

Red Bloomers start year off right!



photo Brewer

Patty Sheppard makes her eighth "steal" against Dal and scores on a lay-up finishing with 15 points as leading UNB scorer of the game.



photo Brewer

"JUST FOR INSURANCE": Cathy Maxwell puts the finishing touch on UNB Red Bloomers Friday Nite win against DAL as she scores the last basket to put UNB ahead 71-65.

In their first home court appearances of the 78-79 season, the UNB Red Bloomers showed the strong performances expected of them as they seek to defend their AUAA title.

The Bloomers dominated their top rivals from Dalhousie University (ranked 5th in Canada) in two league matches, (Friday and Sunday) while capturing their third straight UNB Holiday Classic Tournament on Saturday January 6.

In Friday's Dal game, UNB opened with a 10 point lead (39-29) with inside baskets by Cathy Maxwell, and driving lay-ups by Patty Sheppard who was credited with 8 steals in the game. The Bloomers ran the lead to 18 points at one stage in the second half but Dal ran a string of points off of UNB turn-overs late in the game to close the scoring at 71-65 for UNB. The final score concealed the edge in play displayed by the Bloomers who shot a below average 40.2 per cent from the floor and a season high 86.7 per cent (13-15) from the foul line.

The victory was comforting to UNB fans since it avenged a Bloomer overtime loss to Dal before Christmas and revived hopes of hosting the league play-offs in February - a privilege of the team which finishes the regular season in first place.

On Saturday Jan. 6 the Red Bloomers out-deuded an experien-

ced Fredericton Senior team 67-55 to win the finals of the Holiday Classic. It was a scrappy match-up with neither team shooting particularly well, but a balanced team effort by the Bloomers wore down the Seniors who only trailed 29-27 at half-time. Two note worthy stats were the 7 steals by Patty Sheppard and the 7 for 10 foul shooting by Carolyn Gammon who was playing in her first game of the year after a nagging leg injury.

Nancy Knowlton of Halifax Midtown was the Tournament MVP and was joined on the All-Star team by both Patty Sheppard and Cathy Maxwell of UNB. As well, Kim Hansen and Coleen Dufresne playing for the Fredericton Seniors rounded out the Tournament Squad.

The Bloomers completed a week-end sweep by pounding Dal 75-57 on Sunday as the fast break of "Bloomers past" emerged. This is the style UNB is known for, as

well as their pressing defenses which torment opponents.

With their man to man defense somewhat lagging after the Christmas break, the Bloomers relied on their 1-3-1 half court "Rat" press to harass the Dal offence. This defence keeps two people pressing the ball handler and also forces the offence out of their favored patterns.

In Sunday's game Moira Pryde had a season high 17 points on the basis of excellent shooting and Claire Mitton took over the team lead in rebounding with a 12 rebound performance. As well, Lois Scott had an impressive total of 7 rebounds.

The wins placed the UNB league record at 4-2 and sets the stage for this weekends' road trip to Halifax for games with SMU and the last match versus Dal, which might possibly set the final play-off position as to who will get to host the AUAA Tourney.

UNB 71		UNB 67		UNB 75	
DAL 65		Fredericton 55		DAL 57	
Pts	REB	Pts.	Reb.	Pts	Reb.
Carolyn Gammon	2	0	11	2	1
Lois Scott	6	2	2	3	8
Laura Sanders	9	5	4	2	9
Claire Mitton	11	4	8	8	16
Cathy Maxwell	12	9	15	12	16
Patti Moffitt	0	0	2	1	0
Moira Pryde	10	4	5	10	17
Marleigh Moran	4	3	6	4	2
Kathy Jennings	Did Not Play		DNP		
Liedy Scholten	2	1	10	2	2
Patty Sheppard	15	1	4	2	4

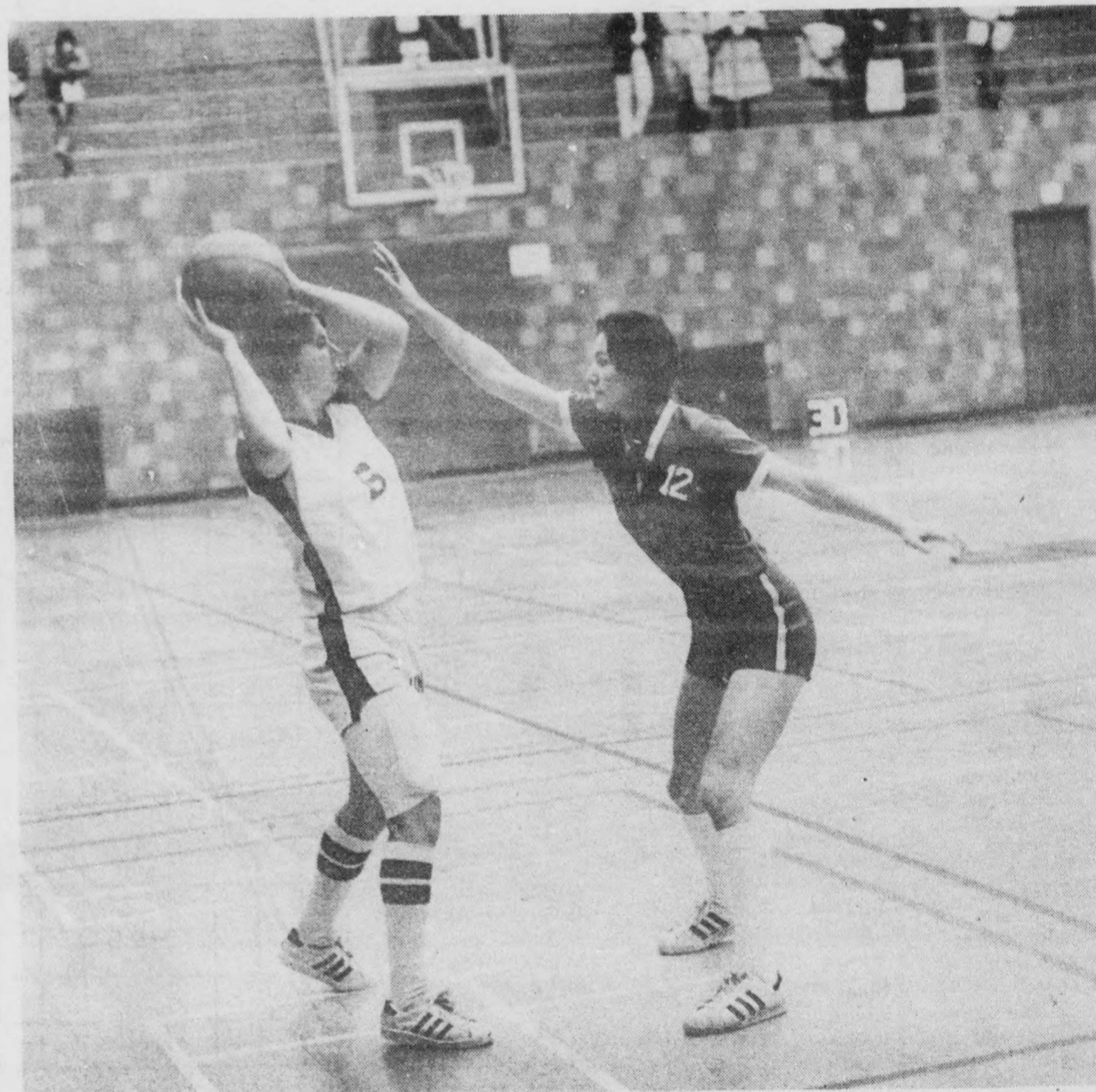


photo Brewer

"YOU CAN'T HAVE IT!" says Patti Moffitt of UNB as she attracts the attention of the Fredericton Senior's Pam Boyne, in the Senior's end.