

Raiders lose in Maine - Big weekend doubleheader at home

By JOHN GEARY
Brunswick Sports Staff

This is beginning to get monotonous.

Since the start of the basketball season, the UNB Red Raiders have been perplexingly inconsistent. All the standard cliches have been used - "Jekyll-Hyde personality," "on a roller coaster," "up-and-down performance" - and still they remain an enigma to fans, coaches, and even the team members themselves. After last week's lopsided 108-52 win over Mt. Allison, one might have expected the Raiders to come up flat against the University of Maine Machias. And although they weren't as flat as they were against UMPL the week before, they did have some breakdowns, especially on

defense. The result: a 78-72 loss for UNB. The roller coaster continued.

Before anyone gets the mistaken idea that the Raiders are being overly criticized, let's give some credit to the other guys for just plain out playing the Raiders. The Machias squad did play a strong game; they took advantage of a number of UNB defensive lapses, and with the aid of some hot shooting, they chalked up the win. One thing that certainly didn't help the Raiders' cause was the fact that team leader Scott Devine fouled out of the game just six minutes into the second half. To put it mildly, the officiating was not particularly up to par. But as Devine put it, "You can't blame the referees; both teams had to play under the same conditions. It was a big

win for them (Maine), and you can't take anything away from them. For us, it was a combination of things that didn't work, but basically it was our team defense that let us down - it was not a good game for us defensively."

Talking to the Raiders during the week prior to the Machias game, one could sense that they were looking beyond that game to the big AUSA games against Acadia and Dalhousie this weekend. Raider forward Don McCormack echoed that in his post-game comments. "I think our big problem was the fact that we overlooked that game," he admitted. "Myself, on the trip down to Maine, the only thing I was thinking about, and talking about was this weekend coming up, against the Nova Scotia teams. And anytime you do that, it's usually the first sign of trouble."

The Raiders certainly are looking forward to tonight's and tomorrow's games. Tonight, they host the Acadia Axemen at the Aitken Centre. That game has an 8:00 start. Acadia is a team which hustles all the time, and beat UNB by one point in Wolfville, earlier in the year. The Raiders feel, to a man, that they are the better team, and will certainly be out to prove it. If you can't make it to that game, you can listen to it on CHSR-FM, as they will be broadcasting it "live" starting at 7:55.

The Dalhousie team is a different story. UNB has not beaten them in their last three meetings. And, the Tigers have one or two inches of height on the Raiders at every position. However, the game is being played in "the pit" (main gym), and that could be to the Raiders' advantage; the Tigers have not played there in three years.

A pair of wins would definitely help UNB in their bid to reach the AUSA play-offs. Also, they could go over the .500 mark in the AUBC for the first time this season. On the other hand, a pair of losses would really put them behind the eight-ball. They will

definitely be "up" for both games; and, as McCormack said, concerning the Dal game,

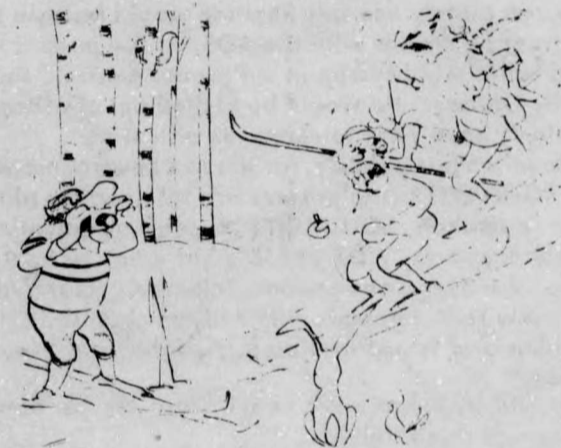
"If we can't beat them this time, I don't know when we can." The Raiders are at home, they're healthy, and they've had a full week to prepare.

This weekend will be THE TEST for the UNB basketball squad. These games will show the university what kind of team we have: is it really as good as the team that beat St. Mary's in Halifax - or was that just an upset? By Saturday evening, we should know.

Cross country ski tips



1 Ski in the indicated direction and observe all signs.



2 Always ski to the right when passing on-coming skiers and when skiing a double track.



Black Bears Chris McTague has only 13 pounds to go and only 2 weeks. With a bit of help he'll make the Bears weigh in.

Upcoming UNB sports

Friday, Bloomers host Acadia - 6:00 p.m. Aitken Centre Raiders host Acadia - 8:00 p.m. Aitken Centre	5:00 p.m. UNB vs. MUN; Main Gym 5:00 p.m. Dal vs. U de M; West Gym.
Friday/Saturday Wrestling Open Tournament All day at West Gym	Sun. - 9:00 UNB vs. U de M; Main Gym. 9:00 Dal vs. MUN; West Gym. 12:00 1 vs. 2 main championship 3 vs. 4 West consolation
Saturday Bloomers host Dalhousie 1:00 p.m. Main Gym. Raiders host Dalhousie 3:00 p.m. Main Gym Reds host St. F.X. 7:00 p.m. Main Gym Devils host St. Mary's 8:30 p.m. Aitken Centre	AUSA Gymnastics Championships South Gym. Sunday Reds host St. F.X. 1:00 Main Gym.
Saturday/Sunday Atlantic Intercollegiate Men's Volleyball league tourney Sat. - 9:00 a.m. UNB Vs. Dalhousie; Main Gym. 11:00 a.m. MUN vs. U de M; Main Gym.	Wednesday Raiders host Mount A 7:30 Main Gym. Red Devils vs St. Thomas 8:00 LBR

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