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DEADLINE: Tuesday, noon

# DeLuca Leads Devils To Weekend Split

by Frank Denis

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times". That is how one would have to sum up the weekend for the UNB Red Devils. Last Saturday, the Red Devils dominated the Mount Allison Mounties 3-1 in Sackville. On Sunday the team was in Charlottetown to face the UPEI Panthers and lost a heartbreaker 6-5 in overtime in a game in which the Red Devils played well enough to earn at least a tie. Red Devil Dom DeLuca recorded five points in the weekend games to lead the UNB offense.

The Mt. Allison game was the key game of the weekend. The Red Devils are hoping to make the playoffs this year, and in order to do that they have to beat the Mounties, who are in their division. UNB played very well throughout the game and often controlled the play. The

game was very physical with lots of hitting and penalties assessed to each team. In the early going, the Red Devils had some quality scoring coaches but were unable to put the puck in the net. Scoring for UNBN in their 3-1 win were Dominic DeLuca, Ken Murchison, and Serge Ouimette. The only disappointment of the game was when Scott MacDonald lost his bid for a shutout with just 21 seconds left in the game on a fluke goal. MacDonald played exceptionally well throughout the match and was named player of the game.

On Sunday the Red Devils were in Charlottetown to play UPEI. The Panthers have always had a good team and UNB was ready for a tough game. For the second night in row UNB got on the scoreboard first as Murray Nystrom beat Panther goalie Scott Blanchard with a shot along the ice. Other goal scorers for UNB were DeLuca with two, Murchison, and Ouimette. The

game was close throughout with neither team leading by more than one goal. It was only fitting then that the game would end 5-5 after regulation time.

It was evident when overtime started that neither team was playing for the tie. UPEI came out flying and on a two-on-one hit the goal post. UNB's best chance came during a scramble in front of the UPEI net, but they weren't able to put it in. With 1:36 left in overtime UPEI forward Richard Little scored to give the Panthers a 6-5 overtime victory. It as a very tough loss to take.

UPEI coach Bill MacMillan was surprised at how well the visiting team played "UNB played a very strong game. I give them a lot of credit for playing the way they did, especially after the rough game they played against the Mounties on Saturday. Their team as a whole played very disciplined, and we had to scratch and claw

our way to a victory." said the Panther coach. Their opposition will be last year's AUSA champions the Blue Eagles from Moncton.

UNB coach Mike Johnston said there were times during the game his team didn't play very well but he was still hoping for at least a tie. The Red Devils players were also frustrated after the game, saying it was a tough and disappointing loss to take.

The Red Devils' record now stands at 3-2-1, second in the AUSA behind Moncton. Their next game is tonight at the Aitken Centre beginning at 7:30.

Earlier in the season, the Blue Eagles handed the Devils a 9-6 loss in Moncton. Last weekend, Moncton recorded hard-fought victories over St.FX and UCCB while Mt. Allison surprised St. Thomas 7-3. This indicates that much parity exists in the league this year. Tonight's contest will measure the Devils' improvement since their loss to Moncton.

# REBELS LOSE TO DAL

By Mark Savoie

Despite playing two excellent matches last weekend the UNB Rebels have started their AUSA Men's Volleyball season with two losses against the Dalhousie Tigers. Both losses saw the Rebels squander a two games to one lead before losing each match three games to two. This puts UNB at the rear of the pack tied with Memorial as they hunt for one of the two playoff spots.

The match last Friday night saw Dalhousie win the first game by a largely uncontested 15-11 score. After that the Rebels took over, winning by relatively easy 15-10, 15-6 scores. In the fourth game of the match UNB jumped out to a commanding 13-8 lead before letting down, giving Dalhousie the 16-14 victory. In the fifth and deciding game the Rebels once again grabbed a lead, but once again let down in the latter half to give Dalhousie their second successive 16-14 victory and the match.

The second of the matches was also against Dalhousie, and it turned out to be almost a

carbon copy of the first in its essential characteristics. Dalhousie and UNB split the first two games; the Rebels winning the first 15-13 and the Tigers winning the second 15-10; and then UNB took game three 15-6 to grab a 2-1 lead in games. Once again, the Rebels grabbed a lead in the fourth game and once again Dalhousie came from behind to win, this time 15-13. In the penultimate fifth game Dalhousie dominated from the beginning and won easily 15-9, giving them their second straight five game match victory.

Dalhousie has been the dominant team in the AUSA over the last decade winning 10 of the last 11 titles. As a result the Rebels appeared to be a little bit tentative when they had a chance to win. As Coach Paul Belanger put it, "Even though we're experienced, I think our players aren't really used to being there (in a position to win)."

Another difference between the two teams was the large physical edge held by Dalhousie. Dalhousie had the power to put away several smashes in intimidating

fashion, whereas the Rebels largely relied on a more finesse based style of play. As a result the Dalhousie squad was able to go on several point streaks, while UNB was forced to depend upon consistency.

Coach Belanger relied heavily on his starters on the weekend. However, starter Mark Thorne was suffering from food poisoning on Friday night. This understandably affected his play, and he was even forced to sit out Saturday's match. The star of the weekend for the Rebels was fifth year veteran Nathan Stairs, who was named UNB Male Athlete-of-the-Week for his efforts.

This weekend the Rebels travel to Halifax for the Dal AUSA Tourney tomorrow and Sunday. Their opposition will include Memorial, UDeM, and Dalhousie. But UDeM and Memorial have shown signs of being uncompetitive with either Dal or UNB, so it is important that the Rebels take a match from the Dal Tigers in order to build up their confidence for when (and if) the two teams meet for the AUSA Championship.

# UNB VARSITY HOCKEY

## ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Pauline Lordon, from Chatham, NB has been chosen as this week's UNB Female Athlete-of-the-Week. Pauline, a first year B.Ed. student in her 5th year on the team, helped the basketball Red Bloomers to two victories at a tournament in DAL over the weekend, November 10, 11, and 12. Against McGill she picked up 14 points and 6 rebounds, and was named as player of the game, but UNB lost 59-56 in overtime. The Red Bloomers won their two other games: 62-43 over Acadia and 67-62 over Western as Pauline had 10 points and 5 rebounds, and 16 points and 6 rebounds respectively; and was once again named player of the game against Western. According to coach Mitton "Pauline had two good games at the DAL tournament and was chosen player of the game twice. She is starting to return to her top playing form; being aggressive and contributing offensively."

Nathan Stairs, of Hunter River, PEI has been named as this week's UNB Male Athlete-of-the-Week. The 23 year old 5th year Science student had a strong weekend for the volleyball Rebels as they were beaten closely by DAL in two very exciting matches. Nathan, the Rebels' co-captain, had 20 kills and 11 stuffed blocks in two games as Dal won 3-2 on Friday evening and 3-2 on Saturday. (15-10, 13-15, 6-15, 16-14, 16-14 and 13-15, 15-10, 6-15, 15-13, 15-9 respectively). According to coach Belanger "Nathan showed strong leadership qualities and showed his veteran experience by making very few errors throughout both matches. (Saturday he had no attack errors)."

