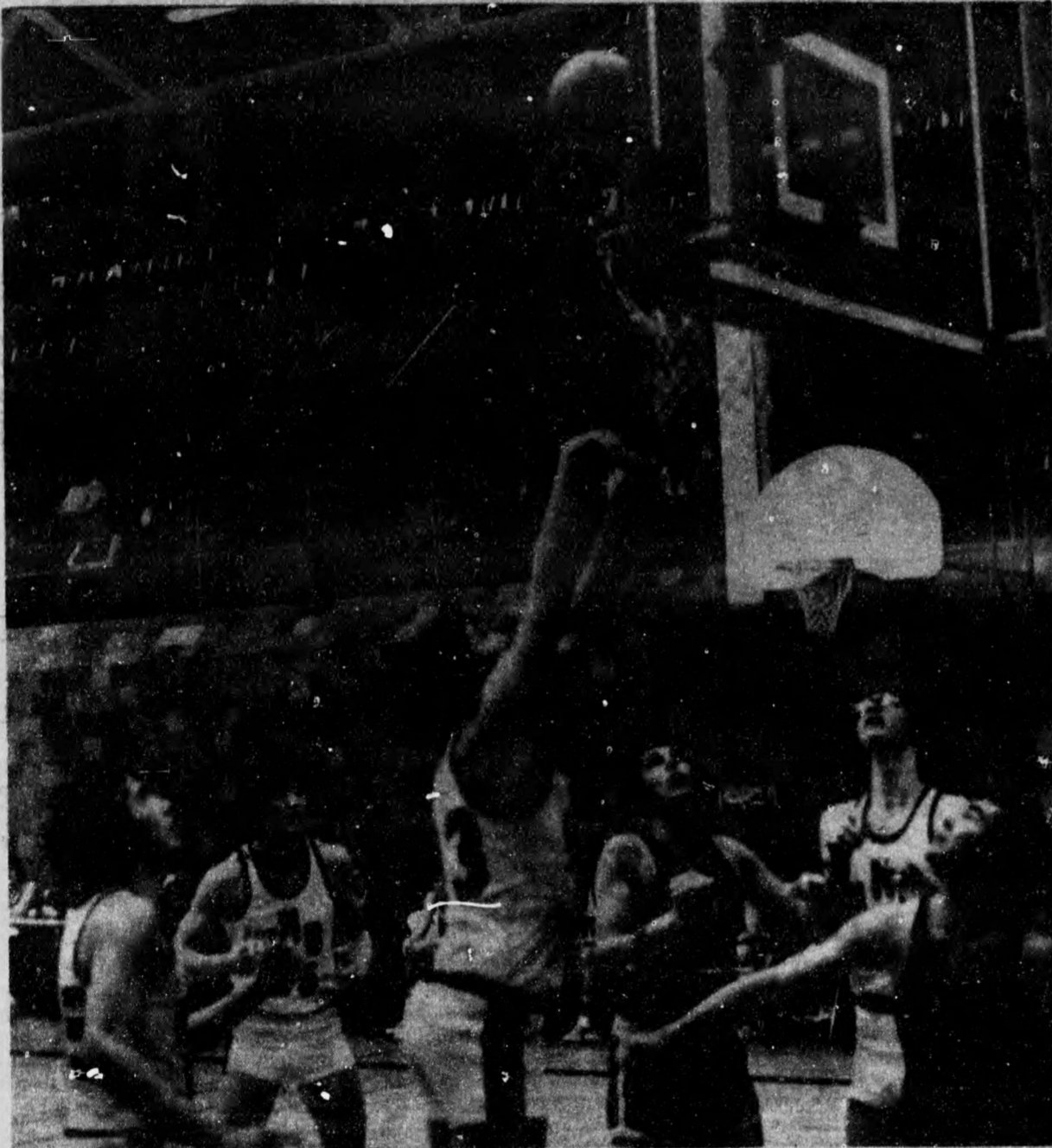


# Raiders end regular season with win, down Hawks



Dave Seman (13) is scoring again during Red Raiders action on Tuesday against Mt. Allison Hawks. The Raiders went on to win 82-79 for their last victory of the regular AIAA season. The Raiders finished the season with a 9-7 win-loss record. This weekend the Raiders travel to Acadia for AIAA championships. Other players in the picture are Steve Ruiter (12, glasses), Ken Amos (25, far left) and Blaine MacDonald (35).

By CELES DAVAR

The UNB Red Raiders completed their long February road trip last weekend when they travelled to Halifax to play St. Mary's University and to Wolfville to play the powerful Axemen before them.

Friday night, the Raiders seemed to play a much better ball game than they had for the two games previous to that. The Huskies had scoring efforts from every member of their team as they carried on from a six-point half-time lead to win 92-68.

First half action was quite exciting as the lead changed hands several times. Ken Amos, who has been playing good consistent ball ever since he recovered from his ankle injury, was the key man for the Raiders in the half as he picked up ten points. Fred Perry, who had earlier scored well, here at UNB, and Mickey Fox led the SMU squad with eight points apiece.

UNB was playing with a much tighter defence, with Tom Hendershot and Dave Seman playing very strongly. Offensively, although the boys were running the plays quite well, we were not getting the boards. Lee Thomas who scored a total of only ten points, and Otha Johnson were the big men for the Huskies offensively and defensively. Hendershot, who had not been playing well for the last three games, played a fine game grabbing defensive rebounds, passing off to the guards, and then immediately going downcourt to set up in the offence pattern. Our defence shifted between a man-to-man, swinging from side to side wherever the ball was, to a zone, at times. SMU was forced to shoot from outside, and they were hot. Taboski, Thomas and Millard rounded out the scoring and at the half, SMU led 41-35.

In the second half, there were very few personal fouls called, and the bonus situation did not arrive until very late in the game. Action was fast at both ends, but at times UNB played very scambly. The Huskies are a tall team, and as a result control the boards - not only were they rebounding, but they played an excellent defence, not allowing UNB to penetrate readily. SMU's team effort contributed 24 buckets in the second half with all thirteen players scoring at least two points. Ken Amos, for UNB continued his shooting performance from the first half to pick up a game total of 21 points. Blaine MacDonald played very well for UNB, as he has been doing for most of the season, coming up with an eleven point effort.

Hopefully, when we meet St. Mary's this weekend in the play-offs at Acadia, we will be able to play a more consistent forty minutes of basketball, rather than slack off half way through the second twenty minutes of play. This is largely due to conditioning and SMU certainly showed us how well they were conditioned.

Last Saturday, the UNB squad travelled to Acadia University, where, in an exciting contest, the Axemen proved their superiority in AIAA action despite a fine challenge from the Red Raiders.

In an atmosphere charged with basketball fervor, 1800 Acadia fans and cheerleaders turned out to watch the Axemen take a ten point half-time lead, but lifted that lead by only six points in the second half. The major reason for UNB's strong performance in the second twenty minutes of play was that Acadia was assessed 13 of 23 personal fouls, sinking 8 for 16 shots at the charity stripe.

UNB had fine performances

from all players except Hendershot who seemed unable to score well. Dave MacMullin played an excellent first half - he handled the ball very well, coming downcourt fast and swinging the ball off to the wing-men or post men. MacMullin's only short-coming in the game was the fact that he did not shoot enough. He is a good outside shooter, and hits quite well from at the top of the key. Blaine MacDonald played quite well also, driving in to the baseline and going up for the jumper. For UNB, MacMullin and Seman were key. Dave MacMullin was fouled several times, sinking 8 for 9 shots at the free throw line, while Seman who played a tough game all round was the man in the spot collecting nine points in the half, from directly under the basket.

The Axemen have a fine offence in that they have versatility - they have big men inside to feed the ball to, or they have the outside shooters who always seem to find the range perfectly. Joey Wells, for Acadia, is the big 6'5" inside man, and he showed his capabilities as a tough forward by rebounding well offensively, driving well to the basket, often dunking the ball because of his ability to jump. From outside, Rjek Cassey was the star of the game, picking up 21 points in the first half en route to his 32 point total. All but six of Cassey's points came from outside the key. Glen Taylor was also hot from outside as he picked up nine points from outside. Halfway through the game, Acadia led 45-35.

When both teams returned to action, Acadia featured scoring by Wells and Cassey. Out of 37 points that the Acadia squad looped in the second half, Cassey and Wells picked up 28. For UNB, the scoring was spread quite evenly between six players. The Acadia game saw

Steve Ruiter and Clem Pelot come off the UNB bench to score 14 points between them as well as pick off some offensive rebounds. Throughout the game, Acadia would use their full court press, but it bore fruit only twice. The Raiders were consistently able to beat it, but once doing that, they were unable to score efficiently. We needed to move faster than we were.

Although, the Red Raiders were beaten twice this weekend, it is of importance to note that we did play much better than last year, and certainly deserve credit for the way in which we challenged these strong teams.

In ending regular season play, the UNB Red Raiders hosted the Mt. Allison Hawks Tuesday night at the Lady Beaverbrook Gymnasium. The outcome of the game seemed to be determined by half time when the Raiders held a fourteen point lead. However, a late surge by the Hawks which saw them go ahead by one point, late in the second half, almost upset the Raiders.

Ken Amos paced the victors with twenty points, while Neil Keenan, for Mt. A "hot-dogged" his way for 18 points. The game was played well in the first half, despite a number of turnovers, but in the second half, the play became quite scambly with Mt. Allison carrying the game to the Raiders instead of the UNB squad slowing down the tempo of play, and setting up their offence.

High scorer in the first half was Captain Tom Hendershot who played an all around fine game, picking up eleven points in the half. Seven other players also scored for the Raiders, with Joe Paytas being the next high scorer with seven points. Doug Sparks sparked the losers in the half, coming off the bench to play undoubtedly his best game this season. UNB was strong on the boards in this period grabbing down 26 of 42 rebounds.

Steve Ruiter, Dave Seman, and

Tom Hendershot combined for duty at the post positions as well as rebounding. The teams returned to the dressing rooms at the half with UNB leading 46-32.

The second half was a period of frustrations, excitement, hot-dogging and generally poor basketball. Ken Amos came in to his own as he exploded for fourteen points. Neil Keenan was certainly the most colorful figure on the court, scoring profusely in the last ten minutes of play to pick up fifteen points for Mt. A. By far, the hardest working man on the floor was Dennis Bedard, whom Coach Nelson calls the "unsung hero" of the Hawks' team. Bedard picked up 14 rebounds in Mt. A's effort, which was key in bringing the score to being so close. The fortunate break for the Raiders or unfortunate break for the Sackville squad was that the Hawks were assessed eleven of sixteen personal fouls in the second half, with McLeod and Stewart fouling out. In the last few minutes of play, UNB barely maintained their margin of play, but by being in a bonus situation picked up the necessary points.

That ends the Red Raiders' regular basketball season. They finished in third place in the Atlantic Intercollegiate League, behind Acadia and St. Marys - they certainly improved over last year's 6-10 win-loss record with this year's 9-7 record. This weekend the Acadia Axemen are hosting the AIAA play-offs. Friday night, UNB meets St. Mary's and Acadia plays the fourth place team. The fourth spot was decided by Memorial University of Newfoundland playing Dalhousie in Halifax Wednesday. The winner of that tilt advances to the finals. Saturday's play features the consolation game and the finals. The winner in the finals advances to the nationals. Let's wish the Raiders the best of luck and give them credit for finishing third in the league.



UNB's star player, Dave Seman (number not shown) is shown going up to score another two points during Raiders action on Tuesday. UNB's Captain Tom Hendershot (44) waits below for possible rebound.

Photo by Kevin McLachlan

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