

Football: victim of cutbacks



The inevitable has happened at UNB. An athletic team has been cut from the sports program for one year in hopes that financial support will materialize. Many other universities have been faced with the same dilemma. We are not alone.

Here at UNB, it was the decision of President Downey and Dean of Physical Education and Recreation, Bill McGillivray, and Mal Early, intercollegiate athletic director to make the necessary changes to bring the athletic department in line with its budget. Financial allotments

played a large role in their decision to discontinue the football team for one year. At an estimated cost of \$45,000, football emerged with the largest budget for the shortest season. Most of the other athletic teams' (excluding hockey) budget appear significantly smaller. The hockey team's projected budget is in the \$30,000 range. The difference is in the number of games played. The other athletic teams have longer schedules and lower costs as well as the ability to provide outstanding entertainment

through excellent performance.

To make a team competitive, players must be found either in the local area or the coach must recruit from outside the district. In New Brunswick there is a poor feeder system for football. The high schools are finding it too expensive to finance a football team. Without these bases from which to start it becomes even more and more costly to field a competitive team.

Any extra monies from this situation will be allocated to enable the rest of the teams to have cost of living raises in their budgets. Perhaps trainers,

managers and supporters of the football team will take this time to shift their attention to other sports while the Bombers await the necessary funds.

We should view the actions of the athletic administration and Dr. Downey in the right light. The criteria used in determining the source of the budget cuts is valid despite its controversial nature. The dedicated and in some cases boisterous fan has the opportunity to put his money where his mouth is. It is time to produce, not criticize.

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