

CLUB SPORTS

# Ironmen win maritime champs

by Bones  
Sports Staff

On Saturday the Ironmen defeated the Acadia Axemen 27-0 to claim the Maritime University Championship.

UNB took complete and absolute control right from the opening kickoff. Driving into the opposing forwards, the Ironmen forwards rucked and mauled downfield. On second, third, fourth phase the Ironmen blew Acadia off the ball. Flankers Andrew Lauchlan and Jeremy Battye put demanding pressure on the scrumhalf and flyhalf. On many occasions this pressure resulted in turnovers which the backs put to good use.

The backfield played textbook style rugby. Passes consistently went to hand and each tackle demolished an Axeman. Scrumhalf Mike Reeves and flyhalf Dylan Ashpole, while

not destroying their opposite number, smoothly ran the backfield. Centres Troy Stevens and Frank Dolan took the ball straight at the Axemen and helped set up wingers Craig Blair and Dean Plant, and fullback Tim Keddy on the numerous overlaps.

Hooker Kevin Kerstens scored the first Ironmen try after the pack secured possession in a maul. Crashing into the backfield he ran through two players for a 5-0 lead. Minutes later the backs spun the ball out to winger Craig Blair who broke the tackle and dove in for the try and a 10-0 score. Prop Jeremy Donald rounded off the scoring for a 15-0 halftime lead. Supporting down the wing, he received Kevin Kerstens' pass and slammed the ball down.

Acadia's only scoring chance came at the end of the first half. Awarded a penalty 5 yards out,

the Axemen elected to run. The Ironmen pack stepped forward as a unit and buried the Acadia forward. In fact UNB's command was such that this was the only time Acadia spent more than a minute out of their own half.

The second half saw the Ironmen add to their lead with perhaps the two most exciting tries of the season. Lead by the drive of tight five Eric Ednie, Kevin Kerstens, Jeremy Donald, Troy Bryenton, and Derek Jenkin, the pack stole the scrum and then walked Acadia backwards across the line. Captain Iann MacKintosh placed the ball down for the pushover try.

With 5 minutes remaining Mike Reeves took the low hit as he dove into the endzone. Pivoting, he wound up doing a full handstand as he touched the ball down. When converted this try gave the Ironmen the 27-0 Maritime Championship win.

## The UNB Field Hockey Team

would like to extend a sincere

### THANK YOU!

to the following:

Jim Born, Maureen Sparks, the Athletics Department, James Van Raalte of the SRC, Susan McCarthy of UNB Sports Info, Gina McNeil and the Phys. Ed. society, Matt Harris and the Social Club, fellow athletes and coaches, members of P. E., the media and family and friends.

For a warm welcome at the airport as well as the reception held in our honor at the Social Club upon our return from the CIAU Championships.

# HOW DOES YOUR UNIVERSITY RATE?

Find out in Maclean's  
November 15 issue.

Maclean's

On Sale  
Now!

## VIEW From The Cheap Seats

By Mark Savoie

Congratulations to the UNB Red Sticks for winning a second consecutive silver medal at the CIAU field hockey championships last weekend. Also, my thanks. Because of their success the Social Club extended happy hour for an extra thirty minutes last Sunday night. That's another three beers! Also, congratulations to Jim Born for actually taking time out of his busy schedule and meeting the team at the airport this year.

Coach Donna Hornibrook termed it "a miracle" that the Sticks were able to make it to the final two years in a row. This was not meant as a slight to her team. She was instead marveling that the Sticks have been so successful at the national level despite not getting the opportunity to practice on artificial turf. It is indeed a testament to the ability that the Sticks possess, that they more than hold their own against teams that practice on turf on a regular basis.

As most of you should know by now, the Sticks lost to the University of Toronto [boring nickname insert] Varsity Blues 2-0 in the championship final. Toronto, of course, was the hosting university. Would the Sticks have fared even better had our fine institution played host? Unfortunately, we'll never know. CIAU regulations stipulate that the national championships for field hockey must be played on artificial turf. Guess what, folks! That ain't us.

The AUSA has the right to host the championships two years from now. However, only Saint Mary's University meets the mandatory turf requirement. Since that institution's chances of presenting credible competition at this tournament are somewhere between slim and none, there is every chance that they will not elect to submit a bid.

## RED STICKS FIELD HOCKEY

Nine years ago the Red Sticks did host the championship tournament, getting soundly kicked in the process. They finished the tournament with a 1-3 record, scoring four times while allowing nine against. All of these games were played on grass, the turf rule having not yet been implemented. Not that our team back then was all that bad, but the Sticks today are a far superior entry. Were they given the opportunity to host once again, thus getting the same advantages of familiar playing surface and rabid fan support as did the University of Toronto, [Actually, U of T's crowd is traditionally small and fairly silent, but what can you expect for a team called the Varsity Blues.] they undoubtedly would have had a better chance to emerge with that final W.

I am told by people who know the sport that field hockey is a better game when played on turf as opposed to grass. They say that because of the faster nature of the game on turf it is far more entertaining to watch and play. This view is reflected right from the top. The World Championships and the Olympic tournament are both played on turf, as is just about every other major competition. Perhaps for this reason the CIAU may feel justified in their pro-turf decision.

I personally feel that it is a particularly horrible decision for the CIAU to have made, and not just because of my loathing of this artificial surface. I agree with Tug McGraw's reasoning, "If I can't smoke it, I don't want to play on it." However, that's just a matter of personal taste. The problem with the CIAU's decision is that it is completely unfair to schools like UNB that do not have an artificial turf field. Despite having arguably the best field hockey team in the country for the last two years, we will never again get to host the championships unless they rescind the regulation or we get a turf field. This means that we're behind the eight ball from the word go.

To prepare for their play on artificial turf the Red Sticks practiced indoors on the hardwood floors of the gymnasium. This effectively simulates the speed of the ball on turf, but as Donna Hornibrook pointed out, it is impossible to practice plays requiring a great deal of space in such a limited area. She also indicated that play on turf requires different abilities than does play on grass. Turf play requires more speed from the players. As a result different athletes may be selected for play on the various surfaces. The Red Sticks cannot automatically assume free passage to the CIAU's every year, and thus must select their team with grass in mind.

Anyway, in an effort to say something nice about the Red Devils' effort in the Mark Jeffrey game, I will acknowledge that they did dominate the first half of the second period until the linesman deflected a harmless icing into an Acadia breakaway for the Axemen's third goal. After that, well, let's just leave it at that.