

A SPORTING CHANCE!!!

by REGAN LEGASSIE

This week's column has a special purpose - I'm devoting the entire space to a very special group of athletes - the UNB Red Sticks Field Hockey Team. For all those people who might have been in a coma for the last week, the reason for this stems from the recent second place finish of the Red Sticks in the CIAU Championships. The whole situation began last week when the team travelled to "the big TO", that means Toronto for all you uneducated souls, to participate in the championship. You see, guys and gals, the Red Sticks were not expected to do so well by most people at the tournament and at home as well. This forces me to admit that I too had my doubts, but as usual, I was proved wrong as the team surprised every one there.

UNB played their first game against York University on Friday last to open the tournament, and according to Red Sticks Coach Joyce Slipp, "We were in a draw against York and UBC and I felt that we had to win the game against York because they were the weaker team in our section." As it turned out, the Sticks didn't beat York, instead they played them to a 0-0 draw. According to Slipp, this wasn't bad considering they had "five national team players on their roster and

were quite strong." The downpoint of the game, says the veteran coach, was with her won players; "I had 5 players out of 13 that played well and I was a bit disappointed with that." The problem was rectified however, after a team meeting and from that point on "I had a total team contribution from all 13 players," says coach Slipp.

In the second game, the Red Sticks faced a much tougher opposition - the number 2 team in the country, the UBC Thunderbirds. What looked like an insurmountable object to all us observers back at home, proved to be just another game for UNB as they walked away with a 1-0 win and took first place in their division. Now I know what you're thinking; this team must have been a real Cinderella team in the tournament, but, I hate that word because it implies that the team didn't have a chance. In actuality, the Sticks had a good chance because they were the number 4 team in the country. Anyway, the next obstacle was the University of Victoria. This was a team with 8 players who had some type of experience playing on a national team going up against the ladies from UNB. According to Coach Slipp "we still stuck to our game plan and beat them 1-0 to get into the final game."

Immediately the media was buzzing. The Red Sticks had the chance to bring back the first National Title in - well, I'll say a while, to save any embarrassment. The Sticks made it close, but in the end they lost a heart-breaker 6-5 on penalty strokes (that's like overtime folks) to the University of Toronto. Not bad for a team that nobody expected to do much at the national championships, eh? As for key players in the tourney, Slipp said her whole team played great but she did single out three players for top honours. Goaltender Barb Leaman, Striker Janice Morrison, and of course, who could forget the Captain and CIAU All Canadian I might add, Kathryn McDougall.

The only thing that really bugs me about this whole deal is the way the fans back home acted. Had the Red Sticks been the ice hockey team or the basketball team, the response would probably been a lot greater than it was with the field hockey team. In retrospect however, I guess it would have been nice if even 20 or 30 fans had met the team at the airport to show the Sticks how proud we are of them, but as they say there's always next year.....WITH A SPORTING CHANCE!!!

Red Blazers even record

by MARY SCOTT

There may be a lot of new faces on this year's edition of the UNB women's hockey club, but it's the same old Red Blazers.

UNB used a combination of speed, solid defense and goaltending to even their season's record at 1-1 with a 4-2 victory over a combined Bantam boys team from the FYHA.

Watching the game, it would be hard to pick any in-



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The clinics will start on the 13th of November and continue on the 20th and 27th. All classes will be held at 7:00 in room C-54, the second floor teaching theater at Fredericton High School. The cost of the course is seven dollars and includes a rulebook and case book.

Certified referees will be meeting every Thursday evening at the same time and place. A common exam will be written on Thursday, December 5th. For more information contact Brian Whitfield at 455-3665.

dividual stars, but if one had to, a couple of Prince Edward Islanders come to mind. The first is rookie Charlene Arsenault, who had a very impressive game showing, good puck control, and a non-stop skating style. The 5'5" Tignish native set up line mate Jennifer Reicker for goals and constantly kept the opposition off balance with her fore checking. The other Islander is veteran Anne Campbell. Anne was playing in her first game after being tied up with varsity field hockey since September. Always a solid two-way player, she appeared relaxed and confident as she often stick-handled by defenders to create chances, and scored one goal. To add to Campbell's story is the fact she played so well after returning from the field hockey Nationals just 24 hours previous to the game. Blazers Captain and field hockey teammate Carol Cooper has her own theory: "Anne has just had a super (field hockey) season, and I can see it carry over to the ice."

Red Blazers coach Mike Power was very happy with his

team's play, noting major improvements. "Last week we couldn't get out of our end; tonight I can think of only twice where they panned us in," he said. If UNB needs work in one area, it would appear to be putting the puck in the net. UNB had chances to score many more goals, but players missed converting some excellent scoring chances. "That has always been a problem," said Power, "but we had some of our best snipers out of the lineup; we will get a lot better in that area."

Besides Reicker's two goals and Campbell's single, "Boom-Boom" Cox scored her first of the season. At the other end of the ice, Sue Keirstead stopped 14 shots to pick up the win in goal.

The Red Blazers will next see action Sunday at 1:45 when they tentatively have scheduled a game with their Junior B affiliate from Oromocto. Following that, they should be opening their regular season around mid-week. The Blazers will play in the FYHA Bantam Division.



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