

# Red Devils end season with split

## Open playoffs in Moncton this weekend

by Frank Denis

The UNB Red Devils saved the best for last on the weekend as they put together one of their better performances of the season last Saturday night in their final game of the regular season. UNB dominated much of the game against the Mt. Allison Mounties en route to a convincing 11-5 victory. The win was a big boost for the Red Devils as they enter the playoffs and came on the heels

of a 4-2 loss to the UPEI Panthers the night before.

The Red Devils finish the season with a respectable 12-11-3 record good enough for 27 points and third place in the division. UPEI sits on top with 29 points while Moncton compiled 28 points over the course of the season. By finishing in third, UNB will meet the Moncton Blue Eagles in a 2 game total point series beginning night in Moncton. Both games will be played at

the Blue Eagles home rink and the team emerging with the most points will advance to the second round. If the two teams split their pair of games, then a ten minute mini game will follow. Should the game still be tied, a sudden death game would be played until a winner is decided. In the other MacAdam semi final, UPEI will host the St. Thomas Tommies in a similar series.

Last Friday Shane MacEachern provided most of

the offense for UPEI in their 4-2 victory as he netted 3 goals and 1 assist. Also scoring for the Panthers was Richard Little. Replying for UNB were Clyde Simmons and Dominic Niro.

Coming into the UPEI game, UNB knew that a win would assure them of at least a second place finish and possibly top spot. Red Devil coach Mike Johnston believes his team came out and were nervous and that affected their performance, "Against UPEI, the effort was not shown on the ice because the guys were so nervous and uptight, and we need to play loose. We've shown all year that when the pressure is on us we struggle mentally and can't function effectively."

On Saturday against the Mounties it seemed that the Red Devils did everything right. They forechecked effectively and more importantly a lot of Red Devils who have been in a slump scoring wise, broke out of them with big offensive performances.

UNB captain Murray Nystrom and Troy Binnie had each registered one goal since the Christmas break prior to the Mt. A game. Nystrom and Binnie each finished the game with 3 goals and 2 assists with Binnie earning player of the game honors. Also scoring for the Red Devils were Tom Gemmell with three, Dominic Niro and Jim Landine.

Making the game respectable for Mt. A were Ken Dunfield, Marty Goeree, Richard Clark, Craig Young and Brad DeMone.

Binnie doesn't believe his teammates will become overconfident following the convincing win but will look at it realistically. "The guys

needed a little boost and if everyone takes it in stride and goes into the playoffs in good spirits and not overconfident, that will really help us a lot.

Coach Johnston who now has two years of AUAA coaching under his belt summed up the season by saying, "At the beginning of the year, if you had told me this is where we would finish, I would have been satisfied but with the way we came out in the first half, I'm not satisfied with our second half performance. I learned a lot as a coach and so have the players and that should help us next year."

The Red Devils begin the playoffs tomorrow and Sunday in Moncton and the winner of that series will face the winner of the St. Thomas - UPEI series. Other playoff action sees Dalhousie hosting St. FX and UCCB hosting Acadia.



Red Devil Centre Jamie Colvin and teammates ready for playoffs

## U of Maine no match

With this year's 3 game exhibition series behind them the University of Maine Black Bears are probably glad to have seen the last of UNB Red Blazers winger Heather Kyle. After 6 goals and 10 points in the two game first leg of the series at Orono back in January, last Saturday the rookie powered the Blazers to an 11-2 romp with 5 goals and an assist. The win leaves UNB with an 8 win in 8 games record in the event three year history.

Two other first year Blazers had big scoring days Saturday, Fredericton native Stacy Wilkins scored a goal and assisted on 5 others, while

Josette Babineau notched a hat trick and one assist. Single goals for UNB came from Linda Sneft and Sara Smith. Smith's goal was a bit of history, it marked only the second time in team history that a native of a non North-American country had scored for the Blazers, Smith is Australian. (Anh-Thu Vu of Viet-Nam did it first in 86-87).

Replying for Maine with a pair of goals was Kristan Steele. Traci Miller and Bridgette Lumsden split the win in goal for UNB.

Blazers Coach Frank Denis says the team was very pleased with the game. "I don't think we expected it to be that one

sided, but given a chance to play some of the players really opened our eyes."

The Red Blazers now get a week off before travelling to the Senior B provincial tournament in Grand Falls, march 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. "That's our big finish" Coach Mike Power said. "It's the only championship left on the table, we will take all next week to do preparation."

AUAA - AUHC							
MacAdam Division							
	G	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
UPEI	26	14	11	1	133	120	29
Moncton	26	11	9	6	114	115	28
UNB	26	12	11	3	120	113	27
STU	26	10	14	2	100	111	22
Mt. A.	26	8	14	4	120	146	20

  

Kelly Division							
	G	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
DAL	26	16	5	5	137	102	37
UCCB	26	14	12	0	124	118	28
Acadia	26	12	12	2	129	118	26
St. FX	26	10	12	4	115	130	22
SMU	26	9	16	1	94	114	19

  

Round 1 of the Playoffs			
MacAdam			
STU at UPEI			
UNB at UDeM			
Kelly			
St. FX at DAL			
Acadia at UCCB			

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