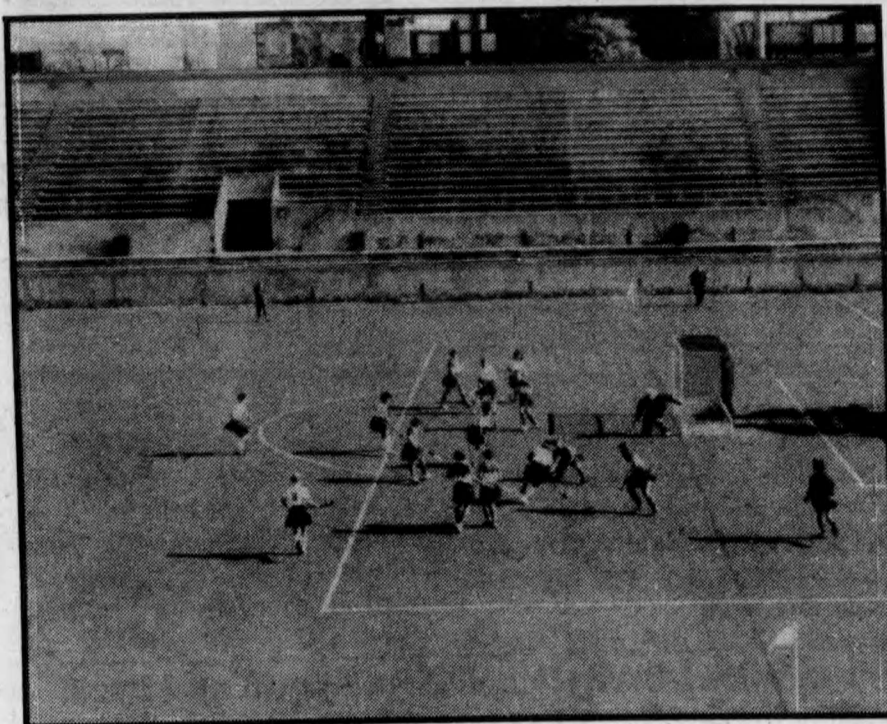


# Sticks: Why they didn't win



The Sticks defend on astro turf in Toronto's Lamport Stadium. The Sticks finished sixth.

By PETER THOMPSON

As a fairly regular watcher of UNB's Redsticks' home games, it came as somewhat of a shock to view the Redsticks playing under different circumstances than those to which I was accustomed.

For instance, the Sticks played at a different place, at other than normal times, and on a surface that reacted much differently than normal. But what was most noticeable about the Sticks is that they played different teams - teams that they couldn't dominate.

It was obvious that UNB faced a serious challenge at this tournament. They had to adjust their playing style which had worked all season, and they had to develop both a desire to win and a need to win when, all season, winning had come easily.

In addition to these challenges, UNB had to face several others. They had to play what can only be described as the worst schedule of the tournament with games Friday at 8:30 am and 12:30 pm while other teams either started later or had a longer rest between games.

They had to play on astro turf against other teams who either regularly played on astro turf or on grass short enough to be, as Coach Slipp said, "cut like astro turf" while the Sticks played on grass cut to soccer length. On astro turf the ball moves much more quickly than on grass, and is not slowed down very much which allows astro turf teams to use a quicker breakout from defense. This didn't help UNB at all as their offense is general-

ly very concentrated in the zone, leaving open the opportunity for them to be caught upfield if the defending team can move the ball quickly enough.

But the mark of a really good team is that they overcome difficulties such as these, and face the challenges that the game presents.

Unfortunately, the Redsticks couldn't adapt to the new circumstances as they finished sixth out of six.

The Sticks were eliminated from contention by a tremendously disappointing stroke-off against UBC, who finished the first round with an identical record to the Sticks. The teams had to go out for the third time of the day to take five penalty strokes for the final playoff spot.

After scoring two of five and seeing UBC score two of four, the pressure was applied to Sheila Bell when it became necessary for her to stop the final UBC shot and preserve the tie.

The UBC player stepped forward and took her shot, and Sheila Bell quickly moved to her right and stopped it clearly. To the dismay and astonishment of many, the referee then ruled that Bell had moved before the shot was taken; that a goal was to be awarded; and that UNB was to be eliminated from contention.

While I realize that both teams abide by the same rules, I find it difficult to understand how a game and season can be decided on the judgement of a referee, be they right or wrong. In soccer, if the same situation arises, the shot is re-awarded to ensure that a team can decide their own fate: a

referee's mistake can not possibly be a factor.

However, what made the stroke-off especially heart-breaking is that the Redsticks could possibly have advanced without going through it: with all the Sticks' talent, they should have advanced to the semi-final on the merits of the first two games, and circumstances show that UNB definitely had a shot at winning the tournament. You see, UNB tied UBC 0-0, and UBC tied UVIC 0-0, and UVIC were the eventual winners.

Again, the UNB Redsticks could have won, but they simply didn't play the type of hockey necessary to win.

They played the same way against CIAU teams as other AUAA teams played against them. They played as if they didn't expect to win. The Sticks made costly giveaways up the middle when, during the regular season, they would have more readily used their wings; a much safer play. The Sticks frequently backed off and allowed opponents to make their play when during the season, they would have attacked the ball carrier safe in the knowledge that the opportunity was there to gain possession. The Redsticks rarely played their own game, they played to the style of their opponents except for brief periods during the games.

For ten minutes against Toronto, the Redsticks dominated. They forced the U of T players into making mistakes and brought about two short corners in a row, both of which came very close to scoring. During the same period, they had other chances to net, most notably Michelle Ives narrowly missed wide shot. Unfortunately, it was the last ten minutes of the game and they were losing 2-0. If they had played that way for even half a game, they probably would have won.

When the referee ruled that UNB was to lose on a single stroke of the ball, it was somehow symbolic of the Sticks' self-proclaimed destiny.



The University of Victoria Vikettes celebrate after defeating the U. of T. Lady Blues 1-0 in the finals to win the Canadian University Championships.

Photo: Peter Thompson

## Highlights

**Day 1**  
UNB Sticks lost 2-0 to Toronto  
UNB Sticks tie UBC 0-0  
UBC lose 2-0 to Toronto to  
leave UNB and UBC tied in  
the

In the ensuing for UNB. for  
the final playoff spot, UBC  
defeats UNB 3-2.

**Day 2**  
UNB loses 3-1 to York to get  
sixth place.

when Carla Reeves shoots her  
own rebound past the York  
goalie.

UBC and UVic tie 0-0 in one  
semi-final; UVic wins in  
penalty strokes 2-0.  
UofT defeats UofCalgary 1-0

**Day 3**  
University of Victoria wins the  
Canadian University Cham-  
pionships with a 1-0 win over  
Toronto.

Deh Fullerton chosen as a  
tournament all-star after  
being the best performer

## Rebels drop AUAA opener

By NORMA CODY

The UNB Men's Volleyball team started their AUAA season off on a rather dismal note last weekend in Halifax. They travelled to Dal with hopes of giving the Tigers some stiff competition and possibly taking at least one match away from them. The Tigers, however, is a squad full of all too familiar faces. They promise to be strong and show lots of experience on the court with their key veterans returning and practically their whole starting line-up from last season.

Friday night's match was definitely not one of the Rebels most cherishable moments by far. The Tigers held UNB off by scores of 15-3, 18-16, 15-4. A good second game brought UNB close to taking one, but errors, especially those of the serving kind, held this team back.

On Saturday, following a good night's rest away from the Mardi Gras celebrations, the Rebels came out and played volleyball. The score 15-12, 15-12, 15-8 says something for the improved performance of this volleyball squad. Mark Bolden, captain of the Rebels, played his role

well and led the team with 10 kills. Obviously, to be effective against the Tigers, UNB will have to play solid volleyball effectively from the moment the whistle is blown.

The next meeting of these two teams will be at the AUAA Tourney in Halifax on November 20, 21. The young UNB squad will also see some strong competition from U de M at this Tourney. It is not known yet what kind of team Memorial University is sporting this year, but we will see when they visit the Rebels here at UNB for matches on November 14, 15.