

# UNB athletes competitive



Here at UNB we are fortunate to have a wide variety of sports in which the university is actively competitive. Competitive is the key word. UNB is able to entertain, if not win, at the many diversified sports in which it enters teams at the university level. Due to a lack of funds, we use homegrown talent; even so, the sports spectator has been treated to some outstanding performances this year. This should be a source of pride to the university community. We should also note that those not from the Maritimes have not been wooed with large amounts of money, or, as in some Eastern universities, with top-ranked athletic teams.

It is necessary at least once a year, if not more, to encourage

and congratulate those who endeavour to become the best through tireless hand work but get little recognition. For example, the lot of a swimmer is not a happy one. Would you get up early in the morning to swim laps only to return later that day to do the same endless strokes? The same could be said of the cross-country runner. The team this year won the AUSA championship but what members of the university student body or faculty remember the names of the mens and womens team, let alone went to watch a meet? Who knows what a UNB Black Bear is? They won the AUSA wrestling meet and sent four members of the team to the Nationals.

All in all this has been a splendid year for the in-

terscholastic athletic department. First, they can proudly boast of AUSA Championships in Field Hockey, Wrestling, Womens Basketball, and Cross-Country. And perhaps most exciting of all was the National Championship won by the UNB Red Shirts Soccer Team.

Even the teams that weren't number one provided top entertainment for the fan. The mens hockey team held fans on the edge of their seats during the latter part of the season while the Red Raiders basketball team was doing the same. The volleyball team may not have ended up number one in their respective divisions but they allowed us a look at the top volleyball players in Canada.

Secondly, it can be said the

department has injected new enthusiasm into the athletic programs. Perhaps band aid budgets and new faces will do the trick after all. The university was foresighted enough to discuss the pros and cons of the interscholastic programs in universities. Hopefully those in attendance and in positions to effect changes haven't forgotten there was a conference.

But when you come down to the nitty gritty of the matter it is the student athlete that makes or breaks how well a team will fare. The student athlete puts a lot of time and energy into a sport; the rewards are few and far between. Being on a school team isn't all its cracked up to be.

Still, the UNB athletes have shown themselves to be right up there with the best of them.