

SPORTS

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Bloomers have strong showing at nationals

Steal the AUAA championship from Acadia

By Peter Wett
and Bruce Denis

Spring break wasn't fun in the sun at all for the Bloomers but it was certainly a successful and productive week. They opened the holiday of February 29 by stealing the AUAA championship from the Acadia Axettes in a thrilling overtime victory. They were allowed a few days off before they headed to UPEI for the CIAU championships. The Bloomers made the best of a poor seeding and won two games despite losing their first game to second ranked University of Winnipeg.

The AUAA's began quickly as they easily handled UPEI in the opening round, winning 66-53. Jill Jackson played a tremendous game scoring 14 points and earning the Pepsi Player of the Game. Later, the same evening, Acadia defeated St. FX, setting the scene for the championship final.

A good crowd of 500 were on hand to watch the Bloomers play the Axettes the following day and they were treated to the most exciting basketball of the season. The Axettes opened up early in the first half and gained a 14-4 lead by the 5 minute mark. Three pointers by Jill Jackson and Jackie Flieger helped the Bloomers rally back but they could only come to within 4 points at the end of the half.

UNB's offense played uninspired basketball during the first minutes of the second half but two successive 3 pointers by Jackie Flieger sparked both the players and the fans. They finally gained the lead at the 11 minute mark and managed to hold it until the final minute when Acadia tied the score at 57 points. The Bloomers couldn't capitalize in the final 20 seconds despite having possession of the ball and the game went into overtime.

It seems the girls play well under pressure because they outscored the Axettes 12-2 in the 5 minute extra period. Eight of the Bloomers point came from the foul line and five came from Jennifer Hale. The Bloomers managed to hold Acadia off the scoreboard for 4 and a half minutes until Norma MacIntyre hit a two pointer in a futile effort to regain some respect for her team. The Bloomers were awarded with their third AUAA championship in as many years with the final score 69-59.

Jackie Flieger's consistent shooting gained her player of the game honors. Her incredible 6 three pointers came at crucial points in the game and were a major factor in the teams victory.

The CIAU's took place last weekend in Prince Edward Island and saw the 7 top female basketball teams in Canada as well as host UPEI

challenge for the "Bronze Baby". Despite being unfairly ranked 7th of the eight teams, the Bloomers played an inspired game against 2nd



Kara Palmer
1st team All-Canadian

ranked University of Winnipeg. After twenty minutes of play they headed to the dressing room with a 1 point lead. They rallied to an eight point lead midway through the 2nd half but Winnipeg began to come back and took advantage of a defensive breakdown by the Bloomers in the final two minutes to win 72-69. "We lost a very intense, hard fought battle. It was an emotional loss after playing as well as we did," says coach Claire Mitton.

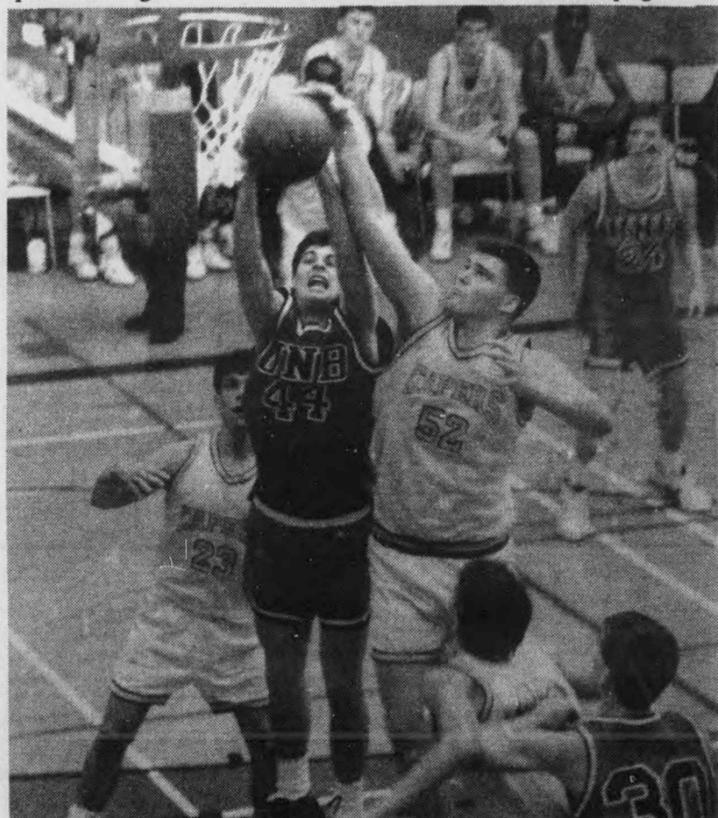
Despite this setback, the Bloomers managed to regain their composure to defeat

Laval University 72-52 and the University of Manitoba 75-60. "We could have fallen emotionally but we had a solid effort in the last two games," says Mitton. Their record of 2 and 1 at the CIAU's left them in 5th place at the tournament, hence disproving their 7th place ranking.

Mitton feels that the tournament was successful for the Bloomers and helped improve the team's image. "We gained a lot of credibility and respect from the tournament."

The consistent play of Jennifer Hale throughout the tournament earned her on

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Red Raiders ended the season with a pair of losses on the road. Shown here is Marc Aube (44) pulling in a rebound. See page 33 Kevin G. Porter photo

Beavers finish 7th in the nation

by James Otto

This past weekend, when most university students were relaxing enjoying their spring break, seven students represented UNB at the CIAU swimming championships in Montreal. The weekend was filled with many great swims which resulted in the men's team placing 7th out of 24 teams across the country.

Nine Atlantic (AUAA) records were broken as well as an unprecedented 11 UNB records. The team beat other powerhouses McGill, Western, Victoria, Montreal, and Manitoba to name just a few.

Jason Lukeman, a freshman from Port Hawkesbury had an amazing swim meet, placing 4th in the 200m freestyle, shattering the AUAA and UNB record with a time of 1:49.9. He also placed 5th in the 100 freestyle with 23.3, both of which came within 2/10 second of winning the Canadian Championships. This also broke the previous records for the AUAA and UNB.

Another freshman, Iain Tennent from St. John's had a remarkable weekend. Iain's

work ethic and natural talent proved advantageous as he placed 5th in 100 butterfly with 55.8 seconds, improving his previous best time by almost 2 seconds and in doing so, destroyed the previous AUAA and UNB records. He did this again in the 200m butterfly in a time of 2:04.5, improving by an enormous 4 seconds, and placed 2nd in the consolation finals. Coach Andrew Cole says that his improvement in this event by 12 seconds this year can be attributed to the fact that "he combines a great work ethic with the physical and psychological talent. He is a very hard worker, and it is paying huge dividends." Tennent, along with team mates Lukeman, Slaviero, and Chamberland broke UNB's previous 4x200m freestyle relay by almost 20 seconds and the AUAA record by over 6 seconds. A time of 7:36.6 placed them 6th in Canada. This same team was 8th in the 4x100m freestyle relay, breaking both the UNB and AUAA records.

On the women's side of things, Meaghan Seagrave of Fredericton once again improved on her time in the

200m breaststroke with a time of 2:04.0. This placed Meaghan 4th in Canada, and as well broke AUAA and UNB records. Swimming the 100m breast stroke, Meaghan placed 2nd in the consolation finals.

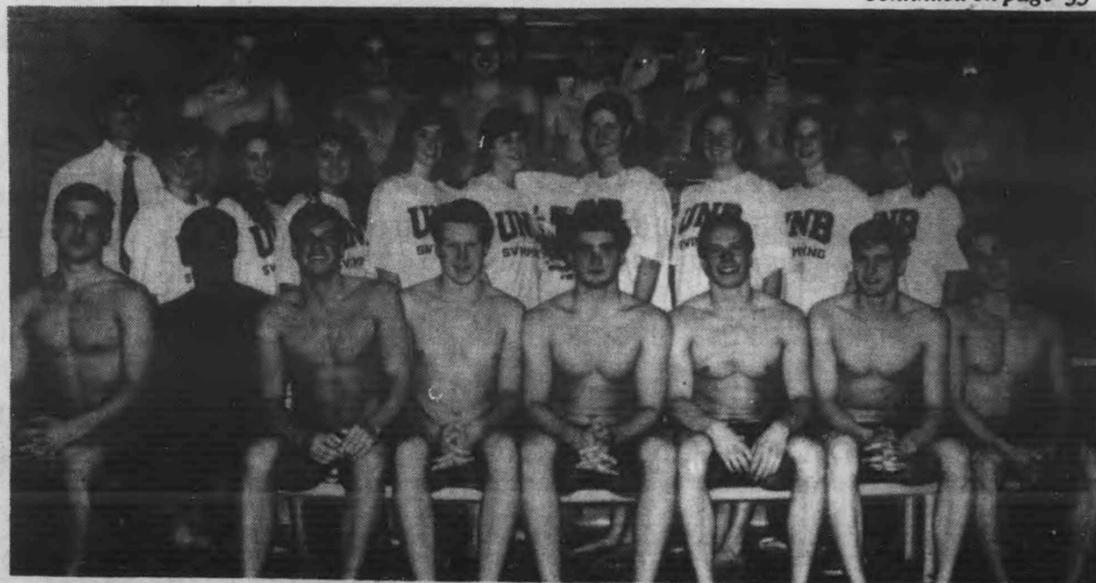
4th year women's team captain Angie Pickles of Fredericton found herself going to the CIAU championships in the last race of her

university career and went a lifetime best performance in the 100m backstroke. Coach Cole says that "she has been indispensable this season. Her year round training and work ethic has shown the other female swimmers what they are capable of doing. She has shown how much they may improve over their varsity career." Angie is presently being interviewed for medical

school next year.

Over the past years Moncton has produced a number of high calibre swimmers, and Stephane Leblanc is no exception. His 100m breaststroke in a time of 1:04.8 was 6th in Canada, while the 200m breaststroke in a time of 2:22.6 was 4th in the consolation finals. These results were both UNB records. Not to be out-

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UNB Beavers had a successful year in the pool by finishing 7th in the country