

SPORTS

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Raiders set for annual tournament

by Anand Irrinki

No, you won't see Jack Nicholson congratulating the UNB Red Raiders after a tough workout, but this high profile team is already working towards a new and successful season. As second year player Ken Badour says "the team is very high spirited and hopefully it will continue through the season".

With a team of seventeen (including 5 red-shirts) the UNB Red Raiders have begun training for the 1991-92 AUAA basketball season. This is part I of a two part series featuring the Raiders. This article will feature the returning players and their comments about the season, while next week's article will look at the rookies and preview the Raider "Classic" tournament.

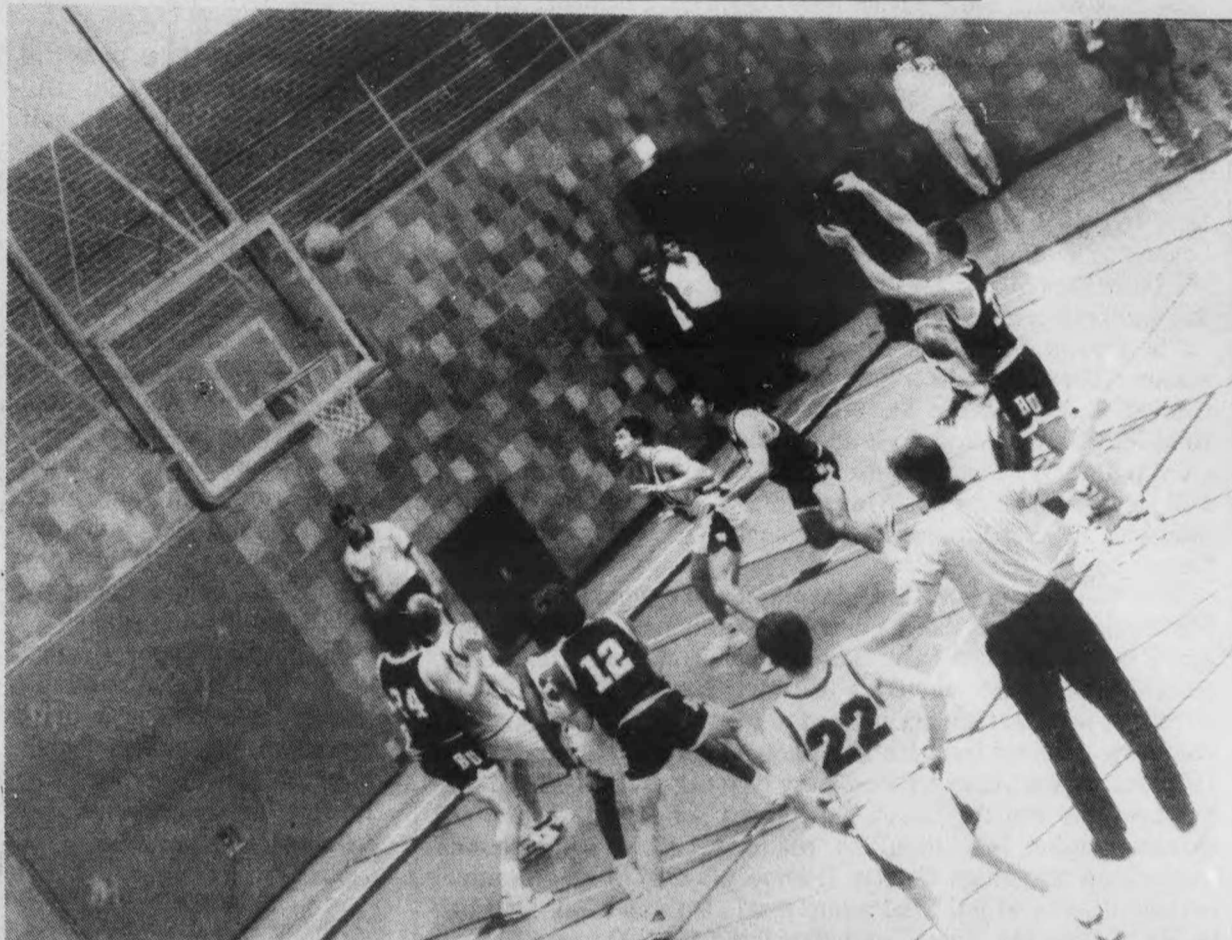
Old Raiders fans will be similar to Edmonton Oiler fans this year in that they will need a program to learn many of the players' names. Gone from last year's team are two, as Dick Vitale would say, prime-time players, Glen Read and Jamie Watts. Even with the loss of these veterans, the Raiders still have 8 returning players who will fill many gaps on the team. Yaw Obeng is the only senior on this team. A 4th year Education student, Yaw is a point guard who must take vocal control of a young, inexperienced team. Two third-year players returning are Duff Adams, a chem. engineering student, and Vinod Nair, a general science student. Adams is an emotional player who, if he steps forward, can bring some needed spirit from the bench. As a small forward (3 man) it will be important for Duff to hit the open jumper when he is called upon. Vern, as his teammates call him, is an

intelligent player who plays with the big men (4 man) in the key. Nair will be a key player defensively for the Raiders. As with all of the Raiders he must work hard on getting defensive boards and also shutting down the opposition's big men. Bobby O'Brien is a 3rd year student who brings to the Raiders some pure talent. Bobby will have to score points in order to bolster a team lacking in superstars. As a 3 man Bobby can also fill some space in the key and help grab some rebounds. Andy McKay is an important key to the Raiders in that he will have to provide some quality time when starter Yaw Obeng is on the bench. McKay is a flashy player who must control himself and thus lead the team when he is the floor general. Ken Badour is one of the hardest working varsity athletes on campus.

During the off-season, Kenny used cross-training methods to improve his aerobic/anaerobic conditioning and this is paying dividends. As he has improved his shooting ability Ken should fit in nicely at the off-guard position and can bring some strong defense off of the bench. Craig Isley and Alex Kidney are both 2nd year phys. ed. students. As rookies these two players showed they belonged in the AUAA and hopefully they will emerge as stars for UNB this year. Both of these players look to help the Raiders offense. Isley can play either the 3, 4 or 5 positions and be a factor inside. Kidney plays the 2 position and can loosen up the opposition's defense with some outside shots. These 2 sophomores need to show good control and shot selection in order to help out the Raiders. The four rookies on this year's

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- Adams



Raiders hoping to set things straight

team are Ryan Goldic from Sarnia, Ontario; Gregory Mapp from Etobicoke, Ontario; Mike Peterson from Kingston, Ontario and Malcolm Brown, a good old home boy from Fredericton.

As the Raiders discussed the upcoming season many stressed that they needed to get off to a strong start in order to reach their goal, which is to qualify for the playoffs. They believed that this team could do it because of many improvements. As one veteran said "This year's team has a fresh attitude and are looking to work hard. The upper class are sick of losing and this will push us. The players believed that Acadia

would lead the AUAA this year because of good recruits, many veterans have returned, and great coaching. Other teams to watch are perennial powerhouse UPEI, and St. Mary's. One noticeable change on the Raiders bench is assistant coach Glen Read. Read has made the transition from player to coach and many of the players appreciate his insight on the game. As game day approaches fans may wonder why they should attend this year's games. Well, the players had many ideas why, such as "this year's team gives 110% and has a strong work ethic". As Adams says, "Raiders basketball is the best in the city, and the games are

always tight". Nair says "This year's team is a unit and will give a solid forty minutes, thus we may surprise other teams and people". Alex Kidney probably sums up why you should get out and see this year's team, "To find out about a new team, you have to come and support them".

So all you basketball fans get off your kiester and support this year's UNB Red Raiders. Mark off October 26, 27 on your calendar and come support the team at their tournament opener; you will not regret it!

Next week: The rookies and the Red Raider Classic

Red Sticks prepare for AUAA's

by Frank Denis

The UNB Red Sticks continue their march to another AUAA championship this weekend when they play their final game of the regular season.

The Sticks are on the road facing the second place UPEI Lady Panthers in a game that gets underway tomorrow at 4 PM. Their other scheduled game on Sunday against St. Francis Xavier was cancelled because St FX pulled their team out of the league just before the season began.

After this weekend's contest the Red Sticks will travel to Halifax for the AUAA championship at St Marys. If all goes well there, and it should, then they will return

to St. Mary's on November 1 to compete in the CIAU National Championship for field hockey supremacy.

In action last weekend, Josette Babineau led UNB to a pair of victories over UPEI. On Saturday the Sticks won by a 4-

0 score and followed that up with a 2-0 blanking of the Lady Panthers.

Currently UNB leads the

league with a perfect 8-0 record followed distantly by UPEI at 2-3-2.



Kevin G. Porter photo

Athletes of the week

Josette Babineau of the Red Sticks earns this week's honours. The third year business student from Moncton was instrumental in the Red Stick's victories this weekend. Josette scored 3 of the 6 goals in the two games against UPEI. Last year she was a CIAU All-Canadian, AUAA All-Star, AUAA MVP, and appears to be likely to repeat many of these achievements this year with her spectacular performances

Tony White is the UNB Male Athlete of the Week of the Red Shirts. Tony scored the Shirts only goal against UPEI in their 1-1 tie. He was nominated Pepsi Player of the Game for his outstanding performance. This promising rookie set up many scoring opportunities and should prove to be a future strength for the Shirts. Tony is a first year physical education student from Saint John.