— Men's Basketball

## Before the AUAAs there were the UCCB Capers

by Maria Paisley The Brunswickan Sports

It was a long time coming but finally the Reds went to the basketball championship.

The Varsity Reds Men's Basketball team went to the AUAA championship for the first time in 14 years. The Reds did this by downing the UCCB Capers on Saturday March 3 by a score of 101-74 and returned the next day to narrowly defeat the Capers 90-99. UNB only needed to win one of these games to advance to the playoffs.

The Reds went into the game tied with the Saint Mary's Huskies for the fifth playoff spot, both with 20 points.

A good crowd braved the storm to watch the Reds secure a playoff berth for the first time since 1982-83. The score see-sawed back and forth before the Reds took a five point lead half way through the first. The Reds kept increaseing the lead with the Capers playing catch up. The Reds took a 59-43 half-time lead into the dressing

The Reds returned for the second half to increase their lead, and at a number of times the lead was over 23 points. The frustration of the Capers started to show as four players fouled out of the game with minutes left.

A loud cheer came from the crowd with just over two minutes left in the game when it was announced that UNB would be going to the playoffs as Dal beat Saint Mary's earlier in the evening. This meant that the V-Reds would be going to the playoffs for the first time in 14 years.

UNB returned on Sunday for the second half of the double header to down

the Capers 99-90. The Reds finished the season with a 9-11 record and faced the

Dorchester, NB native Marc Aube is the sole Red graduating after being on the team for five years. Aube captained the team for three of his five years at UNB. Coach Clint Hamilton states that Marc "has represented our team and university with tremendous character and class over his five year career and has given everything possible of himself for the team's benefit. A consummate team player with a tremendous work ethic . . . Marc has been a pleasure to coach and he will



Orr-Ewing stretching to new heights.

photo by Maria Paisley

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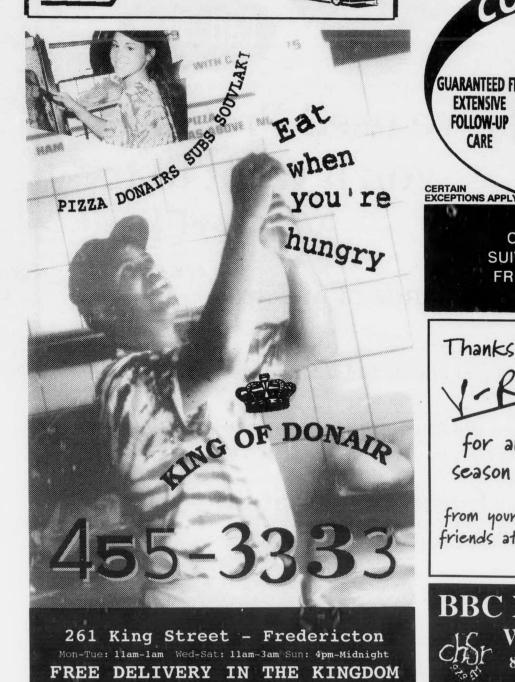
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of the three on three situation brought about by a succession of penalties. The return of the penalised players culminated in a three minute Avalanche powerplay. They were unable to take advantage as Detroit's league leading penalty killers showed their prowess. The Red Wings wrapped up the game when their vigorous forechecking paid off with Dino Ciccarelli's neutral zone steal and easy shot into the empty net. Colorado coach Marc Crawford is

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aware of the tough task that awaits any team taking on the Red Wings in the playoffs. "I think Detroit is the premier team in the league. This club has no weaknesses. They can come at you, they can mix up their lines. There's a lot of veteran guys there who know how to

play, how to protect leads." Red Wings goaltender Mike Vernon was saying that one of the strengths of the team was the pressure the players put on each other. "We demand 100% every time we go out. Guys just can't

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take a night off here - we push each other every night. It seems as if we have good success that way.'

His opposite number Roy was pondering a possible playoff series. "That will be interesting. You can't look at what happens in the season for the playoffs, it's different it's best of seven against one team. It is very intense and you really focus on that team." One aspect of this season's games against the Red Wings that Roy will be hoping to turn around, his win/loss record, which currently stands at 0/4.

You can only hope that there will be a playoff series between these teams, and that it goes the full seven games. It offers some intriguing match-ups: the best penalty killers (Detroit) against the third best powerplay unit (Colorado), the goal-tending match up of Roy and Stephan Fiset against Vernon and Chris Osgood, and the experience of the Red Wings against the relative youth of the SERVICE PROGRAM

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