

## WRESTLING

## Reds prepared for season

*Extensive training over holidays sets stage for season opener*

By Paul Mysak  
Sports Staff

Unlike many UNB students, the Varsity Reds have been hard at work during the past month in preparation for tomorrow's AUAA meet against St. Francis Xavier and Memorial University. Also competing will be the Mount Alison Wrestling Club.

Deciding to skip New Year's Eve, the wrestlers set out on December 27th for Manitoba. There they participated in a High Performance Camp sponsored by the Canadian Amateur Wrestling Association (CAWA), for CIAU athletes and coaches. The Olympic team, including Olympic Medalist Davis Clark, took part in these training sessions.

The athletes certainly put in their fair share of work; 2 practice sessions daily for a total of five hours. They were able to learn many new

techniques, according to Captain Jason Pleasant-Sampson, "The greatest advantage was having the opportunity to fight a wide variety of highly skilled wrestlers. At the end of each day we fought three or four different wrestlers. As a result we were able to see the effectiveness of moves we had just learnt and the way other fighters defended against them."

These moves were then honed in both the Montreal and Queen's Open. At Montreal, Terry Pomeroy claimed gold in the 48kg class. Paul Crevatin, who fought despite having broken his toe two days before the meet, captured bronze in the 74 kg division.

Coach Don Ryan is certainly confident about tomorrow's outcome. "Our conditioning is great, and our technique is ahead of last year. Also, most of the UNB fighters participating have wrestled between eight and twenty matches, far more than the wrestlers they will be meeting."

Don Ryan found it hard to hide his pleasure over this year's team. "The number of Bears has not just only doubled, but the quality of wrestlers has also increased. In

fact, there are probably more wrestlers on our team than there are (University wrestlers) in Nova Scotia."

Big matches are expected from veterans Marcel Saulis, Terry Pomeroy, Denis Gagnon, and Jason Pleasant-Sampson. Terry Pomeroy, the PAN-AM bronze medalist, is currently ranked fourth in Canada. Up and coming rookies Paul Crevatin and Charlie Ash have been fighting well and are confident. Paul declared, "We're going to kill them, destroy them, it's no contest."

The brother duo of Adam and Jesse Simon have played off their competitive spirit in order to constantly post solid performance. While Adam does give the edge to younger brother Jesse, he is quick to point out, "...both of us gain from our rivalry. The extra motivation has helped me win in the past."

The competitive spirit of the Reds is summed up in Jason Pleasant-Sampson's statement, "They (St. FX) claim that they train harder than us. Saturday we'll prove them wrong."

## HOCKEY LEGENDS

## Old timers still have panache

by Kevin G. Porter  
Photo Geek

With flair, style, and a dash of humour, the 'Greatest Hockey Legends On Ice' pulled off a convincing win at the AUC last Friday night over the 'Law Enforcement Allstars'. The event was held as a fund raiser for the substance abuse programs of Region 3 in New Brunswick, and as a result of the ticket sales for the game, a cheque for \$5000.00 was presented to local representatives.

The game itself had its moments of humour and kidding around with a healthy dose of good serious hockey proving entertaining to all. The game was officiated by Red Storey who did a running commentary of the game adding bits of humour to the play as it proceeded. Red's humour was supplemented and initiated by some of the antics of the 'Legends' team, such as pie in the face of the Law's first scorer. Other antics included Gilles Marotte's various forms of 'illegal' hockey sticks and the thorough soaking he and Jim Mann gave the Law's bench.

The game was not without scoring, as Gilles Marotte, Ab McDonald, Gilles Gilbert, Norm Ullman, Gilbert Perreault and Henri Richard scored for the Legends, with answers coming from only three Law Enforcement Allstars resulting in



Norm Ullman put on a show for the fans last week as he netted a goal for the 'Hockey Legends'. The Legends beat the Law Enforcement All-Stars 6-3. Here referee Red Storey (rear) keeps an eye on Ullman. Photo Kevin G. Porter

a 6-3 margin of victory for the Legends. Goals of special note came from Gilles Gilbert, who managed to score on his own net after being traded to the Law's team tying the game at 3 in the second period, while Henri Richard popped one at the buzzer of the third effectively doubling the Law's score. The

main spark plugs for the Legends' were Marcel Dionne, Gilbert Perreault, Norm Ullman and Henri Richard, who scored or contributed to all their goals and proved they can still get the job done. Hats off to both teams who put on a GREAT show, one certainly worth risking the treacherous roads for!

## The Front Row

On *Castor rowdiensis*  
or  
"My stint as Rowdy Beaver"

By Jonathan Stone  
Mascot editor

Rodents have a bad rap.

Members of the order *Rodentia*, as they are known in the scientific community, consist of such favourites as mice, gerbils, hamsters, rats, rabbits, and beavers. More than 40% of the world's mammals belong to this family, and they do indeed fill a necessary space in the ecological chain.

UNB's star mascot just happens to be such a rodent, cousin to the popular North American beaver, *Castor canadensis*. His name is Rowdy Beaver, or in scientific nomenclature, *Castor rowdiensis*, and he fills an equally necessary but unexplainable space in the world of university sport.

Last Saturday, I got to witness first-hand a few hours in the life of one Rowdy Beaver, since the guy who regularly does it was either sick or too smart to show up. In the case of the beaver, their hard-working attitudes have earned them the name "Busy Beavers". People who work extra hard are sometimes also called this. In my case, when I was asked to replace the regular, knowing full well I couldn't say no, I became an "Eager Beaver". (Easy prey for someone who needs someone gullable enough to do something for them that most everybody else would refuse.)

The North American beaver is between three- and four-feet long and weighs as much as 60 pounds. Fully equipped, Rowdy comes in at nearly 300 pounds, and stands more than six feet tall. Rowdy's habitat isn't a cold lake or shallow river. Nope. He prefers the sweaty climes stumbling along the stands of the Aitken Centre in a 100% pure synthetic shag body, complete with two-foot long sneakers and a giant foam ballcap. These keep Rowdy warm in even the sub-zeroest of Fredericton's temperatures. And Rowdy doesn't live in a hut made of twigs and mud. He lives in an oversized hockey bag in a tiny closet adjacent to the Student Union office, where Rowdy could, if he wanted to, find lots of mud to build with.

In the wild, beavers are the prey of nasty animals like wolves, coyotes and humans, but they can quickly escape a potentially dangerous situation by diving into the safe haven of their pond. Rowdy is so overweight he cannot even outrun small, curious children who like to tug on his tail, step on his feet, and laugh at him. In nature, a beaver will slap its flat, rigid tail on the water to warn others of danger. It is also used to stabilize a beaver while it stands up on its hind feet to survey its surroundings. In the Aitken Centre, despite contorting his butt as much as he could, poor old Rowdy could barely get the thing to wag like a dog's tail, and while lumbering along, he nearly lost his balance a dozen times.

Rodents share such common features as poor eyesight and large sharp front teeth, the latter which never stop growing throughout their lifetimes. Therefore they have to chew constantly to keep their teeth at a manageable length. Consequently, Beavers constantly gnaw trees. Rabbits crunch hard vegetables. Mice chew housing, and finally a conveniently located tasty lump of cheese. Rowdy's eyes and teeth are no exception. Located perfectly in the centre of his limited peripheral vision, Rowdy is visually impaired to the point where he can see only his pervertedly elongated sneakers at approximately a 45° angle towards the floor. This results in considerable strain on poor Rowdy's neck as he tries to see forward by tilting his huge head back to compensate the angle. And although he was extremely famished by the time the second period began, he could not find even the smallest of fir trees anywhere in the Aitken Centre to munch upon during intermission. He was, however, given a free french fry coupon compliments of the nice folks of, you guessed it, *Beaver Foods*.

And if Rowdy knew that people in Ottawa eat a flat, donut-like cinnamon covered baked dough called "Beaver Tails" while skating on the Rideau Canal, he'd only be thoroughly disgusted and extremely distraught.

In reality, beavers can hold their breath underwater for up to 15 minutes. After 60 minutes of labouring around the AUC, Rowdy was degradedly soaked in his own sweat, and was more out of breath than any damn beaver could ever be.

People in the real world must think Rowdy is out of his mind running into walls, always fending off little kids, and being yelled at by fans.

Maybe he is.

But hey, UNB won the game.