

# WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

## The best is yet to come

It is often said that good things come to those who wait. And for the Varsity Reds women's volleyball team the wait is finally over as they have captured the AUAU regular season title with an untouchable 16-0 record.

Not even head coach Al MacGarvie could have expected the kind of dream season his team has had. "I didn't anticipate on having a 16-0 season, but I did anticipate that we would be up in the top four, possibly the top two this year. I never dreamed that we would win every match we played."

But the road to this undefeated season has not been without injury. The Reds most powerful middle hitter Chantal Martin went down with an ankle injury in Mid-January, and has been forced to watch her team play the second half of the schedule without her. And while her presence is missed, MacGarvie has some reassurance in the play of his rookies.

"Whenever Chantal hits the ball it hurts - she kills it. We miss that, but the rookies have been able to go on the floor and get the job done. But we're hoping to get her back for the AUAU's because it really helps when you have a player who can put it away for you."

Also picking up the slack have been fourth year players Carla Mason and Monica Gaudet. As coach MacGarvie points out, "Carla's an all-round good player but she's really stepped it up a notch. Her defensive game, her offensive game... she works hard from the opening whistle until

the end of the match. She just doesn't stop".

And Gaudet has also been a strong link in the chain of the Reds success this year. "You tend to overlook Monica because she's not the killer that some of the other hitters are. But the consistency she has along with her leadership on the floor, is a contributing factor to our success."

But as MacGarvie is quick to point out, the success of the team revolves around one of the smallest players on the floor, Kerri Maher. "Setters are always overlooked. Kerri tends to go unnoticed but she hasn't gone unnoticed with me because she generates our offense. Football has a quarterback and volleyball has a quarterback in its setter. She's got to be the biggest contributor to our success."

However, still standing in their way of a championship title are the AUAU playoffs. And while schools such as Dalhousie and Mount Allison will provide some formidable opposition for the Reds, the players are not about to panic if they fall behind early.

As Monica Gaudet explains, "if the pressure is on and we've lost a game, we're not going to panic. The composure and experience that is behind each one of our players is going to carry us a long way."

Teammate Carla Mason also adds that her team cannot take anything for granted. "We know we can beat the other teams but we can't go in over confident. We've got to be prepared to play, and work hard."

And if the Reds can maintain this focus, they may find that the best things are yet to come.

### AUAU Final Standings

Team	MP	MW	ML	GW	GL	PTS
UNB	16	16	0	48	6	32
UDM	16	12	4	40	19	24
MTA	16	10	6	34	24	20
DAL	16	10	6	33	25	20
SMU	16	9	7	31	30	18
SFX	16	7	9	27	33	14
UPEI	16	5	11	23	38	10
ACA	16	2	14	16	44	4
MUN	16	1	15	12	45	2

### Championship Schedule

#### Saturday, February 26

##### Semi-finals

- UNB (#1) vs. DAL (#4)
- UDM (#2) vs. MTA (#3)

#### Sunday, February 27

##### Championship final

- winner of game 1 vs. winner of game 2

**UNBelievable!**

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

## One step closer

by Matthew J. Collins  
Sports Staff

Once again, the Varsity Reds Men's basketball team have knocked off one of the premier teams in the AUAU conference. And for the fourth time this season, the victim was nationally ranked at one point in the season. The Acadia Axemen were chopped by the Reds 65-60, in what was the most important victory of the year for coach Hamilton's squad.

The Reds were four points out of the sixth and final playoff spot, and knew that a win was necessary if they wanted to have any hopes of making the post season. So with the pressure on and their backs against the wall, the Reds came out and played their best game of the year.

But as Hamilton points out, his team was well aware of the challenge which they had before them. "When you play Acadia, you've got to be prepared for war. We played them well both offensively and defensively, and the outcome reflects this."

Heading the frontline for the Reds attack was the offensive arsenal of Andy McKay who fired away 19 points. In his first start of the season, Brian Elliot exploded for 17 points, banged for 7 boards, and was named player of the game.

What stood out more than anything throughout this game was the tenacious effort by the Reds on the defensive end. The intensity level rose as the game wore on, with players slapping their hands on the floor when a defensive stop was needed. This was much to the delight of the 1000+ fans who were in attendance

cheering on the Reds.

And it was also pleasing for coach Hamilton who finally got the kind of effort he has been wanting from his players all year. "Our defense reflects an attitude we haven't seen in quite some time. That attitude is 'Refuse to die.' Everybody made a commitment to the team ideal."

The Reds are forced to play a couple of tough teams themselves. On Saturday they face the defending national champion X-Men, and on Sunday they'll try to tame the nationally ranked Dalhousie Tigers. These are key games for the Reds, who will need at least a split if they are to position themselves for a playoff berth.

And although the pressure is on, Hamilton indicates that his team has the ability to make the most of the opportunity. "We've made a mess of the AUAU standings this year. We've proven that we can beat the best in the league. But right now, we're the masters of our own fate. We'll just have to play and see what happens."

### CAMPUS RECREATION

#### INTRAMURAL SPORTS:

##### OFFICIALS NEEDED

Officials are currently being hired for:

- Basketball
- Ball Hockey
- Volleyball

All those interested in applying should fill out an application form in the Recreation Office Rm A121 LB Gym between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm Mondays through Fridays.

##### WINTER SPORTS

Registration packages are available at the L.B. Gym for the following sports:

##### CO-ED

Basketball

Monday, March 14 - Tues. March 22  
Play: March 26 (Saturday)

**Intramural Ice Hockey:** The competitive tournament is right around the corner, so be aware of defaults, and suspensions. Both factors could affect your team from competing.

##### CLUB SPORTS

Due to space constraints this week, there was no room for Club News. Anything submitted to the Sports Editor by Tuesday, Feb. 22 will be printed in next week's paper.

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