

## And you thought that the Habs had a winning streak?

By DICK SLIPP

The UNB Red Bloomers finished league play in the AUAA in strong fashion, securing the number one position atop the standings. They swept three games on the road to place their league record at 18-1 and their season record at 26-2.

On Friday Feb. 17 the Bloomers opened a two game series versus Acadia Axettes by jumping to a 33-17 half-time lead. UNB shot an impressive 58 percent from the floor while at the same time their defensive play was just as effective in controlling the Acadia offense.

The Bloomers rotated from their 2-2-1 full court zone press (Go!) and their 1-3-1 half court press (the "Rat"). These defenses upset the Acadia team and also prevented them from utilizing their patterned offense which deliberately takes a lot of time before attempting a shot.

The Acadia team made effective adjustments at half-time and their super guard Patti Langille started driving to the basket in the second half. UNB experienced a cold shooting spell after building a twenty point lead with 18 minutes left to play. At the same time, Acadia hit a hot shooting streak to

score 12 points in succession. UNB remained in control however, to preserve the victory, winning by a close 55-50 score.

Laura Sanders is to be singled out for her fine performance in this game - a performance which was repeated in the other two games of the week-end. She was definitely the outstanding Bloomer of the week-end's play.

Although the next two UNB games displayed the tremendous team depth possessed by the Bloomers, as they all played superbly in crunching Acadia 80-41 and Mt. A. 109-42.

In Saturday afternoon's game at

Acadia, the Bloomers received a pleasant surprise as the Acadia team attempted a drastic change in style by playing a lot of man-to-man defense against UNB. This is in contrast to their zone defense which is employed to slow the temp of the game and to keep them from being isolated in one on one situations.

The Bloomers played strongly in taking a half-time score of 35-21 to the locker-room. The important factor was that the Acadia team was visibly tired and had fouled much more than normally done by them.

UNB got its fast-breaking action in full gear in the second half and easily rolled to an 81-40 win. Despite the fast tempo of the game and the highly explosive offense displayed by UNB, the Bloomers maintained their intensity in their defensive play and limited Acadia to only 40 points for the game.

It is such defensive play that is the important factor in determining the outcome of most games - especially the close ones.

On Sunday Feb. 19 the Bloomers returned to their basic half-court man-to-man defense and put their presses on the shelf against the Mt. A Angels in Sackville.

The young Mt. A team displayed good offensive ability and surprising quickness in their back-court players. However, defensively they were unable to handle either the flaming fast-

break or the strong rebounding of the Bloomers - both of which dominated the game.

From a score of 48-21 at the half, UNB flew to a 109-42 victory via a 61 point second half. All of the statistics of the Bloomers were impressive in this game but Cathy Maxwell and Claire Mitton both

grabbed 12 rebounds to lead the team.

These strong performances by UNB evidence their build-up for the league play-offs this week-end at UNB. The intensity on defense is the single most impressive feature of the Bloomers play right now.

A case in point of the hustle shown by the UNB team in their drive to reach their Calgary dream, was a play in the Mt. A game where 6'0" Bloomer centre Janet Prude dove to the flooring chasing a loose ball. UNB was over 50 points ahead at the time.

Now the stage is set for the league play-offs to be hosted by the Bloomers. On Friday Feb. 24 the Bloomers will play fourth-place St. F.X. at 6:00 p.m. and then it's Dal (2nd) versus Acadia (3rd) at 8:00 p.m.

Play will continue on Saturday with the losers meeting in a consolation game at 1:00 p.m. in the afternoon with the championship game scheduled for 3:00 p.m. The play-off winners will represent the AUAA at the Canadian Championships to be held in Calgary on March 2, 3, and 4.

The Red Bloomers would appreciate all the support and noise that the UNB fans could provide. Two hours per day since September has been put in by the team to prepare for these remaining games - all of which can be regarded as sudden death since any loss would deprive them of their goal to be the National Champions.

But as Coach Joyce Slipp says philosophically "It has to be played one game at a time, for every game will be tough now."

Going into the play-offs the Bloomers are averaging 72.4 points per game offensively, while holding opponents to an average of 47.4 points.

## Rebel underdogs become champs

It was total team effort that enabled the UNB Red Rebels to defeat four teams and win the AUAA volleyball championships in Moncton this past weekend.

UNB entered the tournament in fourth place in league standings and were the decided underdogs. Considering the way the Rebels had played in the previous two and the general feeling of confidence on the part of the team and its coaching staff, it came as a surprise to see the Rebels win.

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## Ski team dominates

By GREG DIXON

The UNB ski team dominated the third race of the New Brunswick Cup series held this past weekend at Poley Mountain, Sussex. A total of 90 racers competed in the two day event which comprised of teams from Campbellton, Edmunston, Fredericton, Saint John, and Dalhousie University.

The meet, organized by the Saint John ski club, was without doubt, the best race of the series to date.

Competing for the men in the competition were Wayne Flann, Gunther Eisinger, Jim Caven, Peter Chrzanowski, Lenny Semac, Peter Reeves, Jim Cuttle, John Wilson, and Greg Dixon. Competing for the women were Robin Richardson and Michele Dauphinee.

It was almost a clean sweep of 1st place finishes for the young team. Jim Cuttle captured the men's slalom title and Michelle Dauphinee finished first in both the women's slalom and giant slalom. Robin Richardson placed third for the women in the giant slalom.

Other members of the team finished in the top ten.

The team, now sponsored through the university with Olin skis and Marker bindings, would like to thank Dr. John Anderson for his interest and support in our program.

The fourth and final race of the series will be held at Mt. Farlange, Edmunston, on March 10-11.

Team members will be in training at Sugarloaf, Maine during the March break. They welcome all skiers from UNB to celebrate at the Red Stallion during the week.

On Friday, the Rebels were scheduled to play the Dalhousie Tigers. UNB was 0-2 with Dal in regular season competition but the difference between the teams was seen in the playoffs. UNB took a 2-0 lead in games only to have the Dal team fight back and tie 2-2.

The fifth game was won quite handsly by UNB because of their superior blocking ability. They repeatedly stopped Jan Pisala - Dal's power hitter, and thus eliminating 80 per cent of Dalhousie's offence.

After beating Memorial University 3-0, UNB entered Saturday night's match against St. F.X. sporting a 2-0 record. UNB and St. F.X. are arch-rivals from way back and St. F.X. had defeated UNB in the 1976 and 1977 AUAA championships. Both teams realized that winner of the match would have the championship picked up and there was an air of expectancy around the gym. The

expectancy being that of a great match. For anyone who saw the match, they know that it would be impossible to capture the intensity of the match in words. The Rebels played incomparable volleyball, defeated the X-men 3-1 and clinched their first Atlantic Championship since 1971.

On Sunday, in a match that meant little, the Rebels defeated Moncton 3-2 to finish the tournament with a perfect 4-0 record. Mike Phillips was named Most Valuable Player for the season and deservedly so. Phillips and Rebels' captain Dirk Kiy were chosen All-Conference. The Rebels are off to the Canadian championships to be held in Moncton on the 3, 4, 5 of March.

The women's team will also be attending the national tournament due to their second place finish in the meet. Since U de Moncton which is hosting the meet, won the AUAA the Reds will be able to attend as AUAA representatives.

## Basketball championship to be held

Following last weekend's three game sweep, the UNB Red Bloomers head into the AUAA Maritime Basketball Championships as favourites. The Championships, which will be held at UNB in the Lady Beaverbrook Gymnasium, will feature the top four women's basketball teams from the Maritime Universities; UNB, Dalhousie, Acadia and either St. Francis Xavier or St. Mary's.

The tournament will run both Friday night, February 24th and Saturday afternoon, February 25th. The preliminary games on Friday will be at 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Saturday's program has the consolation game at 1:00 p.m. and the Championship Game at 3:00 p.m.

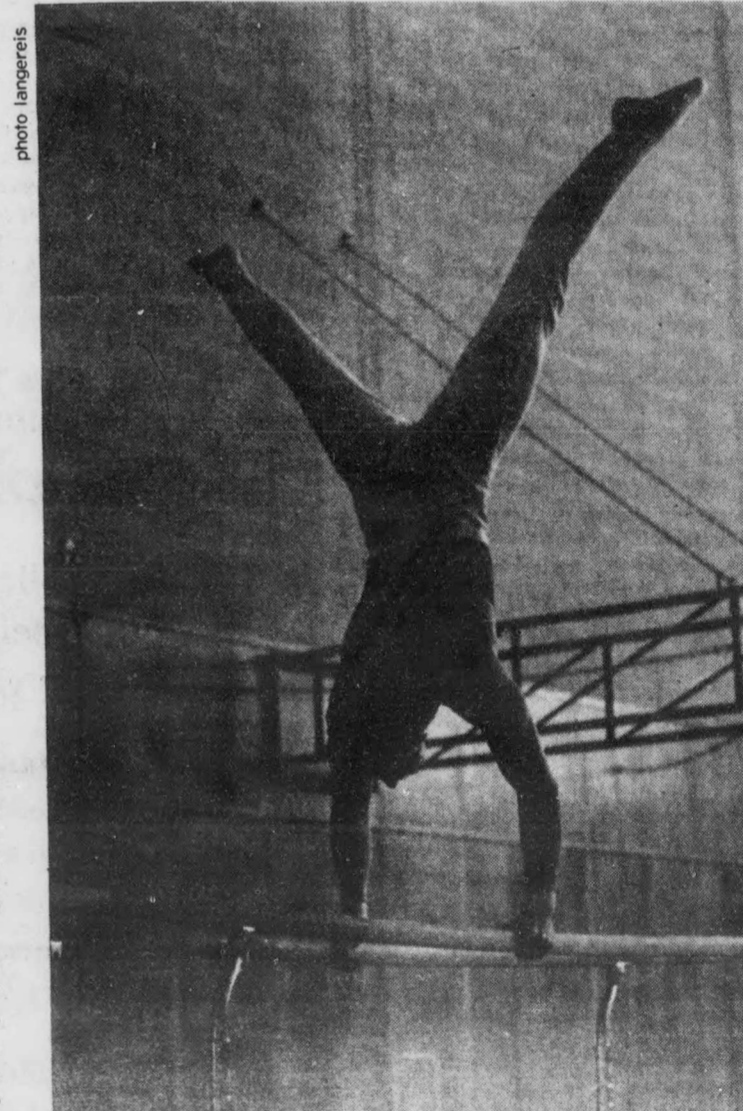
The tournament promises to be very exciting, because of the intense rivalry which exists between the four teams. The Red Bloomers, the No. 1 team in the Conference and the No. 3 team in Canada, has been forced to be at the top of its game throughout the year because of the eagerness with which the other teams have tried to beat them. In fact, although some of the games have been close ones, UNB has lost only once this year - and that was to Dalhousie three weeks ago.

Dalhousie has traditionally been the No. 2 team in the conference. Very competitive and well coached, they have been close to

winning the Championships a number of times. This year their hopes are high, especially since they already have one win over UNB. So, the Championship Game, should it come down to UNB versus Dalhousie, promises to be a barn-burner. The No. 3 team coming into the tournament is Acadia. The Axettes are also a very determined, well coached group. Their traditional rivalry with Dalhousie has continued in force this year, with Acadia recording one of the only four losses Dalhousie has received.

St. Francis Xavier made the No. 4 ranking in the Conference after a fight to the wire with last year's Maritime Champions St. Mary's. The X-ettes are a quick team and have given many of the Conference teams quite a bit of trouble.

The opening game of the tournament on Friday, February 24th, will pit the UNB Red Bloomers against the St. F.X. X-ettes at 6:00 p.m. The second game at 8:00 p.m. has Dalhousie against Acadia. Although UNB will be the favourites over St. F.X., these two teams did battle to a close 11 points UNB win the last time they met. The Dalhousie-Acadia game should be a thriller. These teams are very competitive, especially against each other, so we should see a close, hard fought game.



UNB's Bob Johnson performed well last weekend at the AUAA gymnastics meet.