

SPORTS

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Blazers prepare for tough spring

The UNB Red Blazers Hockey team will be returning to the ice this week as they start their regular schedule of 2 a week work outs at the Aitken Centre.

Although the Blazers had some big moments in the first term most of the important hockey will be played in the next three months. Among the big dates is the sixth annual Red Blazer's invitational tournament, which will be held the first weekend in February. This year the field has been enlarged to 8 teams, 2 more than the previous year. This tournament has become the premier women's hockey event east of Montreal in the past few years. Confirmed in this year's lineup are University teams from Acadia and Dalhousie, along with Senior AA teams from Saint John, Moncton, and two from P.E.I.

The end of February will find the Blazers in their Provincial playoffs as they defend their N.B. Senior AA crown for the fourth straight year, the exact time and location of the Provincials has not yet been set. Should the ladies be successful there, they will travel to P.E.I. for the fourth Shoppers Drug Mart Women's National Tournament which is the ultimate goal for Womens hockey across Canada.

UNB went into holiday season with some big lifts that have left the team eager to get back on the ice. On the weekend of Dec. 7-8-9 they travelled to P.E.I. for a 5 game

tour of the Island. Despite leaving 5 regulars at home due to injuries and exams the team amazed everyone by going undefeated with a 2-0-3 record, anyone who has ever travelled to the Island for a hockey game knows that the undefeated trip was no small feat. All three ties were against the P.E.I. Spudettes, who have been the Province's Senior Champions for an incredible 11 years in a row, the Spudettes scored a win over UNB in last year's National Tournament to eliminate them, so the Blazers left the weekend feeling they had proven themselves. The two wins were a pair of 5-2 contest against the Borden White Caps. Although the whole team played well, one performer stood out, after a so-so season to that point "Boom-Boom" Cox caught fire with 10 points including 8 goals in the 5 games.

When the team returned they played one final game as they went to Oromocto for an exhibition game with the Oromocto Bantam A Eagles, a team they tied 5-5 ten days before. This time the Red Blazers did not allow the boys to get close as they sprinted out of the blocks with 4 first period goals on route to a 7-1 win. Sandy Ward and Paula MacDonald both collected hat tricks, while Diane LeBlanc got a single. The win was the most one sided score the girls have ever recorded against a boys team, in fact, rarely in the past seasons have the

Blazers even managed a win.

With 12 games played at the break the team has a 6-2-4 record. Leading the team in scoring is veteran captain Carol Cooper, who has rang up 20 points in just 11 games. Cox is second with a team high 10 goals included in her 18

points, while Paula MacDonald, Alison Lee, and Joanne Gillies round out the top 5 with 16, 14, and 12 points respectively. Gillies holds the team lead in shooting

percentage with 27%. France Thibodeau leads the centers in faceoff percentage winning 72%. While Cooper also leads the plus-minus column with

+15, Cox and Lee are next at +12. One odd stat that reflects the team's penalty killing is 8 shorthanded goals compared to 5 powerplay markers. Wendy Dickinson continued to provide outstanding goaltending with her 3.29 goals against average and 90% save ratio.

At this time no dates have

been fixed for the Blazers January home opener, they will be announced through the media. With admission free, women's hockey is looking to promote the fast growing sport and urges you to come out to watch and see for yourself how good women are playing Canada's game. The female sport is getting bigger, with international tours of Finland, Holland, and Sweden, coming up. Well over 5000 women are now registered with the C.A.H.A.

Bears active over Christmas

This past weekend five members of the UNB Black Bears Wrestling team travelled to Montreal for the Montreal Open, one of the top tournaments in Canada. It featured some of the top clubs and universities from the

North Eastern States, Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes.

The five wrestlers that attended were Todd Bursey, Randy Smith, Brian Bessey, Chris Fuoco and Murray Reid.

Of the five, Chris Fuoco had the best tournament finishing

seventh at 68 kg, in the toughest weight class in the tournament. Chirs had 28 wrestlers in his weight class and wrestled extremely well, winning 3 and losing 2. His losses were to the defending

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Raiders finish 2nd in Holiday Classic

By IAN SUTHERLAND

The men's varsity basketball team fell just a little bit short last weekend, losing the final of the 16th Annual Holiday Classic by just four points to Ryerson Rams of Toronto.

The Red Raiders were dropped 50-46 in the final match-up, mainly because of the size difference between the two teams, with the Rams literally head and shoulders above Don Nelson's Raiders. The Raiders had advanced to the final with a convincing 93-59 victory against University of Maine, Fort Kent Bengals while Ryerson earned a berth in the final by upending St. Thomas Tommies 78-59. Consolation honors went to Fort Kent, with a 92-83 triumph over STU in that game.

Rob Hager led Ryerson to the final with 16 points, while James Voskuil chipped in with 10 more. For the Raiders, who shot only nine for 40 in the first half, Andy Hayward and Tom Gillespie netted 14 points apiece. With Ryerson up by a 30-26 margin at the half, the Raiders started out quickly after the break and grabbed

their only lead of the game by scoring the first six points of the second half. However,

Hayward found himself in foul

trouble and UNB big man Dale McIssac fouled out, leaving the Raiders short for the final push.

Hayward and McIssac were both named to the tournament all-star team, while Steve Horsman of St. Thomas was

selected as the most valuable player.

The Raiders are in action

twice this weekend at the Main Gym, squaring off against Dalhousie Tigers Friday night at 9 p.m. and Saturday afternoon at three o'clock. The Red Bloomers tangle with Dalhousie women Friday at 7 p.m. and take on St. Mary's Saturday at 1 p.m.

Atheletes of the Week

Paul Murphy and Chris Fuoco have been chosen as the UNB Athletes of the Week. Paul is a 22 year old Engineering student playing for the UNB Red Devils. Chris is an 18 year old rookie, performing with the UNB Wrestling team. His hometown is Ottawa.

Murphy was chosen for his efforts in the Devils 5-4 win over the Caps. He scored the winning goal in this victory during the Holiday Tournament. Coach MacAdam had this to say about Paul's perfor-

mance, "Paul played some of the best hockey of the season in the holiday tournament."

UNB Wrestler Fuoco displayed a fine performance at the Montreal open. This wrestling competition was a highly competitive event featuring US and Canadian entries. Chris finished seventh out of 28 in the 68 kg. weight class. He won three matches and lost 2. Bears' coach Leo McGee commented very positively about Fuoco's performance during this competi-

Fencing

Dodge! Parry! Thrust!

The UNB/STU Fencing club is back on its feet this year and all new members, old members and interested people are invited to come out and either join anew or participate again. The club meets to practice, learn and compete in the sport of fencing every Monday and Wednesday nights at 8:00 in the Lady Beaverbrook Gym Dance Studio. Additional meetings are often held on Saturdays. The recent acquisition of new equipment and hopes of getting more profes-

sional instruction this term have ensured that the club will continue to be very active.

Information concerning the club can be obtained through the President, A.S. Lawrance, at 455-3250 or through Shirley Cleave at the Intramurals office in the L.B. Gum. The first general meeting of the new year will be held, barring complications on Monday, January 14th, at the regular gathering of the club. All interested people are heartily encouraged to attend.