

SPORTS

Sports Editor: Greg F. Hoare
Sportsline: 453-4983
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One Step Closer to Playoffs

Red Raiders Split Games

By Dave Seabrook
Brunswick Staff

UNB's Red Raiders upped the ante in a high stakes AUSA playoff bid last weekend against the UPEI Panthers.

In two intense games UNB split wins with the nationally ranked Panthers. The results leave the underdog Raiders tied with their Island rivals for the fourth and final playoff spot in the conference.

It also sets up a critical contest tonight with the number one AUSA team, the Acadia Axemen. Since this evening's game is with a Nova Scotia team, UNB stands to gain a valuable four points (double the usual value) and move them one step closer to realizing their playoff goal, a feat not achieved by the Raiders since 1980.

Despite leading at the half by five points in the first game of the weekend double-header, the Raiders were unable to hang on in the second half, losing a heart-breaker 92-88.

With about 30 seconds left and UNB trailing by four, forward Bob Aucoin hit a three-pointer closing the gap to one. In an attempt to regain possession, UNB fouled UPEI's Steve Ruiz. Ruiz nailed both shots from the line, leaving UNB on the losing end of a four-point decision.

Aucoin had been outstanding throughout the game putting 33 of UNB's points on the board. Andy Hayward was the Raiders second highest scorer with 28 points.

Although disappointed, the Raiders associate coach Phil Wright was positive about the loss. "Even though we lost the game, we came in here and had a shot at winning. That's always the goal. We played well. It was only a matter of two or three free throws."

Indeed, UNB did have trouble at the line, shooting only 11 for 23. At the same time, the team shot an impressive 54 per cent from the field.

Fridays game gave UNB the confidence to defeat the Panthers the next day 83-78.

"We felt we were very equal teams and with perseverance and hard work we could beat them. We went in with a very positive attitude," said Dr. Wright.

Andy Hayward was UNB's top scorer netting 33 points. Paul Watts came off the bench adding 14, making him the second man in the scoring race.

"Paul gave us a big boost coming off the bench," said Dr. Wright. "He really did a tremendous job."

This time UNB did not relinquish a halftime lead of 37-33, outscoring the Panthers 46-45 in the second half.

The two games left both Hayward and Aucoin in the top three for AUSA scoring. Aucoin leads the ranking with an average of 22.6 points per game.

"We are the best team since Scott Devine left in 1982," says Dr. Wright. "We are as good as anyone in the conference. In the past it was a foregone conclusion how the game would end. Not anymore."

Not anymore indeed!

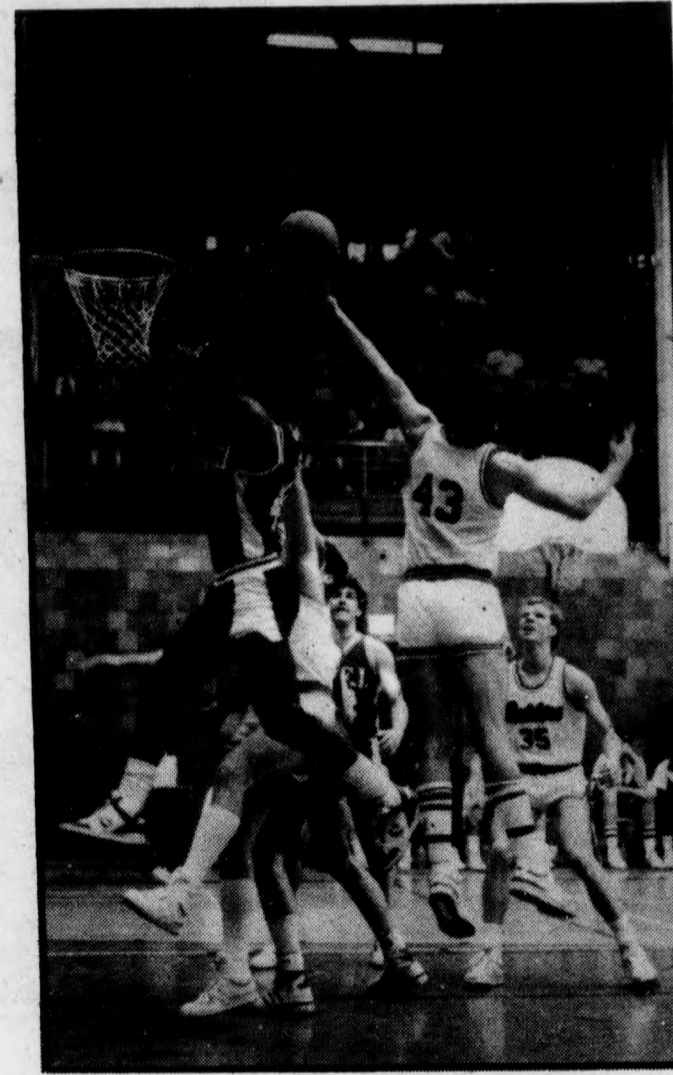


Photo by Laura Lee MacLean

Jerry Guest is shown stripping the ball away from U.P.E.I.

Challenge of the Year !



Sunday 1 pm LBR Gym

Sports fans, here's the challenge of the year. The Ladies of the Dunn have taken off their gloves and challenged all the so-called Wimps of Aitken, Nerds of Neill and Neville, MacKenzie Morons, Hard-Up Huskies, Babies of Bridges, Rejects of Rosary and as for Jones House, this paper is not morally allowed to give their description. The Ladies of the Dunn challenges the aforementioned to attend, if you dare, the Red Bloomers basketball game this Sunday at 1:00 pm at the LBR gym.

Tough talk from the great looking ladies of Dunn, but the question is, Sports Fans, will these men accept the challenge and live up to the dignity that their individual crests demand, or will they stay home and attend to their laundry?

The Bruns wouldn't miss this challenge for the world. We will be there to see which house presidents can rally their men together and which houses will dishonour their crests.