SPORTING CHANCE !!! By REGAN LEGASSIE



Wendy Dickinson goes down for the save.

Reds clinch playoff spot

By IAN SUTHERLAND Brunswickan Staff

UNB Reds clinched an A.U.A.A. Play-off spot with a pair of victories over St. F.X. this past weekend. This improved the Reds record to 9-3 and second place in the conference trailing league leading Dalhousie who sits at 10-1.

The Reds Started slowly in Saturday's 3-1 victory losing the first game 15-9. St. F.X. jumped into an early 6-0 lead with help from a nervous Reds squad as the host team made several serving and hitting errors to allow their visitors the first game. The second game was close at 8-8 before the

took the next two games 15-8, 15-3 and thus the match. Vicki Hay and newcomer Suzanne Gauthier led the attack with 14 and 12 kills respectively. The Reds out hit St. F.X. 56 to 35 to indicate the team's dominance at the net.

On Sunday the Reds played even better winning 3-0 by scores of 15-10, 15-10 and 15-3. The middle attack was working much better with Michelle Mockler and Louise Berugbe doing a good job. According to coach Sonny Phillips "If we're to challenge Dal for the AUAA title we have to be able to run the middle effectively. I was pleased today Reds took the game away at with that aspect." Mockler and

Phillips was also pleased with a couple of other parts of the Reds Game. "I was happy with the play of our two setters Gauthier and Carolyn Campbell. They're communicating well and improving the game plan with every match." We are also impressed with the play of Cheri Moore. The 6 rookie power hitter got her first AUAA start on Sunday and produced six kills without an error.

Assistant coach Paul Belanger added that the St. F.X matches were valuable for the Reds. "St. F.X. plays with a lot of enthusiasm and forced us to play hard with their good defence and accurate tipping."

The Reds played their last road game at U de M on

Contrary to popular belief, female hockey players do not resemble Rosemary's Baby, in fact, they are far from it. Women's hockey is rapidly growing into one of the largest national organizaitons and is also gaining a different image. Today, in New Brunswick alone, there are over 20 teams, playing at various levels, all looking towards one common goal-to represent the province in the national tournament. To do this however, the other 10 teams must first knock off the team that has won the provincial championship for three years running-the UNB Red Blazers. This weekend however, 7 of those teams will have the chance to test the waters against the provincial champions when the Blazers play host to the 6th Annual UNB Women's Hockey Tournament. The tourney, which happends to be the biggest east of Montreal, will spotlight three teams that have all been previous guests at the national level: the Red Blazers, the Dalhousie Tigers, and the P.E.I. Spuddettes.

About now a lot of people are probably wondering just how exciting women's hockey is and I suppose most of them are wondering because they have never really been exposed to the sports. Until recently, women's ice hockey has remained virtually unlknown, basically because the idea met opposition with the male dominated society (that really hurts), but now it has become the fastest growing sport in Canada. The game comes with all the requirements of any contest-checking, slapshots, penalties and yes, I'm afraid there's probably the odd scrap here and there. The only real difference is that after the game, these players turn out to be a lot better looking that the Red Devils (sorry about that guys, but I call 'em as I see 'em).

At this point, I must admit that the first time I heard of Women's hockey I immediately pictured (please don't take offense to this) a group of females with overactive hormones that had better luck at growing a beard than I did, but that quickly changed once I actually saw the ladies play. What I saw was a group of ladies who were doing something they liked and having a lot of fun in the process. Like I said before, there are 20 teams in New Brunswick so the sport is certainly not hurting in its membership, but as of yet no league has been formed. To stay in practice for tournaments and the nationals, the Red Blazers spend their time tuning up, against local Bantam teams. Not only do the Blazers provide the Bantams with some excellent competition, but it also gives the youngsters a chance to do something that they very seldom have a chance to do-compete against girls.

The tournament runs both Saturday and Sunday at the Aitken Centre, getting underway at 10:00 a.m. each day with various breaks throughout the day. It is sure to provide the curious with a chance to see some of the best women's hockey in the Maritimes and price is no factor since admission to the tournament is free of charge. Who knows, someday it may be just as normal to trek up the Aitken Centre on a Saturday afternoon to watch a game between the UNB Red Blazers and the Dalhousie Tigers in AUAA women's hockey action WITH A SPORTING CHANCE!!!

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