

Out in Left Field

by Paul Arsenaault
Murray Nystrom

By looking at the front page of Monday's sports section in our local newspaper, you would have found it very difficult to find anything concerning one of the most important weekends of university sport this school year. Almost every varsity team which competed over the weekend had something on the line, and with the successful outcomes of most, you would have thought something other than a Fredericton Canadien 6-0 loss was front page material. No mention of the AUAA swimming championships could be found, even though they were put on here, and you would have to be a defective to find that the Black Bears destroyed the competition in Antigonish. Their results were stuffed in the back of the section. It is obvious that the Gleaner does not realize the significance of top notch university sport.

In a few weeks the AUAA Athletic season will come to an end. Championship tourneys are happening fast and furious. Swimming Championships were held here last weekend, Women's Basketball on March 2 and 3; Men's Basketball on the 9 and 10; Wrestling was last weekend and hockey begin this week. Credit and recognition should be given to those teams. Best of luck are sent to all. UNB has four teams that are legitimate AUAA contenders.

UNB Beavers

The Beavers hosted the AU's last weekend and put on a tremendous show in the pool. Both teams came up shot to Dalhousie. Many times we hear that "nobody remembers who came second", but that's not the case here. Despite being out numbered and closely out swam the Beavers showed the AUAA they are a team that is not to be taken lightly. With only one graduating swimmer, the team will most certainly have sights on the AUAA title next year. The team has no reason to hang their heads low, they swam extremely well as a team, and individually notably Meagan Seagrave who was named CIAU Athlete of the Week. Congratulation is in order to those people who organized the event, the meet ran smoothly and efficiently. Great job, Jim, Maureen and Pete!

UNB Black Bears

The UNB wrestlers travelled to St. Fx on the weekend and cleaned house, their sending nine wrestlers to the CI's on AUAA record. I spoke with George Multamaki about the psychological preparation his team did for the meet. The team spent the past two weeks working on simulation drills - the team concentrates on a specific situation. Multamaki credits most of the mental preparation on individual focusing and with team motivator, Captain Pat Zwicker. The nine wrestlers will have their goals finish in the top four at the CU's. Concordia who has traditionally been the power house will have a 2 wrestlers competing this year. Despite being plagued with minor injuries early in the season, the team is healthy and look forward to the Canadian Championships that will be held in Regina on March 1 and 2.

UNB Red Bloomers

The Red Bloomers are playing the UPEI Panthers on Sunday, 3 p.m. If the Bloomers win and Dalhousie loses one of their two remaining games, the Bloomers will host the AUAA on March 1, 2, 3. The Bloomers are going into the game with a 10.3 record; UPEI has a 5-1 win loss record. From looking at this state one would think "Bloomer Win" but in their only meeting this season UPEI defeated UNB by 10. The Bloomers have a strong inside game in Kara Palmer along with a strong perimeter game lead by Jennifer Hale, who is third in Fg. Pct. and fifth in free throws, Jill Jackson is the team's three point threat. This will be the teams last regular season game and it is also a Varsity Mania Grande Finale.

UNB Red Devils

The Red Devils record has been as bouncy as a rubber ball, 7-3-3 first half and 5-8-0 second half. Their record was good enough to tie up third place in the McAdam. The first round of the playoffs will see UNB visit Moncton for a two game total point series. This means that a team can advance by winning one of two games. Moncton I'm sure is well aware of the persistent work ethic of the Devils. The Devils are definitely legitimate contenders for the AUAA title. For those who are from the Moncton area or for those who will want to catch some exciting university hockey the games are at 7 p.m. on Saturday and on Sunday at the D.Louis Laveque Arena.

Trivia: Who is the only 1991 graduating swimmer on this year's UNB team

Last Week's Answer: Montreal's pick - Patrick Roy

Red Bloomers easily win

by Frank Denis

Call it what you want; a slaughter, a cakewalk, a crushing, but there is no denying that the UNB Red Bloomers showed no mercy towards their UCCB opponents last weekend as they rolled easily in two wins. On Saturday the Bloomers beat the winless Capers from Sydney, N.S. by a score of 93-48 and followed it up with a 82-31 win on Sunday.

The pair of wins put the Bloomers in top spot of the AUAA standings, with a 10-3 record. In second spot are the Dalhousie Tigers who at 9-3 have a game in hand on the Bloomers. The Tigers, if they should beat the Memorial Seahawks in a pair of games this weekend would be declared AUAA regular season champions and earn the right to host the league championship.

UNB will see action this Sunday in a Varsity Mania sponsored event at the LB Gym. Game time is 3 p.m. as the Red Bloomers wind up their regular seasons against the 5-7 UPEI Lady Panthers. A large crowd is counted on as UPEI can upset any team on any given night and loud fan support should help the Red Bloomers on to their tenth win of the season.

UNB in last weekend games had two offensive stars emerge in both contests. On Saturday

in their team's 93-48 victory Kara Palmer and Jennifer Hale each had 25 and 22 points respectively. High scorer for the Capers was Leanne MacDonald as she managed 18 points. The game was close at the half with UNB leading by 13, 43-30 but a second half offensive outburst put the game out of reach for the Capers.

On Sunday it was rookie Laura Swift and Jill Jackson's turn to shine for the Bloomers. Swift netted a game high 21 points while Jackson replied with 17 of her own. That game was more one sided at the half, as UNB led by a score of 49-11.

Early in the game the Capers held a 9-6 lead but 40 unanswered points by the home team quickly put the game out of reach.

Asked why UNB did not hold back their scoring and make the game more respectable co-captain Jennifer Hale said, "With playoffs right around the corner we have to play full 40 minute games, no matter who are opposition is. If we didn't, we wouldn't be as sharp come post season play in a couple of weeks."

Be sure to be at the LB Gym this Sunday at 3 p.m. as the Bloomers host the UPEI Lady Panthers.

Varsity Mania goes pro

by Boner Dabone

Last Sunday saw UNB's first Student Mania event. A joint effort between Varsity-Mania and the Fredericton Canadians. The Red tide was there, getting the wave moving, and our favourite Varsity athletes got to make a public appearance. It was a great boost for the athletes and Varsity-Mania.

The next Varsity-Mania event is also the Grand Finals for this term. Come down to see the 1st place Red Bloomers take on the UPEI Panthers. Even though the Bloomers

have secured a place in the playoffs, the AUAA's are just a week away, and top performance is paramount. According to Bloomers Head Coach Claire Mitton, a win would "return the Panthers a favour" on a cheap loss earlier this season, and would "finish the season on a positive note."

Don't miss the last chance to Kick the Kat with the Red Bloomers this Sunday February 24, 3:00 in the afternoon, at the Lady Beaverbrook Gym. Come out and join Varsity-Mania for the last time this last time.

Red Eyes Clinch season

by Kara Topp

The LBR Red Eyes wrapped up their regular season last Sunday in dramatic fashion. Trailing by a score of 3-1, Red Eye forward Sara Smith poked a rebound into the Tibbits/Bridges net. The goal, since it came off the stick of a female, was worth 3 points and made the score 4-3 in LBR's favor.

Following the goal, Smith's teammates swarmed her and offered their congratulations. It was an appropriate and fitting way to end the season. The team has overcome immense obstacles en route to their 3-2 record. Player injuries, lack of interest amongst some members and some other team related problems all surfaced but were dealt with in an appropriate manner.

Many Red Eyes consider Sunday's win their best game of the year. "We practiced some things last Wednesday, little things like forechecking, playing the man rather than the puck, and how to flip the puck to the referee before a faceoff and our practice was evident out there today," said Moncton native and Red Eye forward, Amanda Allan.

Team mother, photographer and support staffer Denise Shannon believes this was the most uplifting yet at times pretty shallow Red Eyes team she has seen. "It's hard to imagine what this team has been through. I think we all learned a lot and it should prepare us for next year. The Barkhouse incident last week really shook the team."

Brent Barkhouse, shortly before game time Sunday spoke with his teammates and apologized for his actions of a week ago. The team forgave, but it hasn't forgotten.

Leading the way for the Tibbits/Bridges team was Andrea Stillwell who notched their goal worth 3 points, midway through the third period. Late in the game, Stillwell tried to put some excitement into the game as she slashed and poked LBB goalie Todd Smith after he had covered the puck.

Scoring LBR's other goal was Trevor Downey. Downey's goal was his second in as many games as a Red Eye and he showed that a rookie can step in and take charge in a pressure situation. "I come to the rink to play every night. I realized I have a job to do and I do it to the best of my ability,

if that's better than anyone else well.... There's not much more I can add," said a humble Downey.

As of press time the Red Eyes still did not know whether or not they had made the playoffs, but that should be decided in the near future. It's frustrating not knowing, at least to one Red Eye, "We would all like to know if we're in or not. It would be an honor just to be involved in post season play and I believe we can win it. I would like to know so I can plan my schedule around it," said Lisa Khoury.

The Red Eyes would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who made the season a success, particularly referees Mike Cox and Dan Webb who let the Red Eyes play their special brand of hockey. As well thanks goes out to convenor Bruce Nelligan for running the show and schedule.

Whether or not the LBR Red Eyes make the playoffs is not the most important thing. What is most important, according to one Red Eye, is that we all had fun because, "That makes us all winners."