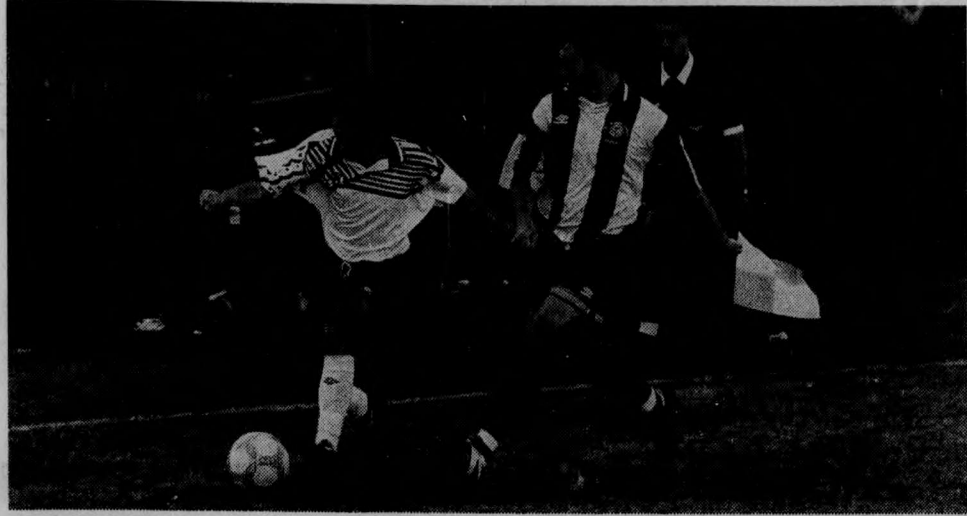




SPORTS

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Soccer Reds have rocky road to the playoffs



Reds striker John Hanley drives the wing.

NEIL DUXBURY
THE BRUNSWICKAN

A 1-0 loss to the St. FX X-Men and 4-0 win over the UCCB Capers leaves the Varsity Reds men's soccer team in the middle of a cluster of six teams fighting for the final three playoff slots in the competitive AUAA.

The Reds' weekend split leaves them with their fate in their own hands. Or rather, in their own boots. The hands of goalkeeper Mike Green have been sure, conceding only 7 goals over the first 11 games. However their offense has been nearly as stingy, scoring only 10 goals in the same 11 games, and 4 of those were against the Capers - a team who had conceded a league high 44 goals in the 10 games prior to their encounter with the Reds.

Two wins, this weekend, will guarantee the Reds a playoff berth. No small feat as they have to trek to Newfoundland to face not only a MUN team who still harbour playoff aspirations but also the inclement weather of Canada's most easterly province.

While the skies were clear at Chapman field, the X-Men opened up

with a lightning strike. Through the first 15 minutes, the Reds were outpaced, outmuscled and outthussed, but stayed alive by virtue of some outstanding saves by keeper Green.

As the half went on, the Reds fought back, asserting themselves in midfield, but still had problems getting shots on St. FX's keeper, Jackie Chisholm.

Throughout the entire game Marc Basse's drives from the edge of the 18yd box looked most likely to beat Chisholm. The X-Men's stamina started to have greater influence as the second half progressed. They had one goal called back for hand ball. But there were other opportunities. Eventually one was converted. After Mike O'Neill's effort bounced off the post, Green was unable to recover in time to stop Nathan McCunn from scoring on the rebound.

Edward Thompson, a blue and white blur for most of the game, commented that X's blitzkrieg start was incidental rather than designed. "We just work our asses off. We like to move the ball around." These two things combine for some lethal give-and-gos.

Sunday's game was the flipside of

Saturday's - this time it was the Reds who were off to a quick start against the cellar dwelling Capers.

UNB's vigorous start produced quick results. A Steve Vinci cross was headed down and past Capers keeper Chris Warner. A picture perfect play. Almost. The header came from a Capers defender guarding Carson Gill. Gill was also involved in the second UNB goal, well into the second half. His long ball was met on the volley by Joey Vatour who lobbed it over Warner.

Despite having Kamal Gurung sent off for a perceived stamping incident, UNB finished up four goal winners after substitute Steve Guidice netted a pair. Guidice, a first year player out of Fredericton, has been getting playing time off the bench all season Brown commented that he "Doesn't ask first year players to carry the team too much."

Guidice is one of many first year players which Brown believes will form the nucleus of the team for the future.

Right now, the Reds have to concentrate on this weekend's encounters with MUN if they want to be playing next weekend.

HALEY FLARO
THE BRUNSWICKAN

The plot thickens. After an extremely productive weekend on Chapman field, the Varsity Reds Women's soccer team will soon have the opportunity to transfer their energy onto Dalhousie's artificial turf in their charge for an AUAA championship. The Reds, a highly skilled team, have several advantages. In addition to a dedicated coach, a focused keeper, a sturdy back four, a strong midfield and a lethal strike force, there remains an underlying factor in the midst of this team's depth which charges them AUAA material: heart.

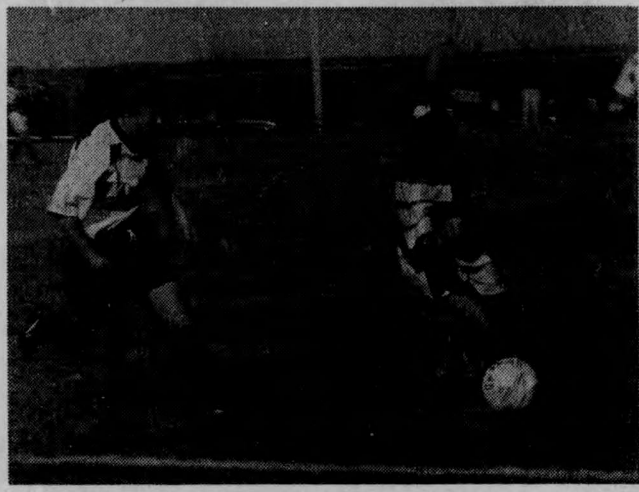
As a lone piper lead convocation students into the Aitken centre on Sunday, the Reds were mustering their own victory on nearby Chapman field. The entire squad was contributing to

yet another win. The bleachers behind the Varsity bench were lined with a row of Reds injuries: Vera Thai, Monica Adair, Liz Haney were on the field in spirit. Injured Assistant Captain Kim Messer was fixated on the Reds play from behind a video camera. Members of UNB's bench were jaunting off in a warm up jog down the sidelines every so often. Reds trainer Rosie MacLeod was icing Captain Steph Steel's strained muscles. Coach Miles Pinsent was offering constructive criticism to a UNB defender after an unsuccessful throw in. Keeper Karlene Bishop waited anxiously in an often lonely UNB net. And Varsity Reds strikers were in the midst of blasting seven goals past UCCB's keeper.

The Varsity Reds women's soccer team improved their stats with another eight points this weekend by claiming victories against St. FX and UCCB. Coach Miles Pinsent's officious combined for a total of eight goals registered between a 1-0 squeaker against St. FX and a 7-0 blowout against UCCB. UNB's solid keeper, Karlene Bishop, earned both Reds shutouts.

On Saturday, the overall feeling on Chapman field definitely resembled a playoff atmosphere as both teams battled for second place and a potential bye into the semi-finals of the AUAA's. The V-Reds took to the field against St. FX in what Coach Miles Pinsent referred to as the team's most commendable effort this season. Saturday's results were indicative of the depth that the UNB team has exhibited so far this season.

St. FX Assistant Coach Paul Blandford was impressed with the strong UNB bench. "Every player coming in



Leslie Hachey bears down on unsuspecting X-Woman.

CHRISTINA ATKINSON PHOTO

was just as good," said Blandford following the game. "There's a lot of strength at UNB." The Reds ran down STFX's midfielders and fullbacks and Blandford agreed that UNB's efforts brought the St. FX women off their guard. "In the second half, we were just tired out."

Following the half-time break, UNB exerted pressure on St. FX for the majority of the second half. Tammy Mallais scored the goal that proved to be the game winner with fifteen minutes remaining in the second half. In the final ten minutes of regulation time St. FX seemed to put the majority of their players forward in a combined effort but they failed to connect. St. FX striker Leisa MacIntosh, a PEI native, had a solid game for the X-Women but failed to connect on several scoring opportunities.

MacIntosh, a former midfielder, is currently one point behind established strikers Leslie Hachey (UNB) and Manny Plourde (Acadia) who are presently tied for first with 10 points. UNB's Paula Morley is presently tied for fourth place with Christina McDonald (MUN) with six points.

Following both weekend games, Coach Miles Pinsent stated, "The hard work we are putting into our fitness has paid off." Following Saturday's contest against St. FX, UNB went on to shutout UCCB 7-0. Paula Morley connected on three occasions with Leslie Hachey (2), Steph Steel and Christa Rocca rounding out the scoring.

UNB finishes off their season this weekend on the road with two games against Memorial University in Newfoundland. Blandford was also quick to agree on Saturday that the

probability of St. FX and UNB meeting in the finals is high: "I'd say that UNB, Acadia, and ourselves are the best three teams."

Acadia is presently in first place with 29 points and are guaranteed a first place finish as well as a bye into the semi-finals. UNB is in second place with 24 points and St. FX currently has 23 points. St. FX is facing a four point game against Mount Allison (8th place) this weekend which would bring them into second place pending UNB's performance against Memorial. UNB must win both games this weekend to keep their second place finish and achieve a bye into the semi-finals.

FROM THE SIDELINES

After only fifteen minutes of Saturday's game, fullback Monica Adair was forced out of the game when an ankle injury confined her to the sidelines for the remainder of the weekend. Adair hopes to return to the Reds lineup this weekend against Memorial. Other Reds injuries include fullbacks Liz Haney, who is also suffering from a knee injury; Vera Thai, who is out for the season with a torn ligament in her left knee; and midfielder Kim Messer, who is recovering from a collar bone injury.

Messer, a Reds veteran and a strong midfielder, will remain in training for the next two weeks with the hopes of making a comeback in time for AUAA's. Coach Pinsent stated, "Kim hasn't been made any promises," but the key midfielder would be an asset in their quest for an AUAA championship the first week of November.

Reds finish season at 7-0-1

Field Hockey team is playoff bound

MEGHAN NESBITT
THE BRUNSWICKAN

Next weekend at the AUAA championships in Halifax, the V-Reds women's field hockey team will attempt to capture their 25th AUAA Championship. After their 3-0 and 2-0 victories over SMU last weekend, it appears the undefeated Reds have what it takes to accomplish this feat...and more.

Last Saturday and Sunday UNB played the last games of their regular season on the artificial turf at Saint Mary's University. Though playing with some hindering injuries, Jolene Bourgeois was able to grab one goal in each game. Tina Cormier took two goals on Saturday, while Rachel Bartlett forced one in on Sunday. The shutouts were shared by Sue Somerville and Krista Harris.

This was the first time the field hockey team had played on turf in almost two months. Considerable adaptations must be made when going from grass to turf, since the ball moves a lot faster on turf and there are no lucky bounces, as on grass.

In Saturday's game, the V-Reds started this transition. As the 3-0 score indicates, the transition went well. Yet Sunday's game was even better as the women became more comfortable on the turf. Co-captain Charla Currie

commented, "Saturday's game was more of an adjustment to the turf. Sunday was a better game; passes were more accurate and our positioning was better." She added, "We're lucky that our schedule had us playing our last two league games on turf to prepare us for AU's."

A faster, more skillful team will tend to dominate more on turf than it might appear to on grass. This was the case for the field hockey team this past weekend. Jody Leblanc asserted, "Our team skills shine on turf." One of the reasons UNB does as well as it does on turf is coach Stacy Bean's decision to hold some of the weekly practices in the South Gym. Because there is no turf for the Reds to practice on, the gym floor provides the best available substitute. This assists the women in getting their skill level up to turf standard with sharper stick work and more accurate passing.

The Reds improvement over the weekend is only an extension of the improvement the field hockey team has undergone all season. Offensively, the Reds continued to move the ball with speed and accuracy, putting great pressure on the experienced SMU goalkeepers: "Their poor goalkeepers had a lot of shots," Krista Harris sympathized. Harris and Sue Somerville weren't quite so challenged in the UNB net, partially due to

improvements in the Reds overall defensive play. Currie remarked, "The team has been steadily progressing. We're improving with each game, especially on team defence and putting the ball in the net." While there are still a few things to be cleaned up before AUAA's, the team defence is looking a lot stronger.

Another area of improvement has been the team's cohesiveness. Rachel Bartlett commented, "We are really starting to play well together as a team." Coach Bean also noticed the team's improved unity: "Every week we're getting better and better playing together." Being able to function together as a unit is going to be a powerful tool for UNB next weekend when the Reds play in the finals. Because they are ranked first in the AUAA, the Reds have a bye into the finals on Sunday, they need only to beat the winner of the UPEI vs. SMU semifinal to win the AUAA title.

If UNB is successful in their effort to capture their eighth consecutive AUAA title (making a record total of 25) they will go on to the CIAU championships which are held on the turf of the University of Victoria. After their performance this past weekend, it appears that the V-Reds field hockey team has the potential to be a serious medal contender at the CIAU's.

Struggling Canadiens come home

DIRK NIELSEN
THE BRUNSWICKAN

Hot American Hockey League action comes to Fredericton this weekend. The Fredericton Canadiens play host to the Adirondack Red Wings for two games at the Aitken Centre, Friday and Sunday night.

The Canadiens hope to improve their 2-4-0 record against the struggling Wings, the farm team of the NHL powerhouse Detroit Red Wings. The Wings come into Fredericton in the basement of their division, with a 1-5-1 record.

Tied with the Red Wings, the woeful St. John Flames are at the bottom of the Canadian division, which includes the Maritime teams: the St. John's Maple Leafs, the home-town Canadiens, and Ontario's Hamilton Bulldogs. The baby Habs are only one point up on the Flames after a 5-4 loss in St. John's

last Tuesday night. The Leafs are storming the division with a 4-1-3 record.

Keep an eye out for Fredericton Canadiens centre Craig Conroy this weekend. The 25 year old native of Potsdam, NY was named the AHL's Player of the Week after scoring six goals and two assists in three games. His hot streak puts him 4th in league scoring, leading the Canadiens' scoring list with 8 goals and 4 assists.

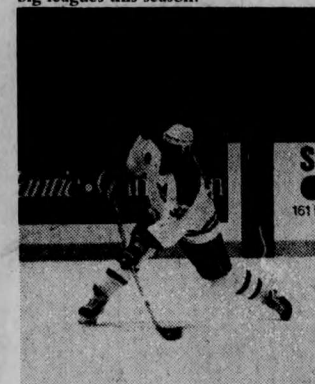
Former UNB Varsity Red and Fredericton native Todd Sparks is off to a fair start this season. Held scoreless in his first 5 games, the left winger has three assists and two penalty minutes.

NHL NOTES

Darcy Tucker, last year's AHL Rookie of the Year and winner of the "Red" Garrett Award, is seeing some action with the Montreal Canadiens. Tucker

has no points with the parent Habs, but has managed to rack up 7 penalty minutes in 2 games.

There are 20 former members of the Fredericton Canadiens skating in the big leagues this season.



DIRK NIELSEN PHOTO

Results

Mens Soccer

St. FX 1-0 UNB
UCCB 0-4 UNB

Womens Soccer

St. FX 0-1 UNB
UCCB 0-7 UNB

Field Hockey

UNB 0-2 SMU
UNB 1-2 SMU

Hockey

UNB 2-3 MtA
SMU 3-6 UNB

Womens Volleyball

4th @ UNB Invitational

Home Schedule

All Weekend

Women's Basketball: Fall Classic

Friday 6pm Laval vs UPEI
Friday 8pm Bishop's vs UNB
Saturday 6pm Bishop's Laval
Saturday 8pm UPEI vs UNB
Sunday 1pm UPEI vs Bishops
Sunday 3pm Laval vs UNB

Saturday

Cross Country: AUAA's @ Odell Park

Sunday

Hockey: UPEI @ UNB, 2pm @ AUC

Athletes of the Week

Toby Burkitt, Hockey

Fifth year centre Toby Burkitt, a member of the University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds hockey team was named UNB's male Athlete of the Week.

Burkitt was a defensive stalwart in UNB's 6-3 win over Saint Mary's on Saturday by doing the things that usually don't receive any glory. He has totaled 6 assists in 4 games, but more importantly he has played a crucial defensive role in critical situations.

"Toby played the type of game we have asked him to and in doing so, provides an example to his teammates. We need that type of leadership," said UNB head coach Mike Kelly.

Burkitt, an assistant captain and a 1995-96 AUAA All-Star is a native of Oshawa, Ontario, studying in the Faculty of Education.

Jolene Bourgeois, Field Hockey

Jolene Bourgeois, a member of the University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds field hockey team was named UNB's Female Athlete of the Week.

Bourgeois was involved in 4 of UNB's 5 goals as the Varsity Reds scored a weekend sweep of Saint Mary's to finish in first place and complete an undefeated season. Bourgeois finished with 2 goals and 2 assists as the Reds won 3-0 on Saturday and followed that up with a 2-0 win on Sunday.

"Jolene continues to have a solid season as one of the best passers and two-way players in the league," said UNB head coach Stacy Bean.

UNB, which has won 7 straight AUAA championships now prepares to defend its title at this weekend's AUAA's. Bourgeois, a 1995-96 CIAU All-Canadian and AUAA rookie of the year is a second year Science student from Bouctouche, New Brunswick.

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