



SPORTS

For Complete Varsity Reds Coverage



Sports Wire

THE SKI TEAM



(left to right) Jason Hambly, Victor King, Nicole Lebrun, Gordon Weary, Elliot Little

Once again the UNB Alpine Ski Team came out on top! From March 28-31, Edmunston's Mount Farlange hosted the Provincial Finals, where UNB's top five skiers competed and brought home a record five medals.

Out of 110 competitors in the male category, Gordon Weary brought home both a silver and a bronze medal. Weary finished 2nd overall in the Giant Slalom with an overall time of 82:59 seconds and 3rd in the Slalom. Elliot Little, a rookie to the ski team, placed just four-tenths of a second behind Weary, to win a bronze medal in the Giant Slalom. Other exceptional notes are Victor King, who placed fourth in the slalom and Jason Hambly who placed 5th in the Giant Slalom.

In the women's category, UNB's Nicole Lebrun placed 1st overall in the Giant Slalom with an overall time of 88:02 seconds and also placed second in the slalom. Lebrun, the 1996-97 President of the UNB Ski Team, also set a record for a Cavendish Cup Race in the Senior Women's category.

A banquet was held for the athletes Saturday night, where UNB's Captain Gordon Weary was honored for his leadership skills and dedication toward skiing. Weary, who will be graduating in May, would like to thank everyone who helped to make the ski team so successful. Brian Crothers, President of the UNB Ski Team is very pleased with the ski team's results, and notes that "this was the best results for a Cavendish Cup race from the UNB Ski Team yet."

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



V-Reds coaches hired

by Neil Duxbury
Brunswickan Sports



Terry Haggerty, Stacey Bean and Jim Born immediately after the announcement. Photo Bill Jackson

by Neil Duxbury
Brunswickan Sports

Former UNB Red Devil Mike Kelly has been hired to take control of the UNB hockey program, after Mike Johnstone tendered his resignation. Johnstone, who had been on a two year leave of absence as assistant coach of the Canadian national team, had been temporarily replaced by Danny Grant.

Kelly first felt the draw of his alma mater when he was an assistant coach with the PEI Senators in the 93-94 season. "I remember standing in the [AUC] stands, and this strong emotion came over me that this was somewhere I should come back to." His hiring brings back emotional memories of the last time UNB won the Atlantic Conference banner, something that should stir the pockets of the alumni as well as the hearts of the players.

The Varsity Reds have been the Seattle Supersonics of the AUAA, being dumped in the first round of the playoffs, after winning home ice advantage, in each of the last two years. His first task is "find out where the athletes are; talk to the people who had the program -

Danny and Shane [Easter] - and find out where the strengths and weaknesses are." Kelly also looks to milk the rich Ontario junior leagues for new recruits for the Varsity Reds program.

As for Kelly's plan to fill the hundreds of empty seats at most home games, "We have to win in the playoffs." To get there he promises a high pressure, high tempo, high discipline game. He sees it as the only way to win in a 26 game season.

The current incumbent, Grant, has indicated a desire to stay in the program which he resurrected last summer from "just above the level of Mount Allison or Cape Breton" with the addition of a pair of blue-chip defensemen, some accurate snipers and a rangy winger. Dean of Kinesiology, Terry Haggerty is enthused about the possible tandem "It gives us the best one-two punch in college hockey."

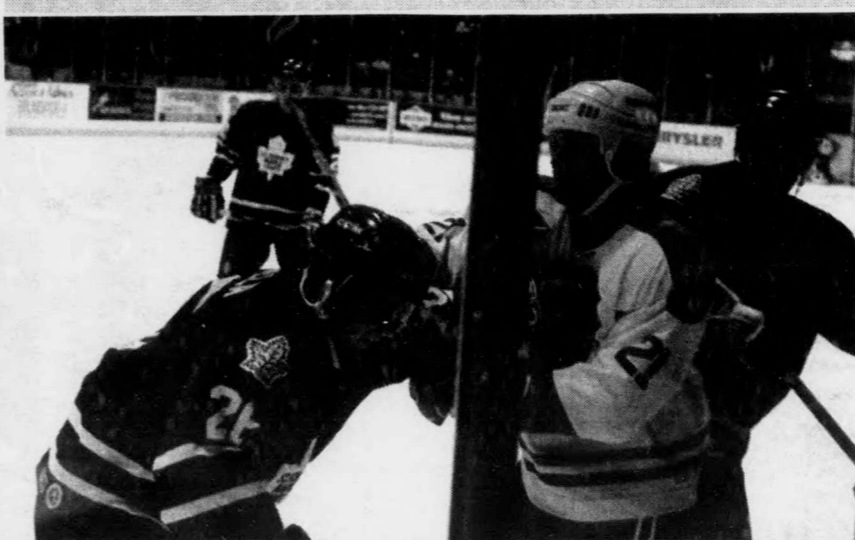
Stacey Bean stepped into the breach when head coach Donna Hornibrook took a year's leave of absence. Now she gets the security of a long term contract to continue UNB's glorious field hockey tradition and work towards that elusive national championship in her fourth year with the Varsity Reds.

The Laurentian University graduate emerged at the head of an international pack as the candidate most able in the fields of technical knowledge, recruiting ability and ability to work in Campus Recreation and certain teaching assignments.

Bean looks forward to continuing the work she started on the team this season. She sees herself as a force on the sidelines. "One of my biggest strengths as a coach is my ability to motivate." A very necessary skill to guard against the complacency which may come from UNB's many consecutive Atlantic titles.

Looking to take the plane to Victoria for the CIAU, the Varsity Reds will be without Tammy Jewer and Diane Rogers, both lost to graduation. "Those are big shoes to fill." However, the team will have a solid base to work from with Krista Harris, who let in only 4 goals last season, returning along with transfer student Susasn Somerville from UPEI. Somerville has been practising with the team through her ineligible year.

To book their ticket, the V-Reds will once again face the UPEI Panthers and Saint Mary's Huskies for the AUAA crown. Looking at the precarious nature of the three team league, Bean hopes to see more teams. Dal will "for sure" have a club team to play on their new artificial pitch, which will hopefully turn into a varsity program in a year or two. UdeM have a competitive club team, however there are currently no plans to take them to the varsity level.



Action from last weekend's baby Habs game. Photo Warren Watson

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222.00
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1,200.00
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710.00
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600.00
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