

SPORTS

Deadline for stories is Tuesday at 5:00 p.m.. Sports Desk 453-4983

SPORTSWIRE

In brief

Bloomers upset at AUA's

The Red Bloomers lost out in the first round of the AUA women's basketball championships falling to the St. Francis X-ettes 86-84. This was a disappointing end to an otherwise excellent season. The X-ettes went on to the championship final but lost to the UPEI Panthers who now advance to the CIAU Championships in Victoria, B.C. Despite the Bloomers' loss, they managed to place 3 players on the AUA All-Star teams; Kara Palmer and Laura Swift on the first team and Jill Jackson on the second team. The future of the Bloomers is uncertain as both Palmer and Jackson have completed their university careers and will not return next year.

Raiders finish with four more losses

The UPEI Panthers spoiled the Raiders' fairwell to Yaw Obeng with two wins in the fifth year guard's last home games. The Panthers took the first game 76-70 and the second 74-67 in what was the most exciting weekend of basketball all season. Before the second game, the Raiders paid tribute to Obeng as he bid fairwell to the familiar confines of the L.B. Gym. Last weekend saw the Raiders lose their final two games of the season to UCCB in Sydney. Scores were 90-74 and 94-66. With a final record of 1-19, rookie coach Clint Hamilton has nowhere to go but up next season.

Coy earns AUA Rookie of the Year

Red rebel Mark Coy was named AUA Rookie of the Year and was also named an AUA All-Star. The Rebels missed the playoffs with a 1-9 record. Dalhousie carried its 10-0 undefeated streak into the playoffs to earn the AUA title over Memorial University and a ticket to the CIAU Championships in Edmonton, Alberta.

Reds disappointed in semi's

The Lady Reds volleyball team travelled to Dalhousie University for the AUA Championships with high expectations. Unfortunately, a hard fought semifinal match against the Mount Allison Mounties ended in defeat. The final match score was 3-2. Carla Mason was named an AUA All-Star while Chantal Martin was named Rookie of the Year. The host Dalhousie Tigers won the Championships with a final victory over Mt.A. The Reds are looking forward to an equally successful season next year.



UNB Athletes of the month February



Marcel Saulis and Kara Palmer receive congratulations from representatives of Valley Graphics and Moosehead Breweries. Saulis led the Black Bears to the AUA title while Palmer was an integral part of the Bloomers success this season.

UNB Athletes of the week

Iona Allen, Beavers' Swimming
Iain Tennent, Beavers' Swimming

Beavers hot at CIAU's

Allen, Tennent named CIAU All-Canadians

by Bruce Denis

For the first time in over twenty years, both the men's and women's swim teams managed to rank at the Nationals.

With seven top ten finishes including three bronze medal performances by Iain Tennent, the men secured a seventh place ranking. Iona Allen led the women's team, which accumulated six top ten finishes, to eighth place.

Allen gave the performance of the weekend by winning a silver medal in the 400 m. individual medley with a time of 4:49.14. That qualified her for the National team which will be travelling to the World Student Games this Summer in Buffalo, New York; she is the first UNB student to do so.

Allen also won a bronze medal in the 200 m. butterfly, finished fourth in the 200 m. individual medley and fifth in the 50 m. fly.

Iain Tennent also had a strong meet winning bronze medals in 50 m. butterfly, the 100 m. butterfly

and the 100 m. freestyle. He also took fifth place in the 200 m. butterfly.

Tennent also led the men's team to fourth place in the 4X100 m. freestyle relay, which was an unexpected highlight. Competing teams stood dumbfounded as finisher Sean Perreira took over 3 seconds off his personal best time to preserve the top five finish for UNB.

Beaver coach Andrew Cole expressed his satisfaction with the teams performance. "As far as success goes, I think the meet went very well. With three meets in only two weeks, it's been a tough haul but I'm very pleased with the way our swimmers handled themselves. I think they did a great job."

The Beavers entered the competition with 9 qualifiers. The five male qualifiers were Tennent, Perreira, Stephane Leblanc, Jason Lukeman and Paul Halmazna. The female qualifiers were Allen, Hilary Seagrave, Rae Sears and Katherine McNeilly.

Lukeman managed a fifth place in the 50 m. freestyle and fourth place in a consolation final. Halmazna took third, fifth and eighth place in the consolation finals while Leblanc took sixth and eighth place, also in the consolations.

Hilary Seagrave had an excellent meet, earning seventh place in the 200 m. butterfly and eighth place in the 100 m. butterfly as well as two consolation final wins. Sears managed a seventh place consolation finish while McNeilly took part in the women's relay team.

After all was said and done, eight AUA records were broken, both Tennent and Allen had been named CIAU All-Canadians and five medals hung around the necks of two UNB students; four bronze and one silver.

Says Cole "Things have improved dramatically over the past two years. With a few key recruits coming in, we're hoping to improve even further."

Devils bow out to Acadia

by Frank Denis

WOLFVILLE, N.S. The AUA hockey championship was decided last weekend as the top two teams in the conference squared off in a best of three series.

The UNB Red Devils met the Acadia Axemen in a showdown that many people had anticipated when the season began back in October. Acadia was the number one ranked team in Canada for most of the season thanks to their impressive 22-2-2 record while the Devils stood at number four with a 18-7-1 record.

Game one last Wednesday at the Aitken Centre was a tight checking affair with Acadia prevailing 3-1 in a nearly sold out Aitken Centre. Rob Knesaurek had the lone UNB goal of the game. For Knesaurek it meant extending his playoff goal scoring streak to five games. Sean Rowe had a pair for Acadia while Duane Dennis had the single.

The Devils boarded their bus to Wolfville fully believing that they could take two straight games from the Axemen. Despite a solid effort from the Devils they couldn't beat goaltender Dennis Sproston who played outstanding leading his team to a series clinching 6-0 victory.

The game began well for the Devils as they had a three on one but could not manage to find the target.

After twenty minutes of play the teams headed to their dressing rooms with the game scoreless.

Duane Dennis opened the scoring for Acadia midway through the second period Norm Batherson then gave the Axemen a 2 goal lead just before the second period ended.

Despite being outscored 2-0 in the second period coach Mike Johnston feels his team controlled the play in the middle frame.

"We had six good scoring opportunities in that period to their two. We knew we had to get a goal, but at the same time we felt really

good about the way we were playing. The key for us was to get some momentum by somehow getting a goal but Sproston kept coming up big."

A third period goal by Colin Gregor broke the game open for Acadia and forced UNB to take more chances offensively at the expense of their defence. What it meant was that one defenceman began pinching in and that gave Acadia some 2 on 1 breaks that they capitalized on.

Scoring for the Axemen in the third were Grgor with two, Batherson and Dennis.

Johnston believes that the scoreboard did not tell the whole story of the game.

"That was not a 6-0 game. The first two periods were dead even. We were really convinced that if we could score a goal we could get some momentum going, but jeez it

was frustrating that we just couldn't score. I guess it wasn't meant to be for us."

Despite reaching the AUA final Johnston says he's not satisfied with the season.

"You're never satisfied when you come that close to winning a championship. It is however a learning experience and you hope your players take something from it."

"Watching Acadia being presented with the trophy was tough, but once our guys have seen that hopefully they'll benefit from it and it will turn out to be a great learning experience."

Chris Somers playing in his last game as a Red Devil was solid in goal making 28 stops.

With a strong nucleus of players returning next season the outlook is good for the Red Devils, sorry Varsity Reds hockey team.

