

Ironmen in full swing

The UNB Ironmen began their fall schedule this past week with a bang. The Ironmen first team got off to a running start on Wednesday night as they met the Fredericton Loyalists second team. UNB firsts disposed of the Loyalists by a score of 40-0. From UNB's perspective the game was very encouraging. Most of the tries were the result of individual effort, but especially so were Frank Schimpl's and Dennis Clarke's efforts. If the Ironmen come together as a close knit team, and all indications are that they will, it will take a very determined and skilled squad to defeat the Ironmen. In this game rookie Jason O'Brian scored three tries and ran well doing so. Mr. O'Brian, ex-Loyalist Bill Cooper and Englishman John Welles are welcome additions to the first team backline. Derrick Snow with two tries and Robert Wright with a single rounded out the try count. Dennis Clarke in his first kicking duties for the Ironmen added four counts to top the score off at 40 pts. With all good omens this game brought for the Ironmen the victory was taken with a grain of salt. This victory came against a

second division team and it remained to be seen how the Ironmen's makeshift front row would hold up against a first division club.

The Ironmen's first serious challenge of the season came in the form of the Loyalists first team on Saturday Sept. 14. This was UNB's homeopener and so wanting to prove their mettle were chomping at the bit for the opening kickoff. The game began as it would remain for the most part of the game. That is to say with the Loyalists pinned deep in their half and the ironmen slicing through their cross town rivals defences. Well within the first minute of play UNB had scored its first try; ironically enough it was scored by ex-Loyalist Bill Cooper. Try after try was scored against the hapless Loyalists as the final score turned out to be 48 to 3 for the Ironmen. Joining in on this try scoring bonanza were Dennis Clarke with three tries, Jason O'Brian, Jon Welles and Derrick Snow with single majors each. Jon Welles rounded out the scoring with a very accurate foot for goal. This game was filled with more team work than the Ironmen's previous match.

The forwards worked as a much tighter unit with Sonny Urquhart acting as a much needed rock of Gibraltar in the set scrums. The line-outs were another splendid part of the Ironmen's game and hopefully further improvements in UNB's game will bring with it even more expansive rugby. The first team has two matches this week; the first is on Wednesday Sept. 18 in Oromocto against the Pioneers and the second is on Saturday Sept. 21 against the powerhouse Trojans of Saint John. This latter game is also an away fixture.

It was not only the first squad that enjoyed success in the past week. The second team opened up their season in the newly formed Maritime Universities league in impressive style. Having travelled to Mt. Allison in Sackville to take on the Mounties on Saturday the seconds were not to be denied. Playing with many new faces on the team UNB defeated Mt. Allison in style by 38 pts. to 4. This scoreline bodes well for the seconds hopes of capturing the new Maritime Universities championship. Trevor Monlard had a strong game on the wing scoring four

tries. Jay Earle also showed his moves and pace at fly-half by scoring two well earned tries. A try was also scored by opportunist captain and number eight Gord Clarke, pouncing on a loose ball and diving in for glory. Rounding out the scoring were centre Jeff Mellin and former Nova Scotia under 21 full back Danny McGinn. The score could have been much higher had the kicking tandem Jay Earle, Jeff Bellim, Trevor Moulard and Danny

McGinn combined for more than one convert on the day. No doubt if a continuous effort is put in all season these Ironmen will be a force in University Rugby.

The B squad will play host to the Loyalist A this weekend as well due to an abundance of players the Ironmen C team will play host to its first match in ten years. The action gets underway at College field at 1:00 Saturday, Sept. 21.



by Randy Goodleaf

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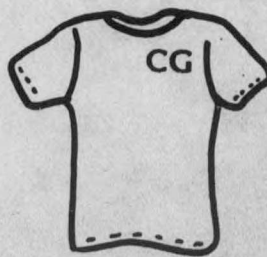
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