

Unusual sport

## Rythmics shown at clinic

Last weekend, a clinic for one of the less commonly practiced sports in New Brunswick was held at UNB by a group of young women taught by Joan McCluskey of Grand Falls. A demonstration and four work sessions in modern rhythmic gymnastics at the West and Main Gymnasiums were presented Friday evening and Saturday morning.

Unlike conventional gymnastics, modern rhythmic does not rely on the use of heavy apparatus such as the vaulting box and the parallel bars. Instead, light equipment such as hoops, skipping ropes and weighted rhythmic balls are utilized. Routines are usually accompanied by music.

In New Brunswick, there are only eight active clubs with the center for training being at the Universite de Moncton. The fact that Debbie Bryant of UM is on the

national team has given the participants of this growing sport much enthusiasm in this province.

Diane Potvin, intercollegiate co-ordinator for women's athletics and a participant in the clinic said that the sport has only been in Canada for 20 years but that it has been practiced by women in European nations for many years. She said that one of the reasons that not many men were involved in the sport was that they stubbornly cling to old attitudes. If they added music, another dimension would be added to the sport (men's competitive gymnastics," she said.

The movement in rhythmic gymnastics began in Sweden prior to World War One when Elin Falk, a gymnastics instructor in Stockholm found herself at odds with the tenseness in the traditional gymnastics ascribed to Per Hienrik

Ling, who is purported to be the father of modern gymnastics. Falk was striving for a form which would be more natural and more relaxed. She also felt that if the body were relaxed, the spirit would be liberated and more benefit would be derived from the practice of the sport.

The movement developed in Sweden and soon spread to other European countries. Eventually, the competitive aspects of the sport became popular.

McCluskey, a former physical education teacher from UNB said that in her teaching experience she had always tended towards dance and rhythmic activities. She became involved in the sport by attending clinics at UM and at York University in Toronto, the center for modern rhythmic gymnastics in this country. Although she said that she was disappointed with the turnout at the UNB clinic, she felt that those who did attend showed great enthusiasm.

After hard fought season

## Bloomers place third

The University of New Brunswick Red Bloomers finished up their 76-77 season on February 26 at the AUAA Finals held in Halifax. The Bloomers held the fourth spot in the standings but after the finals managed to move up to third place.

The Bloomers played their first game against Saint Mary's University, who eventually ended up the AUAA champions. Although the game ended in a 52-40 defeat, each Bloomers team member put forth 100 percent in a well-balanced game. Rookie Linda Mooney netted 10 points to lead the Bloomers, while Nelda Robbins, Joyce Pedersen, Laura Saunders and Moira Pryde all came through with 6 points each. Laura Saunders, also, stood out with 10 rebounds.

Saint Mary's was led by captain Cindy Britton who returned to play following a knee injury, which held her out for most of the season. Britton rallied for 14 points followed by teammates Debbie Lawence and Donna Hebin with 13 and 12 points, respectively. Hobin and Carol Turney rebounded well for the

Huskies by grabbing down 13 and 10.

The loss to SMU put the Bloomers into the consolation final with Acadia, who only lost out to Dalhousie by two points. The Bloomer-Acadia game was victorious for the UNB'ers. Captain Sylvia Blumenfeld swished 20 of the 57 points while Moira Pryde added 12 points to the total. Acadia's 48 points were gathered by Martha Mayer and Joyce Stewart, who scored 15 and 14 points respectively.

The championship game between SMU and Dalhousie ended with SMU as the winner and the representative of the AUAA conference in the nationals held last weekend in Calgary. The SMU Belles lost their first game to Concordia and then lost the Consolation final to Victoria by a 30 point spread. The women's National Basketball champions were the Laurentian Vees as they outscored the Winnipeg Westeners 59-48.

At this time we would like to extend our congratulations to Coach Joyce Slipp and her Bloomers for a well fought season and will look forward to their

superb basketball next season.

Aiding McCluskey in giving the clinic were 40 girls between the ages of 9 and 16 who belong to the Grand Falls club. One reacted to the sport saying "I love it! it's interesting and different from any other sport. It's more demanding in rhythmic gymnastics."

Another said that at first the competitions "scared me half to death". McCluskey said that there was a negative aspect to the competitive element of the sport because some of those who did not make the club team felt bad and lost interest. She added however that the club had lost very few people because of this.

Potvin said that she would like to see someone from one of the local schools become involved in the sport but that it would be difficult to incorporate the activity into the curricula at UNB because someone with the necessary amount of time and proper background to teach the sport is not available at UNB.

She also said that if there was any "big interest shown" that more clinics could be arranged, adding that a greater awareness of the sport was necessary.

## best of best

My first duty this week has to be to thank the folks at The Brunz who pulled me out of the fire when I chose the inopportune time of 8:00 p.m. Wednesday nite to get sick with the flu last week. If it wasn't for them there would not have been a sports section, so thanks a million.

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My next duty is to congratulate all of the athletes who represented UNB at the various national competitions. The Saltos gymnastics team pulled off a surprise second place finish in the competition that was held here so it gave spectators a first hand look at how UNB rates with other schools on a national scale in at least one sport.

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Unfortunately, when higher level athletics, such as intercollegiate competition, is involved, athletes no longer can be called truly amateur. Some method of subsidization is needed so that those athletes are able to take the necessary amount of time to train.

At UNB almost all of the subsidies come from outside sources such as Sport Canada. Other schools offer athletic scholarships in one form or another.

If UNB is to continue to be competitive in some of the more popular sports like the big three [football, basketball and hockey] that are big spectator sports, they will have to change their philosophy towards athletic scholarships and recruiting. At the present time, for example, most of the recruiting done for the basketball team is done at coach Don Nelson's desk in the form of letters. If I, as a prospective athlete, received such a letter, I might be interested but being personally visited by the coach would show me that he was really interested. UNB does not fund such visits and therefore, often loses out when players are visited by other coaches.

An argument used by many people against my argument for athletic scholarships will be that no-one goes to the games anyway. What a load of horse pockey, ie. road apples, cow pies, etc. When I was complaining earlier in the year about a lack of fan support for UNB's teams, one comment that I often heard was that people did not want to go and see a team lose. Regardless of my feelings about supporting a team even if it loses, I have to agree.

The only way that UNB will be competitive with the likes of SMU and Acadia will be for more money to be directed to sports. Where will the money come from? I do not know but personally, I find it very hard to support a team with a 1-19 record. The trend has only gotten worse over the last few years and something must be done to change the situation.

A good athletic program is self perpetuating in that athletes will want to come to the school because of its reputation. At the present, UNB's reputation in several sports is none too good. A good program will also attract other types to the school. Sometimes it will be the deciding factor for a student who wants to pursue academics and knows that UNB does have a good program in what s/he wants to study.

If you have any comments or suggestions please drop me a line c/o da Brunz.

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Congrats to all the members of the UNB Judo Club who were selected to the New Brunswick team that will be competing in the Atlantic Judo championships this weekend in Moncton. Good luck. Thank God that it's almost all over. Only two more issues. See ya next week.

## Sportshortsportshortsport

Jim Born was recently elected president of the Canadian College Wrestling Coaches Association at the CIAU nationals held in Guelph, Ontario.

This appointment makes Born, a UNB lecturer and varsity coach, the overseer of wrestling administration for all Canadian universities and colleges in conjunction with the Canadian Amateur Wrestling Association for a two-year term. Born, a graduate of Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, replaces Glen Leystron of Western Ontario.

New Brunswick Rugby Union has named Debbie Doran of Fredericton winner of its N.B.R.U. Lottery. The first prize in the draw was an all expenses paid trip to

Montreal to see the Detroit-Montreal hockey game featuring Danny Grant and Buster Harvey. Both Red Wing players are New Brunswick natives.

N.B.R.U. officials instituted the lottery to raise funds for a junior rugby team to enter the national junior championships slated for June in Montreal. The 19 member team will be selected from junior rugby players throughout the province. This will be New Brunswick's first time in the national junior competitions.

Rugby players under age 20 interested in representing the province in the Montreal competition should contact W.W. Thorpe at Fredericton High School for further information.

# NOTICE

## Annual General Meeting College Hill Social Club

All members are urged to attend  
because important matters

will be discussed

Ballroom

MARCH 21 7:00