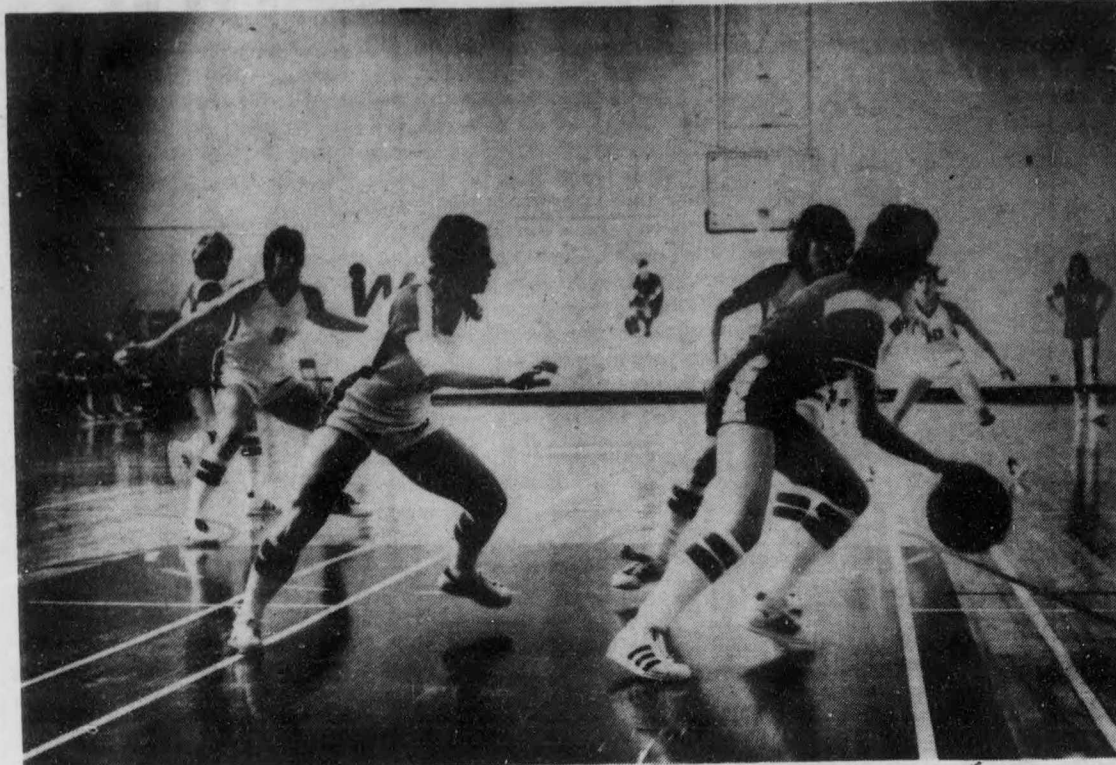


# UNB Red Bloomers place 5th in CIAU



Kathy Jennings moves to head off the Bishop's ball-carrier as Patty Sheppard pursues from behind in full-court M2M defensive press.

Photo Brewer

By MAC BREWER

In game #9 of the CIAU National Women's Basketball Championships held at the University of Regina, the UNB Red Bloomers posted a 62-50 win over the second-ranked Winnipeg Lady Wesmen to capture the Consolation slot for the second year in a row.

Teams competing this year were:  
The Laurentian Vees (O.W.I.A.A. Champions and #1 ranked)  
Winnipeg Lady Wesmen (G.P.A.C. Champion and #2 ranked)  
Guelph Gryphons (O.W.I.A.A. #2 team and #3 ranked)  
UNB Red Bloomers (A.U.A.A. Champion and #4 ranked)  
Bishop's Gaiterettes (Q.U.A.A. Champion and #5 ranked)  
Calgary Dinnies (C.W.U.A.A. Champion and #6 ranked)  
Victoria Vikettes (#7 ranked and in as wild card team)  
Regina Cougettes (not in top-ten but in as host team)

It must be remembered that while these eight teams made it to the nationals there were 39

university teams that didn't. They represent the cream of Canadian University Women's Basketball and the games were close, in most cases being resolved on fouls or in the final two-three minutes of play.

In the opening game, the Victoria Vikettes pulled a surprise upset over the Winnipeg Lady Wesmen (ranked 2nd in Canada) and defeated them 55-47 to advance to semi-final play. Then the University of Calgary Dinnies who were leading by 11 points at the half, lost to Guelph 62-68 in the last two minutes of play.

It is to Victoria's credit that they defeated the #2 ranked Lady Wesmen while Calgary faltered before #3 ranked Guelph. Calgary beat Victoria by a last second basket as the buzzer sounded, to win the Canada West conference title.

Then in game #3 of the tournament our own UNB Red Bloomers faced the Bishop's University Gaiterettes (who we had beaten by 10 points at Concordia) only to suffer a 63-76 loss that knocked us out of the Championship competition. All I can say is that it was indeed unfortunate for us to face Bishop's on about the only "off" day the team has had all year. The girls' play was clearly off as I've seen them play 100 percent better and I must admit that Bishop's played extremely well and executed their passing plays like a well-oiled machine.

Claire Mitton set the pace for the Bloomers in the first half and initiated a couple of UNB rally's

that brought us within 2 points of Bishops, only to fall behind 11 points at the half with Bishops leading 39-28.

In the second half Cathy Maxwell came alive for the Red Bloomers to score 17 points but Bishops hung on to their lead tenaciously and traded basket for basket to win 76-63.

Cathy Maxwell and Claire Mitton were the leading scorers for UNB as they tapped Bishops for 25 points and 20 points respectively and tied in rebounds at 7 each.

Leading scorers for Bishops were co-captains Debbie Huband and Helen McAuley with 18 points and 16 points respectively.

Game four saw the host Regina Cougettes fail to lay down and play dead as they matched the powerful Laurentian Vees basket-for-basket and were down only 2 points at the half as Laurentian led 30-28. The crowd went nuts every time the Cougettes scored and they played just an exceptional first half.

Unfortunately every game has two halves and Laurentian came out fired up to win while Regina, playing top-caliber basketball till then, just couldn't contain the Vees and were outscored 42-23 as Laurentian won 72-51.

Top scorer for Laurentian was tournament All-Star and M.V.P. Sylvia Sweeney with 29 points while Sharon Douglas scored 19 points for the Cougettes.

Victoria, Guelph, Bishops, and Laurentian advanced to the semi-finals while Winnipeg, Calgary, UNB and Regina dropped out

to Consolation play.

In UNB's second game the Red Bloomers downed the Regina Cougettes 74-57 as the Bloomers got their game together and totally outclassed the host team. The Cougettes stayed with them until 12 minutes into the half but then UNB scored three quick unanswered baskets and traded two more to pull ahead 34-24 at half-time. Claire Mitton lead again with 14 points at this time.

Second-half play saw the Cougettes never coming closer than 6 points to the Red Bloomer's lead and with a 27 point performance by Cathy Maxwell for the half, UNB surged ahead to an easy 74-57 win.

Cathy Maxwell was top scorer with 31 points and Claire was next with 18. Laura Sanders lead in rebounds with 10, outjumping both Claire and Cathy and tying their combined total of 10 rebounds.

In their final game against the Winnipeg Lady Wesmen the girls were in foul trouble the entire first half and were called for 9 fouls to Winnipeg's 3. Both teams had their share of holding the lead but UNB decided they like it so they held it at 28-26 at the half with Kathy Jennings and Claire Mitton leading with 8 points each until then.

In the second half the Red Bloomers scored 13 unanswered points in 4 minutes to pull ahead 41-26 and held on despite intensive efforts to the contrary by the Lady Wesmen. Debbie Steele was a constant threat under the basket (or should I say over it?) standing 6'6" tall and believe me in Women's Basketball that's tall.

Coach Slipp let her second line in freely and they played well, gaining valuable experience in tournament competition.

Cathy and Claire again lead the scoring with 17 and 14 points respectively while Claire lead with 9 rebounds. Patty Sheppard and Cathy tied in steals with 4 each.

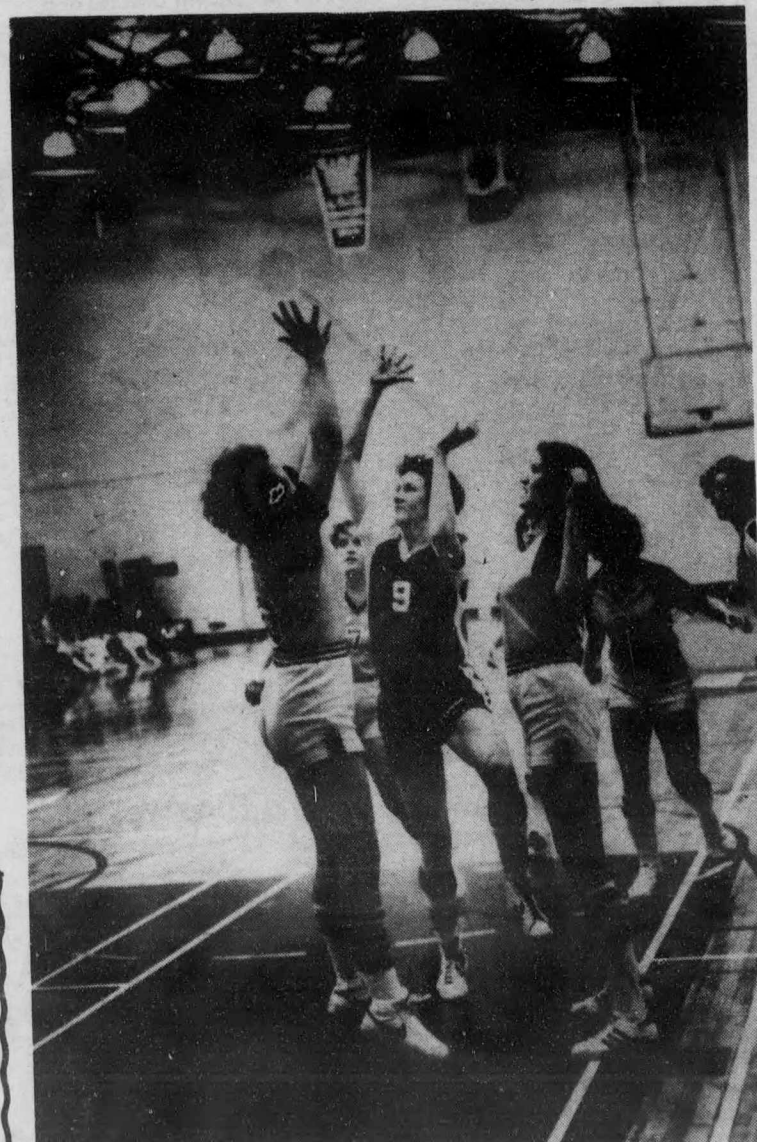
As stated the Red Bloomers won the game 62-50.

The championship game inevitably saw the Laurentian Vees present but the surprise came from the Victoria Vikettes, the tournament underdog along with Regina, who upset both Winnipeg and Guelph to advance to the finals.

A book could be written on the Victoria-Guelph game, or maybe games would be a better word. A scoring mix-up 12 minutes into the second half saw Guelph mistakenly robbed of 2 points and as

Victoria won 52-51 the Guelph coach was understandably upset. (Note: at the time when the game was stopped and the correction was made which gave Guelph credit for one basket mistakenly accredited to Victoria, the Guelph coach was satisfied and so were the officials. Guelph's statistician told the coach they were still short 2 points but the coach felt her statistician was wrong as she had seen the correction made. It happened that while the scorers were trying to decide about the basket accredited to Victoria and were correcting it they missed another basket by Guelph. It was at this point that the game was

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Cathy Maxwell wades through the whole Regina Cougettes basketball team on her way to a 31 point performance as team-mate Laura Sanders watches.

Photo Brewer

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