

UNB Red Raiders nearly pull off the upset of the season



Scott Devine goes under and up to score a basket as team-mate Steve McGinley guards his back. Photo by Shaver

The two game series with St. Mary's did not get off to an auspicious start for UNB's Red Raiders. They challenged for the first ten minutes of the first game on Saturday night, but then the roof fell in.

Holding the Raiders to just one shot and forcing turnovers with a full court press, the no. 2 ranked Huskies surged into the lead. UNB shot only 26 percent from the floor in the first half and a meagre 32 percent for the game. SMU on the other hand shot 56 percent the first half and 54 percent for the game.

In the light of that kind of shooting the final outcome was not surprising, SMU 114 - UNB 67. Gary Young and Scott Devine led the scoring for UNB with 16 a piece.

You might have expected a couple of results from a game like Saturday's. First that the fans would stay away from the second game and second that the Raiders would lay down and die. Neither of these proved to be the case. The fans came back and were treated to one of the most exciting and entertaining games of the season.

The Raiders got up off the floor after Saturday night's KO and took it to SMU right from the start on Sunday. They grabbed a 2 point lead four minutes into the game after trailing SMU by same until then. The Raiders nursed that lead despite unbelievable pressure by the SMU forwards and with eight minutes left they had stretched it

to 8 points! This from the team beaten so badly the night before.

A last minute push by the Huskies with only 3 minutes left saw them steal the lead from the Raiders and narrowly gain a one point advantage at half-time to lead 42-41.

Steve McGinley led all scorers in the first half with an 8 for 9 shooting spree and coupled with the great rebounding performance of Bob Aucoin they effectively neutralized SMU's 6'7" forward Ross Quackenbush and 6'4" Percy Davis under our basket. Their offensive rebounds and rebounds-in-toto hurt badly in Saturday's game.

From the players' and coaches' standpoint the standing ovation at half time and the noise generated by the fans at the end of the game was music to their ears. The crowd was really into the contest. The Raiders have been striving to produce something to get excited about. The fans both nights were terrific.

No matter what the Huskies did in the second half they couldn't pull away from the Raiders. Luigi Florean came off the bench to score 17 points and the score was tied 84-84 with two minutes to play. Only some determined shooting by Kevin Wood of SMU and some late foul shots allowed SMU to win by five 91-86.

Once again UNB's ability to call on the bench was a key factor in the near upset of the number 2 ranked St. Mary's. Marc McGeachy

played great defensively and pulled down a number of key rebounds. Wayne Veysey went in at the point, handled the press well, and did some great work defensively on Wood.

The Raiders are for real. UNB is still in the playoff race. The Raiders have three games remaining. Tonight and tomorrow they play at UPEI in a must series since UPEI is currently in fourth spot. The following Friday night Feb. 23 UNB finishes their regular season play when the Raiders host arch rival Mt. Allison at 8:00 p.m.

WEEKEND STATS

	REB	PTS
Andy Cheam	4	8
Scott Devine	8	30
Gary Young	7	22
Steve McGinley	7	26
Bob Aucoin	12	23
Marc McGeachy	2	5
Luigi Florean	6	22
Robert Florean	3	13
Don McCormick*	0	2
Wayne Veysey	2	2
Dale Moffitt	—DNP—	
John Kivista	—DNP—	

* played one game

Red Blazers seek revenge!

The UNB Red Blazers went into competition last weekend ranked number 2 in Women's Hockey in the Maritimes. After their weekend games they find themselves in the uncomfortable number 5 position.

The Blazers travelled to St. John last Sunday night to play the top women's team from that city. In a lack-luster game UNB was out hustled all game and subsequently found themselves on the losing end of a 4-1 score. The non-aggressive Blazers reverted to early season form as they repeatedly stood around and watched as St. John scored 3 quick first period goals. After this slow start (typical of the Blazers play of late) the team settled down and held off the St. John attack for the remainder of the game, except for a last second empty net goal. The

Blazers were unable to generate any effective offence, and were content to watch as St. John out skated and out played them. A second period goal by Dorothy MacFarlane (assisted by Dickenson and Oram) broke the St. John shutout, but the goal did little to spark the Blazers from their atypical non-aggressive game. The only bright spot for the Blazers was the play of Lorrie Merriott and Carole Copper who repeatedly tried in vain to get the team rolling, but individual efforts were not enough against the fired up St. John Club.

Monday night found the Blazers in Woodstock against the Woodstock Kinsmen Club. UNB was able to tighten up their defence and played a much stronger defensive game. However their inability to generate any offence cost them

another game. Goalie, Karen McMartin played very well throughout the contest as the game remained deadlocked at 0-0 for 2 periods. Midway through the third period the UNB defence broke down and Woodstock was quick to capitalize, scoring the only goal of the game. The Blazers were shutout for only the second time this season, as the forwards could not find the mark. Lorrie Merriott was again the standout for the Blazers along with Cathy Dickenson and Barb Ramsay who played perhaps her best game of the year.

The Red Blazers have alot of work to do if they want to turn things around for the upcoming New Brunswick and Maritime Championships. Everyone associated with the team is confident that they will be able to get their game going again. As coach Bruce Hicks put it "we are better than what we showed last weekend and we will turn things around before the Woodstock Tournament".

This weekend the Blazers have a chance to get back on the right foot as the Woodstock team moves in for a return match here Sunday at 5:00 p.m. at the Aitken Center. Saturday night the team will be skating to raise money for their upcoming games. Please help support the Blazers in their fund raising efforts.

Congratulations are in order to UNB curlers Philip Gilks and Don MacDonald, who last weekend won the N.B. Pepsi-Cola Junior championship and will represent the province at the nationals in B.C. Philip and Don are also members of the New Brunswick winter games team, along with skip Emery Robidoux and third Will Semeluk.

UNB Curling Club.....

UNB Curling will meet this Sunday at 10 p.m. Last Sunday the men's team for the AUAA bonspiel was decided when John MacDonald defeated Mike McCrean 8-6. John's team of third Emery Robidoux second Will Semeluk and lead Stephen Lord will represent UNB in Moncton on March 1, 2, and 3. The mixed team will be decided this Sunday when Kent Guptill plays off against Doug Foster.

SPORTS QUIZ...

By PROF. C.B. & COACH CAT

1. Who was the Expos winning pitcher in their first N.L. win? Who started?
2. Bill Stoneman pitched two no hitters against what team?
3. In Stoneman's first no hitter, who was the pitcher that started against him, and what team did this pitcher play for during the 1978 season?
4. Who did the Expos trade for Joe Sparna? Which team did Sparna play for?
5. During what year did the Montreal Canadiens set an NHL record by having posted the most shutouts in one season? How many shutouts?
6. Who did Gordie Howe score his 500th goal against? Who did the goalie play for?
6. Who was the first expansion team player to win the Calder Trophy?
8. Who beat out Johnny Rodgers for the Schenly award for the best offensive player two years in a row in the CFL?
9. Which NHL goalie has scored a goal while playing nets in the AHL? What team did he play for?
10. In the 1978 Amateur Draft, the Montreal Canadiens selected one Russian hockey player. Who was he?

Athletes of the week..

MALE ATHLETE

RICK DOUCETTE - Hockey
Had 1 goal 2 assists Friday against Mt. A and 3 goals Saturday against U de Moncton - his 1st hat-trick in intercollegiate play. Now ranks 3rd in team scoring with 9 goals 7 assists. Rick has been Devils best centre at winning faceoffs. He is in BBA first year, from Fredericton, N.B.

FEMALE ATHLETE

CATHY MAXWELL - Basketball
Scored 29 and 27 points respective in 2 games over SMU on the weekend. Had 9 and 13 rebounds each game to also lead the team. Also shot 68 percent while getting all these points. She is in Ed fourth year, from Sussex, N.B.