

SPORTS

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Bloomers: Pride of the conference

It's hard to break an old habit, not that the UNB Red Bloomers are trying mind you, and the Bloomers are no exception as they are into the habit of winning. It now stands at 36 straight and the end nowhere in sight against their AUSA counterparts. I hesitate to use the word competition as the other conference teams are really, as was in past years, just a warmup for the Bloomers on their way to the national tournament.

And after this past weekend's thrashing of St. Francis Xavier X-ettes and the St. Mary's Belles even a lawyer would have a hard time making a case for the rest of the league to take on the Bloomers.

The weekend tale started Friday night in Antigonish and the X-ettes simply couldn't keep with a bigger, stronger and faster UNB squad as the

Bloomers simply controlled the inside enroute to a 69-46 win. Bonnie MacKenzie used her speed on the break to lead UNB with 15 points, while Sue McMaster added 14, eight of which came from the free throw stripe.

The rest of the weekend quickly became the Emily Quigley and the Red Bloomers as the rookie stole the spotlight for a while, hooping 19 against St. Marys as the Bloomers beat the Belles 84-61. Quigley may have been the most noticeable player on the court but she wasn't the most effective as another newcomer, Allison Kent, added a relative silent, but non-the-less big, 20 points. It was simply a case of "no defense" as SMU fell behind big early as UNB's pressure defense caused turnover after turnover before the Belles even

knew the game had begun.

Then on Sunday, Sue McMaster, who had been struggling from the floor on the weekend, found her touch as she led the Bloomers with 22 in their 64-55 victory over the Red Fox, a Halifax senior squad who the Canadian championships three years ago here in Fredericton. Once again Emily Quigley impressed as she added 16 and controlled the boards well against some of the premier big girls in the Maritimes.

The weekend may have been successful on the hardwood but a couple of injuries incurred by the Bloomers are causing some concern. 6'2" post Janet Nichols suffered a knee injury in Saturday's contest and Allison Kent incurred a deep bruise on the top of her foot. The injuries will have a while to heal however as the

Bloomers are now idle until after the Christmas break when they will travel to Montreal to take part in the McGill tournament.

The Bloomers feel that the competition is needed as the lack of competitive teams to play here in the Maritimes does

not ready them for the nationals, a fact that is born out in their results from their last two appearances in post season play. The Bloomers will open their AUSA home schedule on Tuesday, January 8th as they will play host to Mt. Allison Mounties.

A SPORTING CHANCE !!!

Now that exam time is drawing nigh and the Christmas season is quickly coming upon us I guess its about time I did some Christmas shopping. I know what you're thinking, here goes that idiot ranting and raving once again about something that is of no interest to you at all, but seen as I have to fill up this space you may as well take the time and read this...PLEASE!

The first present I would like to receive under the tree on Christmas morning is a holiday program guide that will help sort out that endless mess of Bowl games that are always on the tube during the holidays. I have enough trouble trying to sort out the teams let alone whose playing in the Rose Bowl, The Orange Bowl, The Sugar Bowl, the Soup Bowl and those other kitchen games.

The second thing I could use is a nice round Christmas wreath that will fit around the neck of all those fools who told me I was crazy when I picked the Canadiens to finish first in the Adams Division. In case you people have suddenly went blind and are unable to look at the standings my Canadiens are currently in first place and playing well over 500 hockey.

I suppose there is no sense in being greedy since after all they say its better to give than receive (why I don't know), so I shall endeavor to give away some of my own Christmas gifts.

To all those New York Giants fans who are in a state of ultimate euphoria now that their teams appears playoff bound I am going to give a VCR so that you can record the rest of their season games to remember them by because come playoff time the Redskins are going to, bury them.

Of course being the nice guy that I am, I couldn't leave out all the CFL fans. I am going to give you something that will really make your day—my solemn vow that I will not take shots at the CFL for the rest of the year (Take a quick look at the calendar folks).

Closer to home, I would really like to give all the UNB sporting teams a winning season, but of course I can't accomplish that without some divine help, so I will settle for a couple of Christmas wishes. May the Red Devils come back from the disastrous first half and continue to press towards accomplishing their goal of a playoff berth. May the Red Bloomers continue on their winning ways and capture yet another AUSA title and then go on and finally win that elusive national title. As for the Red Raiders, well, may they continue to play and gell together as a team in hopes of accomplishing at least something this year (I need a lot of help with that one guys).

Well there you have it folks, my 1984 Christmas list. You may or may not like it but that's your problem. Whether you deserve it or not may you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year...WITH A SPORTING CHANCE!!!

Devils chalk up win

The hockey Red Devils chalked up their first home victory of the regular season last Friday night, knocking off Acadia Axemen 8-6 at the Aitken Centre.

The win improved the Devils' regular season mark to 3-7 and avenged an earlier loss to the Axemen. UNB completes its pre-Christmas season tonight when the Devils travel to Moncton to tangle against the powerful Blue Eagles.

Rodney Babcock picked up his first victory in goal for the Devils last Friday, with Terry Balcom and Robbie Forbes counting for two goals apiece. Singles went to George Kelly, Mark Jeffrey, John LeBlanc, and Al Lewis.

Meanwhile, three members of the Red Devils led the North to victory in the annual A.U.H.C. all-star game played at the Charlottetown Forum

last Sunday. Mark Jeffrey and Robbie Forbes counted two goals apiece in that match, with defenceman Scott Clements also tallying for the winners.

First action for the Devils after the holiday break is the St. Thomas tournament on Jan. 4-6, while UNB resumes regular league play on Jan. 12 when Mount Allison Mounties are at the Aitken Centre.

Athletes of the week

Mark Jeffrey and Cheryl Matchett have been chosen male and female athletes of the week. Mark is a fourth year Business student playing for the UNB Red Devils. Cheryl is a third year education student playing for the UNB Reds, womens' volleyball team.

The 22 year old Mark Jeffrey is a Fredericton native playing in his fourth year with the Devils. His performance has been outstanding during the Devils' last two games. Against

Acadia last Friday, Mark had one goal and three assists. He was also named MVP of Annual AUSA all-star game scoring two goals and adding three assists. Mark has boasted an impressive 23 points in 10 games this season. Coach MacAdam had this to say about Mark's performance; "Mark is playing the best hockey of his university career and has become one of the top players in recent years at UNB."

Cheryl Matchett is a 20 year old Newcastle native, playing in her third year with the Women's volleyball team. In matches against Memorial University Cheryl had 20 kills for an outstanding overall performance. She also earned a place on the all-star team at the University of Moncton tournament last weekend. Past honours for Cheryl include MVP of the UNB tournament in 1983. She was also team MVP in 1983-84.