

Ironmen in Action



37 UNB's Doug Stewart (left) prepares to pass the ball to Andy Duplessis (right)

By J.C. MORTON

College Field was the scene on Sunday, October 16 as the UNB Ironmen II hosted the Charlotte County Saints. The weatherman had provided a perfect setting with clear skies and little wind. The Ironmen II were still in search of their first victory of the 1983 campaign. Charlotte County's victory in their first encounter of the season was still etched on the minds of a number of the Ironmen and a settling of accounts was in order. The Saints had aspirations of their own as they opened the game with a flurry and mounted considerable pressure which kept UNB pinned in their own end during the early going.

The tide was turned as UNB began to take the play to Charlotte County. Unrelenting pressure and a number of offensives into the Saint's territory began to wear down the Charlotte County defenders. UNB's efforts were rewarded when the Ironmen pack turned a five metre scrum into a try after pushing the Charlotte County pack into the end zone. It was Mike Coulombe who touched the ball down and Dave Pizio provided the convert to give

UNB a 6-0 lead. The score remained unchanged for the remainder of the half.

The second half began where the first half ended, in Charlotte County territory, with the Ironmen attacking the Saint defenders at every opportunity. Once again it was the UNB scrum who out muscled the Saints to score another push over try. Number eight, Mike Coulombe, again provided the Ironmen with try touching it down from the back of the scrum. Pizio's convert split the uprights and UNB now lead by a 12-0 score. Charlotte County's strong tackling prevented UNB from increasing their lead as a number of drives were stopped by the Saints' defence.

It wasn't until late in the game that the Charlotte County offence finally got untracked and spoiled UNB's shut-out bid. The Saints' scored an unconverted try with time running out. At the final whistle the score the Ironmen by a 12-4 margin.

UNB's performance was highlighted by the strong running and fierce tackling of Eric Morgan who played a fine match. Credit should also go to the Ironmen scrum who dominated their

opposites throughout the match.

With the 1983 rugby season winding down, the UNB Ironmen I found themselves in the midst of a three way race for the New Brunswick championship. Although both the Fredericton Loyalists I and Exiles I had better records, victories in all three of UNB's remaining games would send them into post-season play.

Needless to say, all were aware of the importance of Saturday's match where the UNB Ironmen I played the Fredericton Loyalists I. From the opening kick off it was obvious that both teams had their minds set on victory. The Ironmen converted their intentions first as Sean Curran came in from his fullback position and dove into the end zone for a try. The convert fell short and UNB had opened an early 4-0 lead. The play see-sawed back and forth without a serious offensive threat being provided by either team. Eventually an Ironmen error resulted in an opportunity for the Loyalists. Fredericton converted the penalty goal and narrowed the UNB lead to 4-3. The Ironmen rallied after the Loyalists kick and began to press Fredericton in their own end, but time

ran out on the Ironmen before any points could be scored.

The Loyalists had the wind at their backs during the second half and a change in strategy seemed evident as they kicked for position often. Midway through the half one such kick eluded the UNB defenders and the charging Loyalists recovered it to score a try. Fredericton's lead was limited to three points when the conversion failed.

A Loyalists penalty gave UNB a chance to draw even. Doug Stewart didn't waste the opportunity as he converted the penalty kick to create a 7-7 score. With the score tied it seemed the stage was set for late game heroics. Sloppy tackling by UNB defenders set up a Loyalist maul on the goal line which ended in a Fredericton try. The try went unconverted giving the Loyalists an 11-7 lead.

An Ironmen comeback was short lived, after pinning the Loyalists deep in their end, the clock ran out on the game and on UNB's hopes for post season play. In spite of the disappointing loss, Ironmen Sean Curran, Andy DuPlessis, and David O'Niell should be congratulated for their play

during the entire eighty minutes.

This weekend UNB Ironmen I host the Fredericton Exiles at 2:00 p.m. at College Field on Saturday, October 22nd. While on Sunday, October 23rd, the UNB Ironmen II play the Fredericton Loyalists II at 2:00 p.m. at the Fredericton raceway. Come out and support the Ironmen. A special thanks to all who participated and helped in the successful Rugby Pub last weekend!

By B.D. RUSSELL

As the Fredericton Loyalist Old Boys and UNB Ironmen II took to the field Saturday at the Raceway, some spectators may have suspected a scheduling error on the part of the New Brunswick Rugby Union. The Ironmen seemed to have a distinct advantage before the match even began: their age.

Any sympathies harboured by the Ironmen for their battered veteran opponents were soon forgotten as the wily Old Boys quickly took the play to the UNB side directly from the whistle. The Ironmen rallied to wipe out an early threat, but 15 minutes of constant pressure by the

cont on page 27



42 Stan Kelly (l) and Andy Duplessis (r) bring down the Loyalist ball carrier.

J.C. MORTON