

— WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL —

Season preview

Mason back to lead team through season

by Andrew Wilbur
Sports Staff

This weekend will see the return of Varsity Reds Women's Volleyball team to the UNB courts. Coaches Al McGarvie and Don McKay hope to build on last year's success. "Having seven returning players and six starters should give us a head start on the rest of the league."

After a dramatic win over arch rival Mount Allison, and a strong finish to last years season, confidence is high for a shot at the AUA championship. The Reds are hosting a Women's Invitational volleyball Tournament this weekend. This "kick-off" Tournament should be a great test of the competition the Reds will face in their travels this year. They will face division rivals Mount Allison and Acadia, as well as the Saint John Senior A Team.

The Reds would like to sweep through the region this year with a success equal to the Liberal Red

wave which ran through the Maritimes on Oct. 25. The attack will be led by the hot smashes of last years AUA rookie of the year, middle Carla Mason. Mason, a high school star from Newcastle, is in her fourth year of a Bachelor of Education and would certainly like to see a winning end to her fourth year of commitment to the team.

Other returning players who will certainly make a strong contribution to this year's edition of the Reds are Sara Ouellette, Lorie Gorman and Kerry Maher, all of whom are from Bathurst, and Beth Rae of St. John.

The coaches feel that having so many talented veterans returning should mean a significant change in the balance of their division. "Preseason information indicates that all other teams have had to replace starters and/or coaches". Again, the test will come this weekend as the Reds will get a close up view of their competition. UNB's first game is Friday at 6 PM; Playoffs are scheduled to begin at noon Saturday. Expect to see the Reds in the tournament Final Saturday at 4 o'clock, it would be a great boost to our Varsity Volleyball program.

— SOCCER SHORT —

by Bert Ears
Sports Staff

The Varsity Red's Men's Soccer team's playoff prospects were dashed this past weekend with two losses at home to Dalhousie and Acadia. The scores were 5-0 and 3-1 respectively.

The lone goal this weekend was scored by Ahmed Houmani who was able to pound home a deep cross from midfielder Tony White.

Despite their efforts, the Reds were unable to keep up to the pace of either Dalhousie or Acadia. The Reds needed to win both games this weekend to accumulate eight points, which would have placed them in contention for the finals. They now stand at 2-6-2, placing them in eighth overall in the AUA rankings.

The Reds last game of the season is tomorrow at 2:00 pm at Chapman field. They take on nationally ranked Memorial University.

VIEW From The Cheap Seats

By Mark Savoie

In response to all of you who have called to console me on the loss of the Phillies to the Blue Jays:

"Yeah, yeah. . . shaddup already!!!"

Now that that's over with it's time to get on with more important things. This week's discussion is on the nature of fandom. Why do people cheer for certain teams? Why do they cheer against other teams? Why did I, who went completely Neandertal over a few missed calls against the Blue Jays in the World Series last year, all of a sudden change my loyalties and start cheering for the Blue Jays' opposition? On a larger scale the question becomes more serious: "Why do people invest of their emotions as part of their sports viewing?"

The question is not so simple as: "Why do people watch sports?" The answer to this is obvious. They watch sports for the same reason as they watch the ballet, figure skating, or a movie. They do so for entertainment. First and foremost sports are entertainment. However, with rare exceptions sports spectatorship does not stop at entertainment. The sports fan is not so much interested in being entertained as s/he is in seeing the right team win. If it turns out to be a good game then so much the better. The fact is, if your team loses, you don't really care how good a game it was. Game four of this year's World Series was a classic that will be talked about for years. In its way so was game six. And yet I'm certain that no Phillies fan [see how quickly I divorce myself from the team] could care less about that. They would have far preferred to see the Phillies win two extremely boring, routine games. Instead, some junior high school kids in Philadelphia are even now - nearly a week later - going around their schools moping; not even taking the effort to properly dodge the bullets flying in their classrooms.

So it is obvious that the watching of sports involves a large emotional component. Why? Why do we care that a bunch of overpaid men won the World Series while playing for a Canadian based team? The fact of the matter is that there are no Toronto natives on the Blue Jays. The only Canadian on the team is Rob Butler of Buttrville, Newfoundland. Butler is hardly a crucial aspect of the Blue Jays lineup. Other than Butler the whole team is composed of Americans, Puerto Ricans, and Dominicans; none of whom will be staying in Toronto for any appreciable length of time now that the season is over. Why should I, or you, or any other Canadian, care about the Blue Jays. Their fundamental raison d'être is not to make us happy, but is instead to put money into the coffers of Labatt's breweries. They are fulfilling their mandate quite well.

We watch and care about sports teams because for some reason we are willing to suspend our knowledge that not only are the players not of the city they are ostensibly representing, but also often don't give a damn about that city and its fans. Toronto Blue Jays were rapturous about Dave Winfield last season. You couldn't mention his name without some Blue Jay fan expounding upon how great a person he is, and how he is such a class act, not at all like George Bell. And then, once the season was over, when the Blue Jays expressed their unwillingness to pay the big bucks to a 41 year old designated hitter, Winfield happily moved to another team. So quite obviously Mr. Winfield did not return the great love for Toronto that we felt for him.

So what? Since we are willing to suspend our knowledge of reality we have only ourselves to blame if we feel somehow betrayed by free agents when they leave our team. Not, of course, that we have any right to feel that way, but often this appears to be the case. We must accept the mercenary aspects of modern sports if we are to continue to hire outsiders to represent us in athletic competition. All Blue Jays players (exclusive of Butler) are in actuality mercenaries. They hire themselves out to the highest bidder, whilst abiding to a few rules restricting their mobility. Since the Blue Jays are among the richest of ball clubs, it stands to reason that they are so perennially successful.

By pretending that the players are representing Toronto in spirit, as well as in body, we are able to identify with them and their actions. We are able to infuse our own identities into the performances of the athletes. So, when they succeed, we in turn succeed as well. Since many of our lives are routine in nature an escape towards what we perceive as a brief moment of greatness is much welcomed. And when a player who exhibits qualities which we see in ourselves (or more often, wish we saw in ourselves) does well, then we begin to identify with him all the more, and feel that his performance is somehow reflective of us. "See," we say, "my favourite player is doing well, so I must be a good person as well." Obviously, this is not true. A fan of a player is quite apparently not a good person because that player does well; no more than that player's worth as a person is determined by his performance. Rickey Henderson is a great baseball player, but in my opinion as a human being he is a recurring groin injury of a man.

It is not my intention to say that this is a bad thing. My identification with sports teams at times borders upon the pathological, so it would be hypocritical of me to do so. Sports, indeed all entertainment, should be a release. Sports do not function adequately as a release unless you allow yourself to care about what is happening. The emotional outlet found in sports works regardless of your team's performance. It doesn't matter if you win or lose, since if it's the former you can cheer and gloat, and if it's the latter and bitch and complain. Either way you have found a release. It is for this reason that the majority of sports fans would rather watch a game which they know their team is likely to lose, than they re to watch a game between two teams of which they care nothing at all. Thus, in the end, the reason why we care about certain teams and dislike others is because in doing so we allow ourselves to create a false identity and to add a modicum of unimportant drama to our otherwise humdrum lives.

NBAABO

Be a ref!

As basketball continues to develop at all age levels in New Brunswick, new officials are needed.

There will be an information session for anyone interested in becoming a basketball official on Tuesday, November 2 in room 209 of the LB Gym on the UNB Campus. Tipoff time is 7 pm.

A course presented by the New Brunswick Association of Basketball Officials will include four weekly sessions on Tuesday evenings during the month of November. Successful written and floor tests at the conclusion of the course will result in certification with the Canadian Association of Basketball Officials. Cost of the course is \$20 which covers rule book and other material.

For more information contact Jeff Whiple at 453-4985(w) or 452-9416 (h).

WE NEED YOU!

Join the
BRUNSWICKAN
SPORTS DEPARTMENT

We are always looking for sports writers so if you are interested in a particular team or just writing in general please stop by the Bruns office, room 35 in the SUB, or call 453-4983. There will be a staff meeting today at 12:30 for all those interested in writing.

AUDITIONS

GODSPELL



SPRING 1994

A Daigle Theatre Production

Friday Nov 19th 7:00P.M. General Meeting
Friday Nov 19th 7:30P.M. - 9:00P.M. Open Auditions
Saturday Nov 20th 10:00A.M. - 2:00P.M. Open Auditions

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 472-2742

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12 Noon, S.U.B.
Rm. 103 (next to Travel Cuts)

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