

Sports editorial: The name game at UNB

by: Frank Denis

Three years ago when I started at UNB I had a hard time trying to figure out what nickname was associated with each team. I had come from Montreal where the names Stingers and Redmen were as popular as Expos and Canadiens. Not a day would go by where one wouldn't see Redmen splashed on a sign or on someone's T-shirt.

I wondered why it was like that here. Heck, I didn't see any UNB sports logos on anything that people could wear or buy for that matter. On my first visit to the bookstore for some UNB clothing all I could find was a pair of socks with UNB written up the sides. I figured that the administration was against the idea of having their students becoming walking UNB billboards. However they did allow UPEI Panther and other university billboards to parade around campus. I asked a friend that year why and how he could wear a UPEI sweatshirt to a Red Devil hockey game. "Because they don't sell UNB shirts." was his answer.

Well it seems that from now on shirts, sweatpants and caps will be available at the bookstore and at other stores throughout the city and across the province. This is all thanks to the Athletics Department recent decision to do away with the 12 different varsity team names and instead go with one common name across the board. With this decision the department hopes to not only increase UNB's exposure nation wide, but also make some money by selling apparel and souvenirs with the new name on it.

The decision is a good one. Ask someone what the nickname of Western is and they'll tell you 'Mustangs'. Dalhousie? 'Tigers'. UNB? You'll likely get "I don't know, but I would probably recognize it if you told me."

After talking to a few coaches about the change they all seem to agree that it will help their programs. Alumni also agrees that it is a good decision. Women's basketball coach Claire Mitton thinks otherwise, but says that she will go along with the new name.

Varsity athletes here at first expressed surprise because they hadn't heard about it, but agree it is a good decision. As hockey coach Mike Johnston says "The athletes here will feel more united with a common name because up until now we've been competing against each other, saying to students 'Buy our shirts and not theirs. This should get rid of that sort of competition.'

The three possible names Varsity Reds, Red Lions, and Falcons each have their own advantages and it is up to everyone out there to vote on their favorite. Bins will be set up around campus and in some of the malls around town and anyone is more than welcome to vote by simply putting a loonie in the bin with the name they like best. Details about the vote still have to be ironed out, but it is hoped that all should be completed by early October.

The UNB Athletics Department has made it clear that they want the public to have a say in the decision, because it is the public who the athletes perform for. So when the day to vote arrives make sure you put a loonie in the bin and make your vote count. Then go out and buy a T-shirt.

The UNB Red Devils will be playing a pair of games against the University of Maine Black Bears in Orono October 30th and 31st. Maine has been one of the top US teams for the past couple of years and should prove a good challenge for UNB. The team is planning on sending a bus full of students down to cheer them on. The cost would include transportation, tickets to both games, hotel room and a shopping trip to Freeport, and would be reasonable. More details will follow as soon as plans are finalized. Watch the Brunswickan for more details.

You may have noticed that the sports section is different this year. Well it is even if you didn't. We have decided to try and have more human interest stories and not a lot of stories on games that happened a week ago. If you have any suggestions for stories for the section or want to get involved call us at 453-4983. And yes Bruce and I are brothers.

Since we were on the topic of logos for sports teams try and answer this week's trivia question:

Question: Which NHL team has both it's home city name and nickname depicted pictorially on its crest?

Answer: Next week.

Campus recreation

The Physical Recreation and Intramural program offers a broad spectrum of services and activities for the University of New Brunswick and Saint Thomas University Students and Recreation Members. Following is a sample of some of the programs, facilities, and services available to you.

RECREATION OFFICE

The Campus Recreation Office is located on the first floor of the Lady Beaverbrook Gymnasium, room A-121 (first door on your left once through the lobby). The counter window is open to serve the campus community Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 4:00pm Office phone: 453-4579

LADY BEAVERBROOK GYMNASIUM

For the convenience of the campus community, open gym times have been reserved during the academic year. They are offered on a first-come, first-serve basis. Reservations are not permitted at these times:

Monday: West gym, 6:30pm to 8:30pm
Sept. 7 - Dec. 7 & Jan 4 - Apr. 5

SIR MAX AITKEN POOL

(UNB/STU Students & Recreation Members with I.D.)

Monday to Friday 11:45 am - 1:15 pm
Tues. & Thurs. (lap swimming) 5:00 - 6:00 pm
Mon., Wed., & Fri. (lap swimming) 4:30 - 5:30 pm

NON-CREDIT INSTRUCTION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Instructors are needed to be able to offer non-credit instruction classes. Applications are available at the Recreation office, Room A121, Lady Beaverbrook Gymnasium. Aquatic instructors must have: Standard First Aid or Aquatic Emergency Care, CPR, and Water Safety Instructor II. Fitness Leaders must have Standard First Aid, CPR, and a "RFL" award or UNB Instructor Training experience.

FITNESS CLASSES

Registration: Sept. 23, 24, 25
(12-1:30pm, 4:30-6:30pm),
L.B. Gym Recreation office,
Room A-121

FEES: \$35 - for UNB/STU students and recreation members
\$70 - for non-members

ADULT LEARN-TO-SWIM INSTRUCTION

Registration: Sept. 17, 7:00 - 8:30pm,
Room A-116, L.B. Gym

FEES: \$22 - for UNB/STU students and recreation members
\$44 - for Non-members

INTRAMURAL SPORTS

The Intramural Sports program offers a wide variety of team leagues and tournaments for men, women and co-eds. All intramural sports aim to develop the individual through physical activity, healthy competition, and fair play. Each year, over 3,000 participants engage in Intramural Sports. The actual administration of intramural leagues and tournaments is handled by students as coordinators, referees-in-chief, and officials. These individuals are responsible for promotion, scheduling, assigning officials, record keeping, supervision, discipline and evaluation. Over 130 students are needed each year to ensure program success. If you would like to develop leadership skills, gain practical experience in recreation administration, and earn some spending money, contact the Recreation Office, SOON.

CO-ED PROGRAM

EVENT	REGISTRATION DATES
Golf	Tuesday, Sept. 15 - Tuesday, Sept. 29
Softball	Tuesday, Sept. 15 - Tuesday, Sept. 29
Curling Bonspiel	Tues Oct 6- Oct 20
Innertube Waterpolo	Wed Sep 30- Oct 14
Bowling	Tuesday, Oct. 13 - Tuesday, Oct. 2

MEN'S PROGRAM

Tennis	Thurs., Sept. 10 - Thurs., Sept. 17
Golf	Tuesday, Sept. 15 - Tuesday, Sept. 29
Soccer	Tuesday, Sept. 16 - Tuesday, Sept. 22
Touch Football	Tuesday Sep 16- Sept. 22
Softball	Tuesday, Sept. 16 - Tuesday, Sept. 22
Ice Hockey	Tuesday, Sept. 22 - Tuesday, Oct. 6

WOMEN'S PROGRAM

Tennis	Thurs., Sept. 10 - Thurs., Sept. 17
Golf	Tuesday, Sept. 15 - Tuesday, Sept. 29
Soccer	Tuesday, Sept. 15 - Tuesday, Sept. 22
Softball	Tuesday, Sept. 15 - Tuesday, Sept. 22