

# The university deserves a "first class" program

"We have a program at UNB that we can be proud of," said Garth Paton after Wednesday's athletics Awards presentation.

In talking about the intercollegiate athletics program at UNB, Dr. Paton, Dean of Physical Education and Recreation and the present athletics director, said that it was easy to pick out the weak sports in the program because they are in highly visible sports but when the entire program was analyzed, it had to be termed a success.

He said that many teams finished second, losing close final matches while others "went right to the wire" despite being out of contention in the standings.

He said that the campus needs a winner that everyone can get behind. As an example he cited the game in early January where the Bloomers defeated the then number one ranked women's

basketball team in the country, the Concordia Stingers. He said that a quality product would mean that teams would receive a great deal more student support.

Other examples this year, he said were the football team that put on more than respectable performance and the hockey and basketball teams which despite having poor records, played tougher at the end of the year than at the first of the year.

"Athletics is a part of the lifestyle on campus. We have to make a few changes, to make the program better. Some steps have already been taken," he said.

Alluding to some of the other sports which are not so highly "visible" he said that they were "pretty good right across the board." He said that the performances of the volleyball teams, the gymnastics team,

which finished second in the nation, the swim teams, the soccer team and many others which competed well this year, showed that the program was not all that bad.

One of the problems that he said confronted that program was occasional bad press, which highlighted the losses of the basketball and hockey teams. He said that he did not know what the solution to the problem was but that it may be public relations or some other area that needs to be improved.

He said that the university deserved a "first class athletics program. We need better programs with broader and more diverse competition." He said that road trips to play higher calibre teams in the U.S. and other areas of Canada. He added that the Christmas layoff from training also hurt the teams.

"We need more money to be able to hold better tournaments and to travel. We have to sell the program," he said.



Garth Paton, dean of P.E. and R., feels that UNB should be proud of its athletics program.



Winston Ayeni [right] receiving award for soccer defense.

## Pleasure — Not Trophies

On the completion of her first year as Intercollegiate Co-ordinator of Athletics, Diane Potvin said that "It has been a revealing and depressing year. It's nice to know that students are still interested in sports but depressing because of the lack of facilities and support.

You're there to satisfy the coaches and the athletes but you don't have the tools to do it. You're supposed to be some sort of a miracle person."

Concerning the attitudes that people have towards sports she said "They're creating monsters. Sport used to be for fun and achievement and self actualization. Now it turns to more materialistic things."

She said that it would be difficult to alter the attitudes that prevail at the university level. "You have to start at the elementary school level. The promise too much for success. This must stop and the education must be for self instead of trophies. It is unfortunate to see kids playing for trophies at this level."

"They are almost prostituting sport," she added. "They are making it into an end instead of a means of achieving something."

She indicated that her plans for next year were to attempt to keep all teams on the roster and to continue to have high standard athletes.



Sonny Phillips [right] was named M.V.P. for men's volleyball.



Ken Salmon [left] receiving gymnast of the year award.



Mike Brown [right] won M.V.P. for men's swimming.



Liz Johnson was "surprised" that she won the Female Athlete of the year award.

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