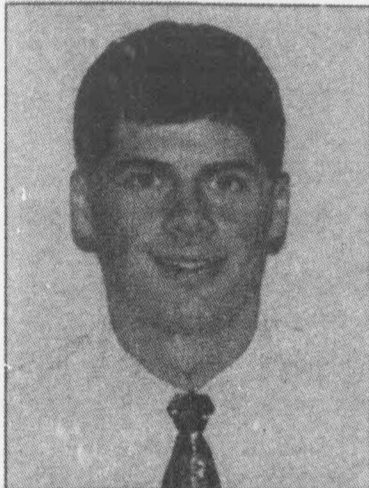


All in the family

Basketball team captain credits dad for talent.

by Bruce Denis
Sports Editor



Marc Aubé

So much for the glorified image of the inner-city as the breeding ground of basketball players.

For Marc Aubé, basketball is bred in his blood.

Quietly confident and extremely dedicated, the Dorchester native has earned the respect of both his teammates and his coach. In three years with the Varsity Reds basketball team, Marc has nabbed both rookie of the year and MVP honors, and currently shares duties as team captain with Duff Adams.

But much of Marc's basketball talent comes directly from his family. "My dad has had a tremendous impact on my development as a player and on my love of the sport. From a very young age I always went to Dad's games and thought it was great. I loved being at his games and watching him play. He knows a lot about the game."

Last weekend, the Aubés made the two hour drive up the Trans-Canada from Sackville to watch Marc and the Reds split a pair of games against the league leading UCCB Capers. His family has become regulars in the stands at UNB home games.

Coach Clint Hamilton says "I see them as a very strong family, a very keen basketball family. They travel almost every weekend to see him play, they give him very strong support."

Mr. Aubé had a distinguished playing career including a year with the Université de Moncton Blue Eagles and presently coaches at Tantramar High School in Sackville where he teaches. He is also a former president of Basketball New Brunswick.

Marc honed his talent playing ball against his father and his two brothers, also established athletes, at the Tantramar High Gym. His dad, who coached him during his minor league days, provided instruction during these informal practice sessions.

Marc wasn't the only Aubé to benefit from extra gym time. His older brother Michael, also at UNB, played at Tantramar but decided to concentrate on academics when he arrived at university. His younger brother Morris is in grade 12 and plays ball at Tantramar High but has yet to decide which university he will attend.

"It would be nice to have my younger brother here at UNB but I just want him to do what's best for him. He's got some very good skills. He could use some developing, he's still young. He's definitely a good ball player."

And what about Mom? "Mom supported us by coming out to our games, we often referred to her car as 'mom's taxi' because she drove us to games and practices. She's very supportive."

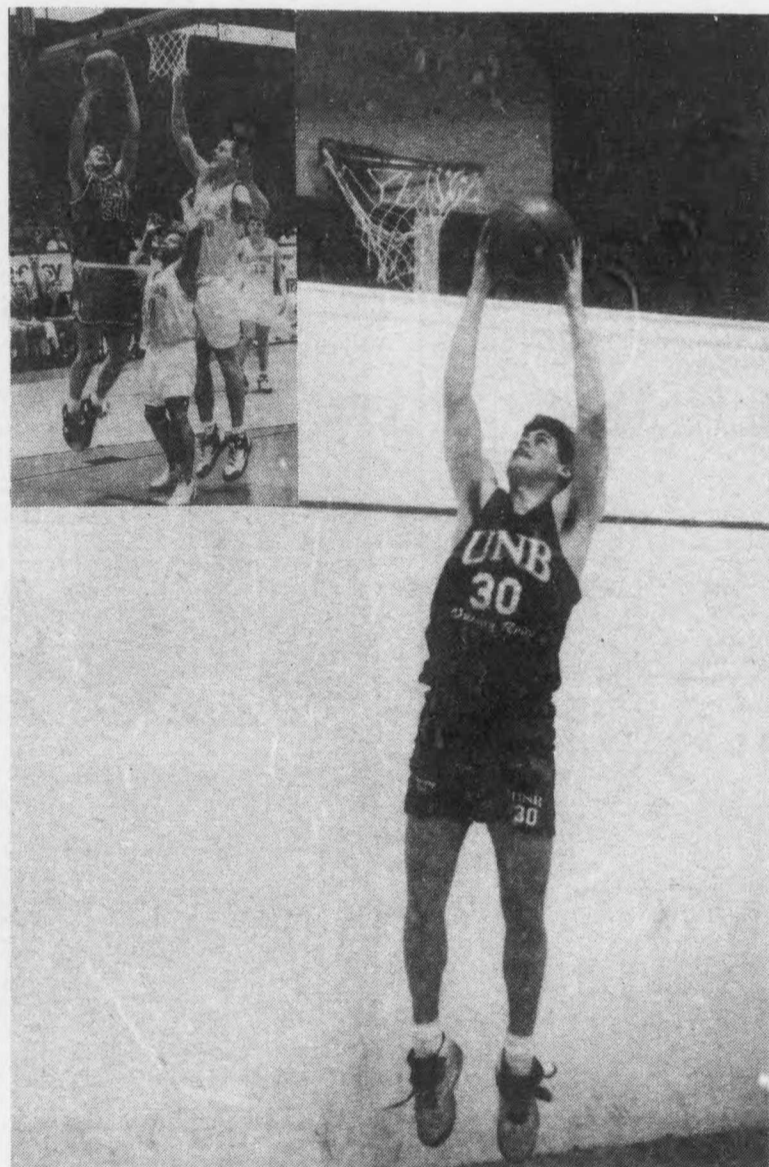
Marc's girlfriend Jennifer Wetmore, a third year Psychology

can't be satisfied with 5-8, though it's a definite improvement from last year. You can never stop trying to get better and there's definitely a lot of potential on this team."

Hamilton points out that Aubé is invaluable to the team. "He's a very strong competitor with very solid skills. This year we've upped the pressure on him in terms of a leadership capacity. He's a very quiet leader."

Being singled out as a leader on a team struggling to regain credibility is no easy task, but Aubé takes it all in stride. "At times it seems like there's a bit of pressure on me but it's pressure that anybody should and would want. I don't mind it at all, being a captain is a great position to be in."

Marc played an instrumental role in last summer's UNB basketball camp, a role that he may



Photos by Kevin G. Porter

Marc Aubé practices his lay-ups at the Lady Beaverbrook Residence Gym and against UCCB at the Aitken Centre last weekend (inset).

major at UNB, may be the final link to his support network. "She gives a lot of support and understands that it takes a lot of time and effort to play university ball."

Marc, playing the perimeter this year, has helped pick the team up from a dismal 1-19 season last year and has played a large role in the team's much improved 5-8 record. However, he is quick to point out that there is still a lot of room for improvement.

"We would love to be 13-0. We

help shape his post-university future.

"Coaching is a definite possibility in the future. I enjoy working with younger kids. I got a charge out of working at the summer camp last year. It was a really great time."

For now, Marc will concentrate on helping the team make the playoffs for the first time in recent memory. Count on seeing the Aubés in Halifax if they do.

VIEW From The Cheap Seats

By Mark Savoie

If you're a fan of UNB Red Devils' hockey, then there is one man that you hate above all others. That man is Phil Daigle, superpest and prime shit disturber for the Saint Thomas Tommies. Phil has become the very epitome of the player you love to hate, the type of player for which you would pay money just for the opportunity to cross-check him in the back of the head. The type of player that inspires fans of the opposing team to expectorate (that's 'spit' for the engineers) upon his person. The type of player who will rub the opposition's nose in it at every available opportunity. The type of player that would give even Ken Linseman a bad name.

I have had the opportunity to play hockey both with and against Phil Daigle. Granted, the level of play was much less competitive than is the AUAA, but the intensity was just as high, and often more so. Being a teammate of Phil's was great, since he was by far and away the most creative player on the team in the offensive zone. He would make passes that I wouldn't have even thought of, let alone had any chance of successfully completing. As a result Phil made the rest of the team look good—especially such non-talents such as I—by setting us up for remarkably easy goals (or in my case, scoring opportunities).

As an opponent of Phil's I despised the miserable son of a bitch man. He'd whine to the ref about every call, celebrate every close play around the net in hopes of convincing the ref that a goal had been scored despite the fact that the puck was underneath the goalie, and would suck his opponents into penalties with cheap shots that were just marginally not severe enough to deserve a penalty. His brother was the same way. One game his brother irritated me enough that I elected to break my stick across his face. (I'm sure that the stick was already cracked, since I didn't think that I hit him all that hard.)

As a Red Devils' fan I loathe the man. More than anyone I have ever seen at the university level in any sport (including NCAA), Phil plays the crowd like a violin. Watch him after he scores a goal. After his goals at the LBR last week, instead of celebrating with his teammates and the Saint Thomas crowd, he skated directly to the UNB side of the rink and posed for the crowd, taunting them into a response. Only after he had severely pissed off every UNB student in attendance did he accept the congratulations of his teammates.

As a hockey fan I love watching him play. Should Saint Thomas defeat the Red Devils for the right to play against the Kelly Division's entry (probably Acadia) to the AUAA final, then I will be down at the LBR cheering Phil on as he does what he can to throw Acadia off their game. It might even be worthwhile to make the trip to Wolfville to watch him do his act in front of Acadia' fans. This is not a trip I will be considering if UNB makes the final.

In my inexpert opinion there is little doubt that the Red Devils have talent which is superior to that of the Tommies. The reason that the Tommies are neck and neck with the Red Devils for first place and were able to split the season series between the two teams is because STU plays at a much higher emotional level than does UNB. The driving force behind STU's emotion is Phil Daigle. Whereas UNB has established themselves as a team that often comes out flat, STU is there to play almost every game. As much as I respect Al MacAdam as a coach, the credit must go to Phil. To quote Cable 10's Dave Ritchie as he stole a quote from Reggie Jackson, he is the straw that stirs the drink.

Off the ice Phil Daigle is a completely different person than is shown by his on-ice persona. This is also true of his brother whose face I broke my stick across. After that game he came to me and apologised for his behaviour during the game, saying that he was being an asshole. This after I broke a stick over his face. Both Phil and his brother played the game hard, both doing whatever they could to win, but when the game was over they held no grudges. To me, that is what sports should be all about.

To reiterate, Phil Daigle is the most annoying hockey player I have ever cheered against. As such, I have often found myself leading the crowd in chants of "Kill Phil!" Despite this, I wish to both heaven and hell that he played for UNB. If the Red Devils had Phil, then I think that they wouldn't have to play second fiddle behind Acadia and Dalhousie, but would be able to capture the AUAA title, and then the national championships. This is Phil's last year. Next year won't be nearly as fun.