

# Red Bloomers destroy Opposition

By JEFF WHIPPLE  
Brunswickan Staff

As playoff time approaches in the Atlantic Women's Basketball Conference about the only question left to be answered is how much the UNB Red Bloomers will win by. After beating Memorial last weekend by scores that so lopsided they really don't matter (in case you're wondering the autrocities were 107-40 and 116-43.) the Red Bloomers find themselves at 5-0 and in the top spot in the AUA. Dalhousie, who fell to UPEI on the weekend, are a distant second.

The Bloomers had faced disaster at Christmas break as they fell in four of six, losing their number two national ranking in the process, but the team now has seemed to turn it all around.

"The whole team was really quite frustrated" says Bonnie MacKenzie, who was the top Bloomers on the weekend against MUN. "We lost a lot of team spirit and team togetherness and that was one of our biggest problems, and we didn't do things that we do naturally and we were doing things we weren't used to doing." MacKenzie, by the way, finally seemed to maybe come into her own as a Bloomer. Recruited out of Chateauguay, Que. by Coleen Dufresne, Bonnie's speed was expected to add to the Bloomers already potent transition game, but aggressiveness was a problem.

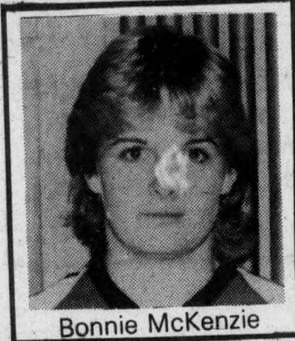
"I think that in the last year and a half I haven't been playing with the aggressiveness that I need to play at this calibre" adds Bonnie, "but Coleen said to get more aggressive and that's what I did and it seems to be working."

"I'm playing more of a running game actually, because I like to run", comments MacKenzie, "and getting up the floor fast is what I do best, and to be a scoring threat on offense is one thing that I've had to work on and I think now I have more desire to be a threat on offense, instead of being just a defensive player."

The Bloomers play a fast break offense and a majority of their points come off transition play, so speed and quickness fit in well with the style of play that coach Dufresne teaches.

"I think it (my style) fits in well" adds MacKenzie, "I think with Margaret (Jones) and me and a lot of other girls who run quite well that we have a really good fast breaking team, and that should help us beat a lot of teams in our league and the rest of the country."

This weekend the Bloomers play host to a couple of Nova Scotia squads. On Saturday night at 7 o'clock the Acadia Axettes will be in town for the return engagement of an earlier, actually the



Bonnie MacKenzie

Bloomers season opener, encounter. The Bloomers won the first one easily and this one shouldn't be a whole lot tougher.

Then on Sunday afternoon, one o'clock is the tipoff time as they play host to the always hot rivalry against Dalhousie. This will be the first meeting of the two this year, with the Bloomers winning both encounters last season.

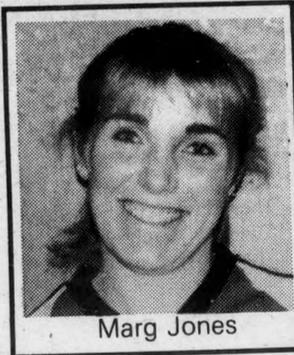
"Everyone always gets pumped up to play Dal" says



Coleen Dufresne

McKenzie, "but I think our real competition this year, if we get any, will be from UPEI, but I still think that we can handle them, with the depth on our bench being the key".

None-the-less, this weekend's match against Dal. should be another one of the great encounters witnessed between these two teams in the last years, with all the color and excitement that is conjured up with the two teams mentioned.



Marg Jones

## World Records

Skiling is a fun sport. It gets one outdoors in the fresh air and is excellent exercise.

Imagine doing it for 84 hours. Starting early Wednesday morning, Andrew Hempel, a fourth year Arts student and John Rutter, a second year Mechanical Engineering student will attempt to break the Guinness Book of Records continuous skiling record of 81 hours and 12 minutes.

Andrew and John both have experience in skiling. Andrew has been on the ski patrol for 4 years and a Pro at Silverwood the last 3 years while John has been on the ski patrol for 2 years.

They have several reasons for attempting this record. The first is to promote National Ski Week and the second is that it's a means of fund raising for the Grad Class.

For every hour they ski, a five minute rest period is allowed, which can be accumulated. Also on hand will be extra socks, boots and skis.

Andrew and John are quite confident that they can break the record together, that way they both get their names in the book.

The only rule they really have to follow is that they must have witnesses at all times, thus they have a log book for all their helpers to sign.

John and Andrew would like to thank Silverwood for donating the use of their hill for their attempt.



## F I believe I believe! And for all you out there who still don't then look again as the Red Raiders prove once again they are for real. If there are still doubters out there then phooey on you, as the Raiders performances last weekend show without a doubt they are for real, and have a legit shot at a playoff berth. Although they lost a pair on the road to Acadia and Dal. they put in some strong performances. I'm looking for at least one upset this weekend as the same two teams are in town for their return engagements.

Who can forget last year's game in the pit against Dal. where the Raiders upset the powerhouse. The emotion that can be generated in the gym is so much greater than in the expanse of the AUC. With the fans practically on top of the play, it certainly can be intimidating for an opposing player which can't hurt the home team either. It was a couple of years ago, I believe, that Sports Illustrated rated the Basketball auditoriums in the U.S., and UMO's gym, which is very similar to the L.B. Gym, was rated as one of the worst ten places to play for an opposing player, because the fans were so vicious up on top the other players were more concerned with them than the round orange ball.

Homegrown talent seems to be working for the Raiders. Tony Walker, from FHS, is their top gun while Mark Newell and Don McCormack, are also locals on the starting five. Overall Don Nelson has five locals on his ten man squad. Full recognition has to go the the FHS program, under coach Rick Cotter, who will have to be considered as strong heir apparent to Don Nelson when Don decides to call it quits. Can you imagine what the Raiders will do if Coach Nelson can entice a couple of blue ribbon Americans such as a Devine and McCabe to add to this talent.

Bonnie MacKenzie finally seems to be coming into her own as a Red Bloomer. Bonnie chalks up her new found offensive prowess to more aggressiveness. the 5'10" Chateauguay, Que. speedster hooped 22 and 19 points in the Bloomers thrashing of the Beothuks this weekend. Maybe the offensive punch that Coach Dufresne and the rest of us have been waiting to see has finally started to emerge.

There is one word to describe most of the rest of the AUA. JOKE! With exception of maybe Dal, UPEI, and St. F.X. the rest of the league should just mail the Bloomers the points and save the trip, and even the three teams mentioned should not (notice I said should not!) even touch the Bloomers. The Bloomers should have no trouble earning themselves a trip to Winnipeg in March. I'm so confident I even have my ticket already.

A lot of people are wondering about the Bloomers' chances nationally. Believe me, this is the same squad who pushed number one Bishops to a battle. They are still one of the top teams player wise in the nation and in the last two weeks the real talent has been starting to show thru. They will be there and ready come the first of March in Winnipeg.

It's refreshing to see a coach accept the blame for her team's performances. Coleen Dufresne was more than humble as she accepted a lot of the blame for the team. She said, even though her team did not stay in shape, did not execute well, and did not play well in general, that she shouldn't have put them thru the tough schedule that she did and took at least some of the weight off her players shoulders at a time when it would have been very easy to just start throwing abuse at them. She certainly showed why she was 82-83 CIAU Coach of the Year.

Sorry Andy! but the Sixers will still win it all no matter what you say. Your Knicks may be putting on a good show now but when the money is on the line the doctor and Moses know how to win. Look for the Sixers to win all series in less than six, except for the possible series with the Celtics, where maybe they will be pushed to seven.