

SPORTS

Deadline for stories is Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. Sports Desk 453-4983

UNBelievable year in sports

by Frank Denis

Well it's that time of year again when the basketballs are put away until next year and team uniforms are returned. It's the time of year when it's a little less hectic down at the LB Gym and press releases are a rarity. It's the time of year when varsity athletics here at UNB draw to a close for yet another year. And it's also that time to reflect on the year that was, a year which saw UNB capture no less than five AUAA titles.

The season began way, way back on the 7th of September when the Red Harriers running team crossed countries to the US for a meet at Bates College, and it finally wrapped up 183 days later on March 8th with the Red Raiders playing the Saint Mary's Huskies in AUAA Basketball. In between those 183 days there were not only some great team efforts, but also some stunning individual performances as well.

The Red Harriers were the first team to win a championship as they successfully defended their AUAA title. Not to be outdone, the Red Sticks captured the second AUAA title in as many days for UNB by defeating Saint Mary's in the final.

The Red Sticks headed back to Halifax the following weekend this time for the CIAU championships and carried with them a legitimate shot of winning the first national championship for UNB since the Red Shirts won it all back in 1980. However their hopes were dashed when they dropped a semi final heartbreaker on penalty strokes to the eventual national champions, the University of Victoria.

A week later the Red Shirts soccer team tried to give UNB its third banner of the year but lost to the Dalhousie Tigers in the AUAA soccer final played here at UNB. One of the leaders of the Shirts was Pat Zwicker, UNB's Bo Jackson. Zwicker has two "hobbies" just like Bo. If he wasn't playing soccer than Zwicker was leading the Black Bears wrestling team to an AUAA title.

However shortly after, he was told that he could not continue pursuing his 'hobbies' because of a vertebrae problem that he describes as 'sort of a hereditary thing'. If he did continue he would run the risk of suffering from paralysis.

Other individual stories that caught people's attention this season included Red Devil Gord Christian's three goals in what was the most anticipated game of the year. The game was a tribute dedicated to the memory of Mark Jeffrey

star and was also this year's recipient of the Bill Godfrey award which goes to the player in the AUAA 'who demonstrates excellence in both academics and athletics while conducting himself in a sportsmanlike manner.' Somers is in his first year of the demanding Law program.

New faces also were welcomed to the athletics program. Terry Haggerty was named the new Dean of Physical Education over the summer. He comes to UNB from Penn State and brings with him many new ideas on how to further the athletic program. Al McGarvie took over as head coach of the Lady Reds volleyball team and lead the team to a respectable AUAA showing. The highlight of the season for his team was defeating the Mount Allison Mounties, one of the top teams in the country, at the LB Gym in February.

Several stories earned consideration for UNB sport story of the year, but one of them stood above all others. Runners up for the award include the Red Devils victory at the Viking Cup Tournament over the Christmas break. The Red Devils increased their exposure nationally by defeating a team from the Soviet Union in the final. The Beavers swim team also received consideration following their dominating win in the AUAA finals. Last year they finished second to Dalhousie, but this year with some top recruits and seasoned veterans captured their second title in three years.

However this year's story of the year is the Red Bloomers winning their third consecutive AUAA championship. The toughest part of winning a title is defending it. Opposing teams focus their efforts on dethroning you, yet the Bloomers have kept standing up to the challenge. What is even more impressive is that the Bloomers don't rely on one or two players to do all the work. Take for instance this years championship. With Jill Jackson, Kara Palmer and Jennifer Hale, three of the best players in the AUAA, on the bench because of foul trouble, rookie Jackie Flieger helped the team comeback by hitting three 3 pointers and erase an Acadia lead. UNB can certainly be proud of what each of its teams accomplished this year and can look forward to more UNBelievable years in the future.

RED STICKS
FIELD HOCKEY



UNB



Harriers

SPORTS



and sold out the Aitken Centre. Christian, whose role is as a winger on the fourth line shone above everyone else and lead the team to an 8-4 triumph over STU in what coach Mike Johnston described as 'one of the most emotional games of my coaching career.'

You couldn't help but be elated for Angie Pickles, a swimmer with the Beavers the past four years, qualifying for the CIAU finals for the first time in what would have been her final race of her Beaver career.

How about Red Devil goaltender Chris Somers playing in all but two of the Devils games this year and posting the second best goals against average in the conference. He was named an AUAA all

championship. The toughest part of winning a title is defending it. Opposing teams focus their efforts on dethroning you, yet the Bloomers have kept standing up to the challenge. What is even more impressive is that the Bloomers don't rely on one or two players to do all the work. Take for instance this years championship. With Jill Jackson, Kara Palmer and Jennifer Hale, three of the best players in the AUAA, on the bench because of foul trouble, rookie Jackie Flieger helped the team comeback by hitting three 3 pointers and erase an Acadia lead.