

Bloomers travel to U of Georgia

by TOM HENDERSON
Special Assignment
Sportswriter

On October 24-27, the UNB women's basketball team was at the University of Georgia in Athens as part of the two universities' mutual bicentennial celebrations. The Red Bloomers flew down to practice with one of the United States' top basketball coaches — UGA's Lady Bulldog mastermind Andy Landers.

The Bloomers had two practices under the direction of both UNB's coach Claire Mitton and UGA's Andy Landers at the 11,000-seat Georgia Coliseum. On Thursday, October 27, the Bloomers were sent through the same practice that the Lady Dogs had performed just previously. Landers had his entire coaching staff stay after the Lady Dogs had left to assist in UNB's time on the floor. Georgia rookies were in the stands during this practice as Landers, in addition to teaching UNB his routines, used the Bloomers as an object lesson to show his players certain plays and drills from a long distance view.

The UGA Lady Bulldogs under head coach Landers have posted an impressive record of 150 wins and only 46 losses. Last year they lost in the NCAA championship game by only 5 points, and this year the pre-season polls have them pegged at number 2 in the USA. Team members include Theresa Edwards, 5-11, G, a 1984 US Olympics gold medal winner and All-American; Katrina McClain, 6-2, C, a member of the 1985 US World University Games team; and Lisa O'Connor, 6-1, F, a member of the 1985 US team at the Jones Cup tournament. While there are academic All-Americans on the team, notably the 6-7 backup center Barbara Booty, the emphasis here is basketball, winning basketball.

Friday morning the Bloomers were back on the court as Landers and Mitton worked on the team's strength — defence. They spent two hours running drills and setting up practice routines to hone their skills. Landers, referring to the Bloomers, called them "extremely coachable," one of his highest accolades. The two head coaches had the team go through warm-up and ball-handling routines before they progressed from two on two half court work to five on five full-court drills. The team responded by soaking up all they were shown while the manager and trainer, Teresa Doucet and Marilyn Estey, recorded it on flip charts to take home.

Saturday morning, before the big football game, the Bloomers and Lady Dogs shared the practice facilities in the P.E. building, home of the varsity volleyball team. Due to NCAA regula-



U of Georgia coach talks to Red Bloomers: left to right, Hartling, B. McKenzie, M. Jones, S. McMaster, N. Enman, J. Williams, J. Perry, C. Mitton (coach), C. Matheson, P. Lordon, A. Kent

tions that said teams can't play another team prior to the official opening of the pre-season, UNB and UGA couldn't be on the floor at the same time. What they did was split the 2-hour session into twenty-minute sections and have on team on, the other watching and planning plays to try.

On the social side, the ball team was shown around UGA's campus, taken to movies and bowling (American style -big balls with three holes for fingers and thumb), and they were given the tour of the women's athletes dorm. After the practice on Saturday, the girls were taken to the football game, or

rather to the pre-game tailgate party. Tailgating is a UGA institution where everyone eats their lunch by their car before they go to Sanford Stadium to join the other 80,000 fanatics in cheering on the home team.

Before the Bloomers left Athens for the Atlanta airport Saturday, Landers

dropped by to express his and the Lady Bulldogs' appreciation for the visit. He told the team that next spring he wanted "to be able to read about your success in the papers" to which the Bloomers responded that they expected to see his team on television at the NCAA Final Four.

University of New Brunswick Women's Basketball Team 1985-86 Red Bloomers

	#	Yr.	Height	Position	Home Town
Pauline Lordon	4	1st	5'7.5"	Guard	Chatham, N.B.
Chris Matheson	5	4th	5'4"	Guard	Brookfield, N.S.
Jane Williams	6	4th	5'11"	Post	Sackville, N.B.
Alison Kent	7	3rd	5'9"	Guard/Fwd.	Riverside, N.B.
Nadine Enman	8	1st	5'11"	Post	Summerside, PEI
Jacqui Perry	10	1st	5'9"	Forward	Hampton, N.B.
Susan McMaster	1	4th	5'11"	Forward	Woodman's Point, N.B.
Bonnie McKenzie	12	4th	5'9"	Guard/Fwd.	Chateaugay, P.Q.
Pam Hartling	14	4th	5'10"	Forward	Windsor, N.S.
Marg Jones	15	5th	5'7"	Forward	Ottawa, Ontario

TRAINERS

Marilyn Estey
Carol McAloon

MANAGERS

Lisa Cormier
Teresa Doucet

COACH

H.C. Mitton

Interview - Red Bloomers coach

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Bruns: The Red Bloomers have just returned from their trip to Georgia. What has the team gained from the experience?

Claire Mitton: It's hard to pinpoint one particular item as to say what we've gained from the whole trip. First thing athletically that benefited us is intensity. We thought at the first of the year that intensity is a necessary ingredient for us to better than we are at the national scene. We were concentrating on that and I am pleased with the result of our trip because we have seen what it takes to be one of the top teams in the United States. The women's in Georgia is currently ranked second in their country and last year finished second in the country. The kids had a chance to work with them, see them practice, be involved with coach Landers and his staff. I'd have to say the intensity — the need and want to win, that's the first thing gained from this trip.

Then the different way of

life, the different priorities, things that any trip that you're going to go on, anyplace — regardless if it's Toronto or even if we go west to Calgary or Winnipeg at the nationals. Every place has a different way of life. I was looking for something for us athletically and we certainly obtained that.

Bruns: How has the time that you've spent with Georgia's coach, Andy Landers, affected your coaching? What did you pick up?

CM: It's pretty tough in three days to affect your coaching. I don't think I'm going to change my style ... Things that I have picked up from him are some drills that we're trying to do. What we call a 'run and jump' defense and he helped us with that and really worked with that and was very, very good.

There's different philosophies, once again different ideas of doing things. He pushes people to the outside and we can do that and we will do that, but when it gets into the paint, into the key we push

them inside because we play help-side defence. Just little coaching things that you pick up just from anywhere. I usually go to a clinic annually in Boston and I usually pick up four, five, six, seven things.

The big thing is the intensity he has and the perfectionist he is ... him on the court with the Bloomers was tremendous.

Claire Mitton (Women's Basketball)



Bruns: Where are you going this year?

CM: On Friday, we're flying up to Toronto, playing in an eight-team tournament and then the following weekend we're involved in a six-team tournament in Halifax. Then we start our league play.

The weekend before the second half of school, in January, we're in Montreal for another eight-team tournament.

We're getting exposure and a chance to see teams outside our conference. We won't be playing teams inside our conference except for at the Halifax tournament. Everywhere else we'll be playing teams like Toronto, Concordia, McGill, Calgary, Lethbridge, Lakehead — teams that we aren't going to see anyplace else.

I feel very pleased with our schedule. When you come in in July, you've got to take what's there and go through it. But this year, I had the chance to pick and choose where I wanted to go and we were lucky enough to be invited to a

lot of them.

Bruns: Where are the Nationals this year?

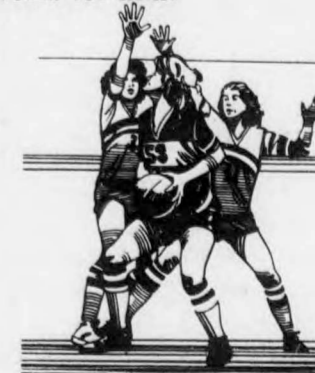
CM: The Nationals are in Winnipeg, at the University of Winnipeg, where they've built a new complex strictly for basketball and volleyball. I'm not sure as to the seating capacity, but I think it's 3,000.

We want to be there, no hope about it. We want to do well — better than we have in the past. I think the kids last year realized that with just a five point loss that it's something that we can do. And with this trip to Georgia, it's something that they now want to do.

Bruns: What did you think of Landers' coaching style?

CM: It didn't surprise me. Watching him on TV, my first impression was that of intensity. He's personable but if he tells you something and you don't do it, he's going to get on your case immediately, as he did with his players. He demands and expects a lot, but yet he gives a lot and demands a lot of himself. He works really hard and he's not living on reputation; he's earned everything he's got.

That didn't phase me in the least. He's very overpowering and maybe sometimes very domineering. I even found that because on Friday we were practicing and it was difficult for me to communicate with the Bloomers — my own team. I mean, I'm the coach. I think that's just the way he is — intense. He wanted to help us so much he really wanted to get this down and make it work. It works for him.



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