

College Hockey

Women's Volleyball

South of the 49th Reds vs Tigers: Series Preview



Marcel Comeau points the way towards the World Junior Hockey Championship. Photo Judson DeLong

by Neil Duxbury
Brunswickan Sports

Mike Watt was a member of the Canadian National Junior Team which captured the World Junior Championships last week. Unlike most of his teammates he, along with Jason Botterill are serving their apprenticeships at a US university, rather than with a Major Junior team. Both play in the CCHA, Botterill is a third year Wolverine at Michigan while Watt is in his second year of Spartan existence at rival Michigan State.

Watt, a native of Egmondville, Ontario has found the atmosphere of MSU something of a culture shock. "There are about 45,000 students enrolled in our university and about 35,000 are on campus. It is one of the biggest in the world. The adjustment was pretty big because I had to go from a small town [population near 1,000] into a very big one."

Watt's motivation for choosing the collegiate ranks was simple "I really wanted to get my education, and that was a big factor. If I was going to play hockey I needed something to fall back-on afterwards. I'm getting the best of both worlds by playing good hockey and at the same time getting a good education."

The situation at MSU has eased the difficult balancing of schoolwork with hockey. "They work our studies around our hockey. We go to school in the morning and we've got the afternoon for our games. We have a study hall we have to attend to get our work done at night and make sure the tutors are there to help us out. Sometimes it's hard if we go on the road but other than that it's not too bad." The longest trip of all is the 10 hour flight for the series against Alaska Fairbanks, the sole team in the league outside of the Midwest.

As for the sport itself. "It's really quick hockey. You always have to have your head up. It's a faster game as there's no red line." Watt also contrasted it with the style of the CHL. "The major difference is that there's no red line. Without it there's a lot of long passes. There's fighting in Major Junior too, but not as much in the college ranks."

This is a similar situation to Canadian college hockey, however there is a very distinct difference. The NCAA, the governing body of US college sports is strict in its banning of professional athletes. This includes those who have played Major Junior hockey. In contrast, UNB's roster has 13 players who have previously shined up in the CHL.

The University of New Brunswick Women's Volleyball Team will be entering one of the biggest weekend series against the Dalhousie Tigers at the main gym Saturday at 8 pm and Sunday 1 pm. The Dalhousie Tigers are undefeated in AUSA competition while the Reds, two time defending AUSA champs sit at 6-2 good for second place in the nine team league.

The Tigers are led by fifth year players Christine Frail and Kim Hilchey. Both Hilchey and Frail returned this year for their last year of eligibility after graduating two years ago. They add depth and experience to a strong Tiger squad.

The Varsity Reds are led by probably the strongest player in the AUSA, Chantal Martin. Martin has been named All-Sport Player of the Match four times, UNB Athlete of the Week three times, CIAU Athlete of the Week, UNB Athlete of the Month and leads the league in kills with 22 per match. She is a former AUSA rookie of the year and two time AUSA all star, training with the national 'B' team in the summer. Add to the fact that the Reds are 36-4 in AUSA league play over the last two and a half years and you can never count out this team.

Fourth year player Sara Ouellette has moved back to her natural offside position

with rookie Jennifer Tune now handling the offence from the setter's position. The Reds however will be without power hitter Gail Toner. Toner broke her foot in December and will be out until late January. This will hurt the Reds but the slack will be picked up by Sandra Morrison, Rachel Gordon and Vicki Lynch. Teaming up with Martin in the middle will be Loretta Totten and Karen MacLean while Angie Ball backs up Ouellette at the offside position.

After this weekend the Reds travel to Sackville to play Mt. Allison on Wednesday in another important match.

Rugby

Tourists face tough UK challenge

Players from both the current UNB and UNB Old Boys rugby teams are combining for a 16 day tour of England and Wales in May of this year. In addition, several leading players from around the Maritimes have been invited to join this 37 man squad.

Tour organiser, Coach and UNB Law student, Rod Thomas, states "The tour party already includes eight players who have represented Canada at various levels, and includes UNB alumni and current Canadian international Dennis Clarke, and World Cup prospect Colin Robertson. Three of the squad are also members of the Canadian Elite Development squad. It is my belief that this will be the strongest rugby squad ever to have left the Maritimes."

UNB Rugby has been frequent, and successful, tourists to New England, but are well aware that a tour to the UK - the home of rugby - is a far greater chal-

lenge. The squad has been in full training since before Christmas, and that training will intensify throughout the winter. "After a somewhat disappointing season, the players are under no illusions as to the size of the challenge ahead", says Rod Thomas, who played and coached in the UK for twenty years before emigrating to Canada two years ago, "the style of play that is successful against junior teams in the USA will not be adequate against experienced teams in the UK. We have deliberately chosen to play tough opposition, including Oxford University, current UK champions, Swansea University, and several other leading teams.

Fundraising efforts started last term, and several more events are planned for the coming months. The budget for the tour is in excess of \$50,000.000. The vast majority of this money is being raised by the efforts of the players them-

selves, although sponsorship from several sources has been forthcoming. In addition, teams in the UK, keen to host touring teams, have helped out with the provision of free accommodation and meals.

On discussing the goals of the tour, Thomas highlights the following, "First, we intend to achieve a winning record over the eleven games that we play. Secondly, there are several players at UNB and in the Maritimes who have the belief, and perhaps the ability and commitment, that they can play at the highest level. It will be a significant test for them to play at a level not available in Eastern Canada, and will be a true benchmark of the progress of the team and the individual players. Finally, rugby has a unique camaraderie off the field, which unites players from around the world. Hopefully, the players from UNB can experience some of the fellowship and take part in a memorable tour."

If anyone wishes to have more details about the tour, they should contact any of the following: Dave Murchison (President) 458-5826, Prentice Durbin (1st XV Captain) 455-8745, Rod Thomas (Coach) 455-5580.

from page 19

But [in the tournament] the veterans really came through. Sandy Tomley had an excellent weekend. Erin Savage had a good weekend, too, and Donna Retson also started well."

Although pleased with the Golden Ball Classic results, Slipp's two games were scheduled only as exhibition matches. However, UNB's exceptional play signifies that their 2-4 record could very soon improve. On defence the team managed to eliminate St FX's two main offensive threats in Tina St. Amour and Melanie Johnson, who totalled 27 points in game one but only scored nine in the deciding contest. "We faced a height disadvantage but played them hard and had great results," Slipp said.

The V-Reds backcourt desperately needs to continue the defensive pressure and offensive awareness they displayed over the weekend. Bridget Gamble provided the spark throughout the second half as she completely outlasted the opposition, crashing into the scorers' table to save a stolen ball and later taking a hard spill while batting the ball away from a St FX player.

With a rematch versus St FX this weekend, plus a game against Dalhousie, is coach Slipp expecting another devastating victory? "Anything can happen," she replied. But if the V-Reds produce the efficiency and teamwork evident in their Golden Ball Classic performance, that 'anything' should be something good.

INTRAMURAL SPORTS

Schedules are now available for ice hockey. Managers, please pick up schedules as soon as possible. Practice times are now available. Players who were not registered for first term, have until January 17th at noon to register. All players must have ID at all games.

Officials are needed for ice hockey, volleyball, basketball, ball hockey and indoor soccer.

Teams can now register for:

Co-ed volleyball, ice hockey and floor hockey;
Women's basketball and indoor soccer; and
Men's indoor soccer and volleyball.

Discover why
Western
is Canada's
Premier
Business School



Admissions Office
Western Business School
The University of Western Ontario
London, Ontario, Canada N6A 3K7
Tel: (519) 661-3212
Fax: (519) 661-3485

Presenting the
WESTERN
BUSINESS SCHOOL
MBA PROGRAM

Great teaching, outstanding students, an international outlook and rewarding careers for graduates. That's what has made Western Business School what it is today: Canada's premier business school. Let Western help you develop the business leadership skills to think globally, act strategically and communicate effectively.

Please join us at our information session.
Date: **January 17, 1996**
Time: 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Place: **Saint John Hilton Hotel**
Kennebecas I Room
One Market Square, St. John

Or contact us, and we'll send you a Western MBA Program brochure.

CHSR
6:30 AM

for complete program information
check our website at

<http://www.unb.ca/web/chsr>

Varsity Reds Basketball

Saturday, January 13
V-Reds Women vs DAL
6:00PM - Dalplex

live!

January 14
V-Reds Men vs STFX
3:00PM - Oland Centre

Fun Drive 96 February 12-25th
Dial & Donate - Support Campus-Community Radio