

V-Reds purr-fect at home

NEIL DUXBURY
THE BRUNSWICKAN

Peter MacKellar's first goal of his AUA A career lifted the UNB Varsity Reds hockey team to a 3-2 victory over the UPEI Panthers.

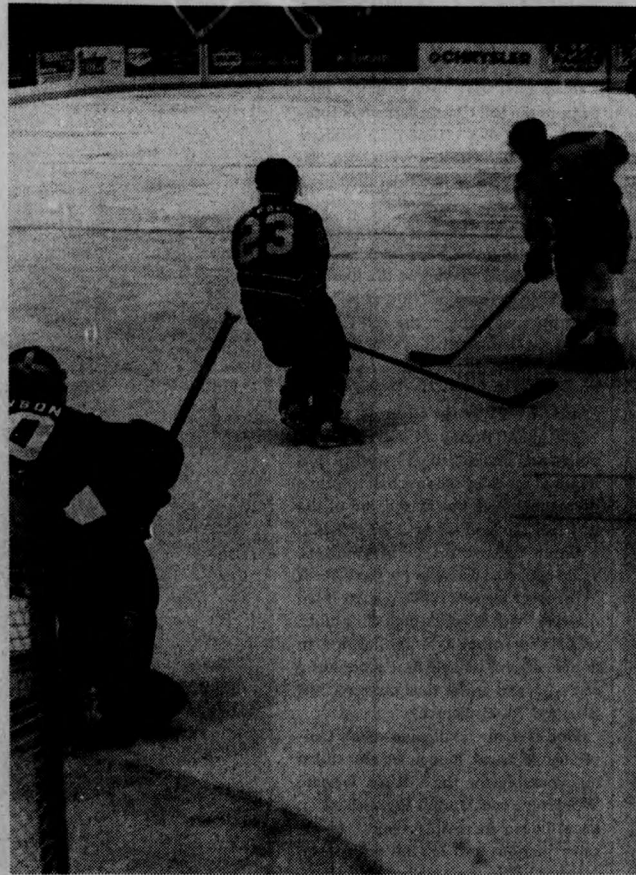
The Reds were the first to strike, Billy Wright making the most of the two man advantage, going coast-to-coast before beating Panther goalie Craig Johnson. It could have been more but the Reds were unable to take advantage of the opportunities they created, leaving the ice 1-0 leaders at the intermission.

The Panthers quickly made the Reds regret their lost opportunities; Colin Wilson tapping in a rebound off the back glass that lay tempting by Ken Carroll's post 5:33 into the second. Wright restored UNB's advantage only to have it negated a couple of minutes later by a blast into the top corner from Mike Harding. Neither team was able to take advantage of further powerplay opportunities, leaving the score tied at two after two periods of action.

Once again, the Aitken Centre's penalty boxes had plenty of customers as referee Don Gaudet rigorously enforced the laws of the game. Neither team was able to take advantage of the other's misfortune, each scoring just one goal from their eight opportunities.

At the third intermission something strange must have happened. Perhaps someone removed the pea from Gaudet's whistle. Perhaps both teams play suddenly became 99% cleaner. For whatever reason, the third period was graced with only one call from Gaudet, a particularly obvious too-many-men-on-the-ice call.

The resulting 18 minutes of 5 on 5 play produced the most exciting hockey of the afternoon. Dax MacLean and Billy Wright combined to produce a couple of good scoring chances. The third time was a charm when Peter



Putting more pressure on the UPEI Panthers

DIRK NIELSEN PHOTO

MacKellar was on hand to finish off a strong play from Damien Bloye down the right wing.

With the lead regained, the Reds dropped back to protect it. While the Panthers had plenty of possession, the UNB defense allowed them few shooting opportunities.

Wright had a couple of opportunities to complete his hat-trick after Johnson was pulled with a little over a minute

left. However, it wasn't to be as he was denied by the outstretched stick of PEI defenseman Jason Strick and the side of the net.

Considerable practice time has made the Reds powerplay noticeably crisper and more confident, but the reduced production has coach Mike Kelly a little worried and a little puzzled. "We might be working on it too much," suggested Kelly.

However Kelly was pleased with the Reds solid defensive performance and the patience shown by his team. "I thought we did a good job of not getting frustrated," he commented.

"We kept digging, kept going to the net," echoed forward Billy Wright.

Kelly also seems pleased with his 1-2 punch of Frank LeBlanc and Ken Carroll at goaltender, despite the contrast between the LeBlanc basketstopped 7-6 loss to the UdeM Aigles Bleu and Carroll's 3-2 win over the Panthers.

"Seven goals is not indicative of how Frank LeBlanc played. It's indicative of how we played," said Kelly.

The Reds will be taking their 4-2 record and #5 national ranking on the road to Nova Scotia for games against St FX and Saint Mary's, this weekend.

Soccer Reds are playoff bound

Reds extinguish Sea-hawks playoff hopes

CHICK YOUNG
THE BRUNSWICKAN

The Varsity Reds mens soccer team went to Newfoundland to face the Memorial Sea-hawks with a do-or-die double-header on the card. At stake, a place in the AUA A playoffs the following weekend. UNB required 3 out of 4 points to make their playoff dream a reality while MUN also had a slim chance to make the finals if they could win both games.

With so much at stake, the first match got off to a tense start as both teams felt each other out. MUN scored right before half-time from a corner on the right. UNB pulled together in the 2nd half with UNB's 3 Newfoundlanders Blair Tucker, Dougie Campbell and Jeremy MacWhirter embodying the team's spirit.

UNB were rewarded with two goals in quick succession: the first from Carson Gill and the second from rookie striker Mike Guidice; a penetrating run from Ben LeBlanc set up Guidice's swerving right foot shot.

Twenty minutes from time a break on the right resulted in a powerful header from a Sea-hawks' striker, which beat goalie Mike Green to the far post. This left the final score at 2-2, although a large number of bookings, mostly for dissent, were handed out in the final minutes.

The second game provided fewer goals but no lack of incident. It became clear from the beginning that it was going to be a scrappier game than the day before. The first half ended 0-0 with the Varsity Reds having the majority of the ball but with little luck offensively.

Kamal Gurung returned from suspension to bolster the Reds defense. He also instigated wave after wave of UNB attacks as pressure was applied to score the goal to take them

to the AUAAs.

The goal eventually came in the 80th minute when Marc Basset was sent clear to put the ball past the Sea-hawks' goalie. This was not the end of the action as three players were subsequently sent off for a variety of off-the-ball incidents. The Reds Joey Vatour was dismissed for an alleged punch after a goal-mouth scramble turned into a 22 man wrestling match.

The Reds fifth place finish in the league was enough to get them a passport to Halifax for the playoffs. The Reds face the UPEI Panthers in the first round in a 5:30pm bout at Wickwire field.

AUA A Final Standings

	W	L	T	FOR	AGN	PTS
Dal	10	1	2	37	3	29
StFX	8	3	2	25	8	27
Aca	5	3	5	19	11	22
UPEI	5	3	5	16	11	20
UNB	5	4	4	13	9	18
UdeM	4	5	4	17	24	17
McA	4	5	4	15	16	16
SMU	3	5	5	16	16	16
MUN	2	6	5	11	16	13
UCCB	1	12	0	3	58	2

W = wins L = losses T = ties FOR = goals scored
AGN = goals conceded PTS = points

Women prepare for Friday morning wake-up

HALEY FLARO
THE BRUNSWICKAN

Miles Finsent's squad has opted to do it the hard way. After bowing down to Memorial over the weekend, the V-Reds women's soccer team gave up a potential bye into the semi-finals of the AUA A's. But the Varsity Red's women remain promising contenders that other AUA A prospects fear; their season long pilgrimage for an AUA A championship is far from over.

UNB ended their regular season with an offensive effort that mirrored that of their slow regular season start. Striker Leslie Hachey managed the only UNB goal this weekend after she forced a tie game against Memorial on Sunday afternoon. UNB dominated the second half of the game but failed to connect on any of their scoring opportunities. Sunday was the Reds second match of the season against Memorial after UNB dropped a 2-0 decision on Memorial's turf Saturday.

Forward Paula Morley, who has been a key scoring figure this season, was injured in Saturday's game after colliding with Memorial's goalie but is expected back in the lineup at Dal.

Kim Messer, Reds assistant captain and a key midfielder, is also back in training this week after recovering from injuries that have confined her to the sidelines this season.

With the weekend's results behind them, the Reds are

now focused solely on the AUA A's. The V-Reds are preparing for Dal's artificial turf by scheduling morning indoor practices in the gym and running their regular evening outdoor practices this week. Dal's turf offers the advantage of allowing the Reds, a highly skilled team, to use their linking skills to their maximum potential. The Reds will transfer their skills onto Dal's turf Friday morning when they begin their weekend plight for an AUA A crown.

AUA A Final Standings

	W	L	T	FOR	AGN	PTS
Aca	9	0	4	27	0	31
StFX	9	3	1	23	7	27
UNB	7	2	4	30	7	25
Dal	4	3	6	11	6	20
MUN	7	3	3	24	11	20
SMU	5	5	3	13	10	19
UPEI	6	7	0	15	23	18
McA	2	7	4	5	19	11
UdeM	1	10	3	4	34	5
UCCB	0	10	3	2	37	5

W = wins L = losses T = ties FOR = goals scored
AGN = goals conceded PTS = points



Ken Carroll denies Mike Harding

DIRK NIELSEN PHOTO

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