

Interview with Red Sticks Coach

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Special Assignment
Sportswriter
Part I

Bruns: The Red Bloomers have just returned from their trip to Georgia. What has the team gained from the experience?

Claire Mitton: It's hard to pinpoint one particular item as to say what we've gained from the whole trip. First thing athletically that benefited us is intensity. We thought at the first of the year that intensity is a necessary ingredient for us to better than we are at the national scene. We were concentrating on that and I am pleased with the result of our trip because we have seen what it takes to be one of the top teams in the United States. The women's in Georgia is currently ranked second in their country and last year finished second in the country. The kids had a chance to work with them, see them practice, be involved with coach Landers and his staff. I'd have to say the intensity — the need and want to win, that's the first thing gained from this trip.

Then the different way of

life, the different priorities, things that any trip that you're going to go on, anyplace — regardless if it's Toronto or even if we go west to Calgary or Winnipeg at the nationals. Every place has a different way of life. I was looking for something for us athletically and we certainly obtained that.

Bruns: How has the time that you've spent with Georgia's coach, Andy Landers, affected your coaching? What did you pick up?

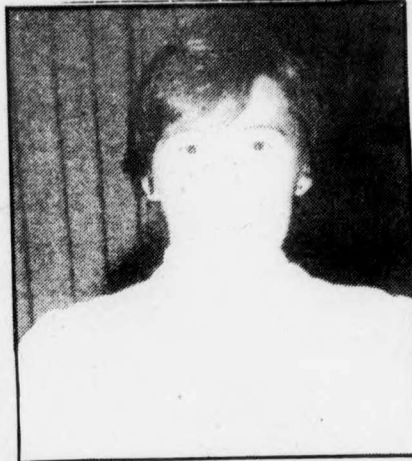
CM: It's pretty tough in three days to affect your coaching. I don't think I'm going to change my style ... Things that I have picked up from him are some drills that we're trying to do. What we call a 'run and jump' defense and he helped us with that and really worked with that and was very, very good.

There's different philosophies, once again different ideas of doing things. He pushes people to the outside and we can do that and we will do that, but when it gets into the paint, into the key we push them inside because we play

help-side defence. Just little coaching things that you pick up just from anywhere. I usually go to a clinic annually in Boston and I usually pick up four, five, six, seven things.

The big thing is the intensity he has and the perfectionist he

Joyce Slipp (Field Hockey)



is ... him on the court with the Bloomers was tremendous.

Bruns: What were your general impressions of UGA's athletic program?

CM: My general impression of the University of Georgia's is that it's big time. It's comparable to none. The football program is not one of the best in the country because it is ranked in the top twenty, but

when you talk about how it's done the way they go about it is obviously at the top. There is nothing wrong with how it's done.

Our program (Bloomer basketball) is notoriously successful and at the University of Georgia the women's program is the same way but yet society comes to see the men play. Everybody thinks it's a better basketball game. That is comparable between the two schools.

We're talking high stakes — a lot of money. If I had the money they have, I could do the things I want to do. Our program this year is great. We're going to two great tournaments in Toronto and McGill. We're also getting the chance to go to Halifax, a close distance, playing some teams that are coming in without our having to spend a heck of a lot of money. Scheduling-wise, our's are great.

We don't look shabby — we've got a sponsor in Nike. We're going places and we'll look half-decent. Comparable for the money we're OK but the University of Georgia is something else. It's impressive.

We saw the rooms where they've got the recruits coming

in where everything is red and black and photos and welcome to Georgia and sneakers and a stool from the team locker room. We're not used to that in Canada because that's not how it's done, but that's how it's done there, and that's what's expected of them. If they (the recruits) don't get that, then something's wrong.

It's all you read about, it's all you imagine. It's all that any school in the United States could be. I think that the University of Georgia is dedicated to excellence in athletics. And it shows.

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	West Division			
	W	T	L	F A
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Moncton	6	1	4	21 11
Mt. Allison	5	2	4	15 12
UPEI	1	0	10	1 45
East Division				
Dalhousie	10	1	1	24 2
St. F.X.	7	1	4	19 16
Acadia	6	1	5	14 11
St. Mary's	4	0	8	17 23
Memorial	0	0	12	7 31

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