and women's segments of the cross country team.

Initially claiming victories in their pre-season contest in Presque-Isle, Maine, UNB appeared prepared to present themselves to the AUA as a strong, contending force this season. But, while every runner seemed to continuously post personal bests, there was simply no evident solution for a first place finish.

The men, led by UNBSJ student James Murphy, simply could not match the number of solid runners performing for Dal. While Murphy achieved first place in the Presque-Isle event and piled up an impressive running resume by outdistancing most of his personal competition, his efforts, combined with those of stalwart Andrew Dunphy and Dave Fraser, were just never enough to secure a first place finish for the team. They ultimately resided in third place at the AUAs.

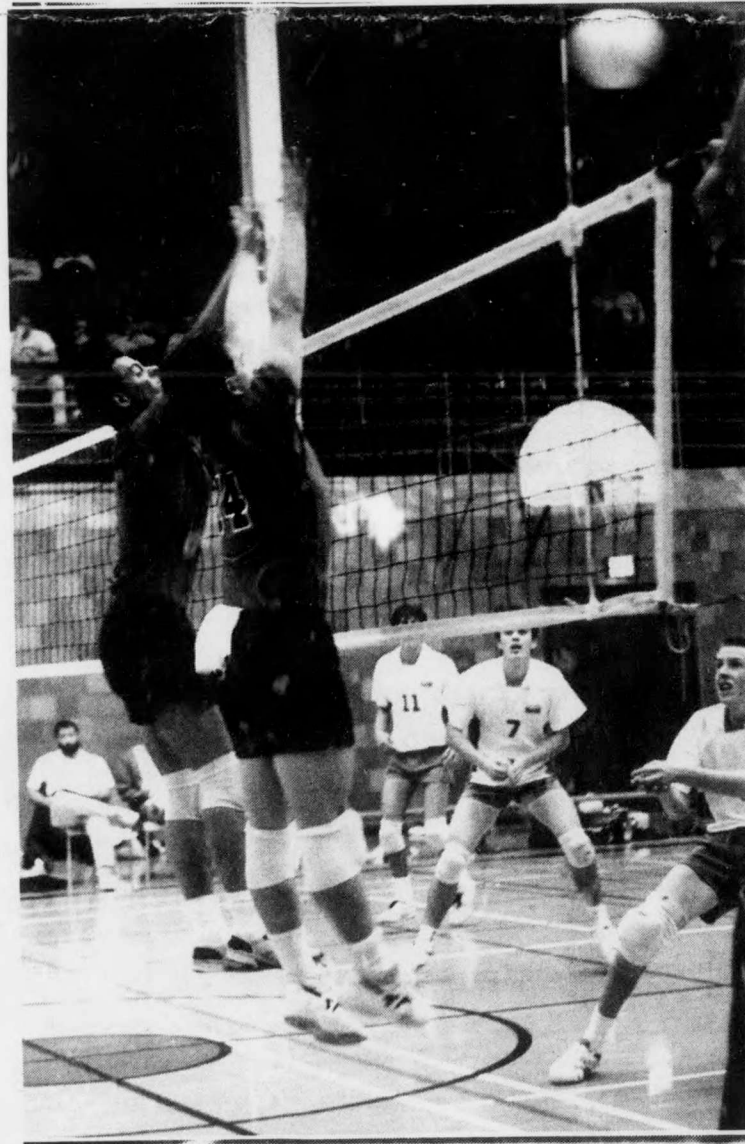
Always optimistic, Randall still touted his females quite highly, even before the final AUA confrontation. But entering what turned out to be their last weekend of the season, they had yet to win a race against the other universities, constantly finishing second. The team was propelled by AUA All-star Jennifer Phillips, as well as Megan Roushorne, Beverly White and Michelle MacWhirter. Melanie Spinney also seemed to be a valuable asset before an injury sidelined her for the season.

Although the men and women were disappointed with the results of the AUA

tourney, runners Murphy, Dunphy and Phillips all qualified to compete in the CIAU competition in London, Ontario. Phillips secured the position of 31st among female university runners, while Murphy ran to a 40th place finish, and Dunphy placed 80th in the men's portion on the wet, muddy course.

While the die were not cast in Randall's favour this year, he stated that he sensed a change in balance approaching. Believing his women's squad to be even better next season, he related that "the Dalhousie coach told me [during the AUA weekend] that we actually scared them this year. We're gonna do more than that next year."

Basketball: Late Bloomers



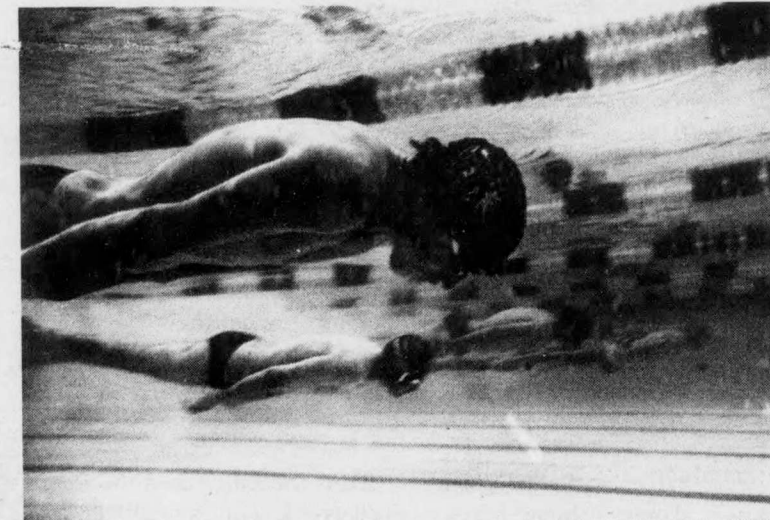
Sandra Tomely shoots for two. Photo Warren Watson

Despite reeling off 6 straight wins to end the season, the Women's Basketball Varsity Reds were unable to squeeze into the playoffs. In the 8 games prior to this, the V-Reds had lost by three points or less.

Women's Volleyball

Despite the loss of key veterans, the team battled their way to a fourth place finish in the league ensuring themselves a playoff position, where they fell to the Dal Tigers, who ended their AUA season undefeated.

Swimming: More success



Despite the change in coach to Bob Connon, the Varsity Reds swimmers once again had a successful year. In contrast to last year, when the women's team had the edge over AUA rivals Dalhousie, this year it was the men's team with the advantage; in part because of a bumper crop of rookies featuring AUA Rookie and Swimmer of the Year Josh Ballem and Chris Jones. Michelle MacWhirter closed out her career at UNB with yet more AUA titles and trips to CIAUs and Olympic trials

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After tw
playoffs

Field

by Peter J.
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