

Sports

Fall Classic kicks off basketball season Lordon oversees young, dynamic women's team

by Matthew J. Collins
Sports Staff

Just as the men's squad last year, the Varsity Reds Women's basketball team will begin the season under the leadership of a new coach. Pauline Lordon will be at the helm this year replacing Claire Mitton.

Through several local programs Lordon has already been involved with many Reds players. This familiarity allows Lordon to feel comfortable coming into the program.

As a former Red Bloomer, Lordon is familiar with the coaching style of Mitton. "I know the system here, I understand what kind of program they're coming from. I know her philosophy, I played under her, and a lot of the things Claire teaches I agree with. We want to maintain the tradition of the program as being successful."

However, this year's team will have to make some necessary adjustments. While Lordon does bring a lot of Mitton's philosophy with her, she will have her own ideas and her own way of doing things. However, this transition should take place very quickly. Secondly, as Lordon points out, "An obvious difference is that some seniors have graduated who had a big impact on the program." These include names such as Jill Jackson, Tracy Lordon, and all-Canadian Kara Palmer. This undoubtedly leaves a void to fill, yet Lordon feels it can be done.

While Lordon did not have an opportunity to recruit, she did manage to pick up some quality rookies.

Fredericton's Ali Crandlemire should have an immediate influence in the team's make-up. "As a rookie with the UNB team, she will be expected to play right away." According to Lordon, "She's got good rebounding skills and is very agile for a post player." The Reds picked up another Fredericton native Kim Newman. At 6'1" tall, she is the tallest member of the team and will provide a lot of height inside. Lastly, the Reds will have the presence of Heather Medley. As a three-time, Ontario High School Athlete of the

year, "she brings with her a super attitude, and athletic ability," and she has "the potential to contribute a great deal to UNB Basketball."

Look to last year's veterans to move their games up a notch. Bonnie Hale enters this season with three years of AUSA experience, and will provide an offensive threat outside. Krista Foreman will also have a strong presence when she is on the floor and Lordon feels that she "is ready to step up and play a key role with this year's team". And don't forget

Laura Swift. She should provide some solid rebounds and be a consistent scorer inside. She also has four years of AUSA basketball competition behind her. As Lordon observes, "Laura's just been great so far. She's provided some leadership and she's got a tremendous amount of experience. [She's] going to do a lot for us offensively."

But Lordon sees this season's squad as one which is very balanced, and will therefore be able to get scoring from all positions. "I also think we're going to get a good outside attack from kids like Jackie Flieger and Donna Retson." If the shooters can establish themselves early, it should take some of the pressure off Swift and Foreman to score in the post.

Also expect good things to come from Bridget Gamble this season. While only in her second year, Gamble will see a lot of time at the point guard position. "She recognized that it is now time for her to step in because we need her at the point. She's got a lot of speed and quickness."

This diversity and depth should give the women another chance to contend for the AUSA title. After falling only two points short of reaching the finals last year, the Varsity Reds will return with the hopes of maintaining their high level of competition within the conference. The women have been dedicated to the team's development in solidifying this goal. As Lordon says, "You can never regret hard work. If you don't work hard, you aren't going to get success." And this is one thing the UNB Women's basketball team has seldom fallen short of.

1993 UNB Fall Classic Basketball Tournament

Friday, October 22

- Game 1. 2:30 pm Bishops vs. Husson (Women)
2. 4:30 pm Bishops vs. Husson (Men)
3. 6:30 pm UNB vs. Laval (Women)
4. 8:30 pm UNB vs. Laval (Men)

Saturday, October 23

- Game 1. 12:00 pm Laval vs. Husson (Women)
2. 2:00 pm Laval vs. Husson (Men)
3. 6:00 pm UNB vs. Bishops (Women)
4. 8:00 pm UNB vs. Bishops (Men)

ALL GAMES AT LB GYM

Tournament should initiate turnaround for men's team

The annual UNB Fall Classic Basketball tournament gets underway this afternoon, marking the start of another season of UNB Basketball.

Play is scheduled to start at 2:30 pm, when teams from Bishops University and Husson College will be in action. The Varsity Reds will be featured in the evening match-ups against the squads from Laval University. The women begin play at 6:30 pm, while the men's team will take to the court at 8:30 pm.

The Varsity Reds will begin their second campaign under the direction of coach Clint Hamilton. In his rookie year, Hamilton was amidst a program in need of a change. In the past year and a half, he has done exactly that. There are only six players returning from last year's squad, which means there will be many new names on the roster.

Hamilton has recruited heavily throughout the summer, and feels that these new players will mix well with the returning members of the team. "We have a nice blend of incoming freshmen, experienced veterans, and guys who are coming back to the program with AUSA experience." He also believes that this 'blend' of players, will only help the team develop its level of performance.

Stanleigh Mitchell is one of Hamilton's key recruits who will have to make this transition. Mitchell hails from North York, Ontario, and attended Bathurst Heights where he averaged 20 points, 7 rebounds, and 10

assists last season. If these numbers are any reflection of his talent, then his presence will be felt every time he steps on the floor. As Hamilton points out, Stanleigh has the "potential to be a quality point guard in the AUSA. He is still learning the role of this position at the university level, but he definitely has the ability to become an impact player."

Another one of Hamilton's top prospects is Fredericton High graduate Gord McNeilly. As a member of New Brunswick's Canada Games Team, McNeilly knows what it's like to play at a high level of competition. According to Hamilton, Gord was "one of the top high school players in New Brunswick last year. He has potential to be a solid player; he's quick and has great athletic ability."

There are also several other players who are new to Hamilton's program, but familiar to UNB Basketball. Andy MacKay will return to the line-up after a year off and bring with him two years of AUSA experience. MacKay is an explosive player who can put up numbers in a hurry. But he must remain under control. The Reds will look to him for offense this year, and as Hamilton states, "...if Andy stays focused, he has the potential to provide a spark for us."

Joining Andy will be Brian Elliott and Craig Isley. Listed at 6'6" and 6'4" respectively, they should provide some help in the low-post. They will also give the Reds some "size, strength and

depth up front." which they lacked last year. The team had only two players listed over 6'5" prior to this year. But now there are seven players on the roster who list 6'5" or better.

With such a young team, leadership is going to be essential in order to have a successful season. Succeeding Yaw Obeng in the role of team captain will be both Duff Adams and Marc Aubé. Adams brings four years of experience into this season, and will be relied upon to establish an outside threat. Adams is described by Hamilton as a 'real pure shooter.' If he can get set, he is extremely dangerous behind the three-point line. Aubé will also be looked upon to guide the team. With the addition of players at the forward position, Aubé can be moved out to the three position. With his quick first step, he should be able to provide himself with offensive opportunities. Look at him to become a consistent scorer this year.

Greg Mapp will also be looked to for leadership. Formerly the role of Yaw Obeng, Mapp will be responsible for bringing the ball up the court. Hamilton states that, "The point guard has to be the leader on the floor. [Mapp] must assume that role and step up." Also seeing time at this position will be Stanleigh Mitchell.

Coach Hamilton looks for improvement in a number of areas. One of the biggest problems last year was the inability to remain consistent. While the team struggled to score last year, the

defense struggled to come up with the ball, "We've got to become more consistent. Our approach is got to be that we're going to take the floor and be difficult to play every night."

However, Hamilton is not immediately going to determine success on the win/loss column. "We're building for the long term, and if you start summing yourself up with wins and losses early, you can get into a lot of trouble." But don't worry, both the coach and the team have a goal of making it to the AUSA playoffs.

In the past, fan support has been scarce but steps to fix this have been made. At every home game this year, students will have a chance to win \$1000.00 with the half-time shoot-out. And after Christmas, a draw will be held for a student to win their year's tuition back. The only stipulation is, you have to be present to win.

But don't forget, this year's men's basketball team will be an exciting product. Every AUSA league game is free for students, and is a 'real entertainment package.' The style will be one that is upbeat and energetic. "Youth brings enthusiasm and energy. Our style will not be one in which we hold anything back, we're trying to get out and challenge people."

The Varsity Reds commitment to work hard will be essential, and as Hamilton states, "if we stay focused on that, we'll give ourselves a chance to be successful."