

NBA
Pro Hoops in NB



Rod Strickland shoots against the Nets. Photo Kevin G. Porter

by Bruce Denis
Brunns Sports

The Varsity Reds men's basketball team kicked off last weekend's exhibition circus on Friday afternoon. They fell 96-80 to St. FX at Harbour Station in Saint John as a prelude to that night's NBA game between the New Jersey Nets and the Portland Trail Blazers.

Though the loss was a difficult pill to swallow, the NBA game turned out to be the perfect remedy says captain Marc Aube. "Most of the guys were pretty pleased with the (NBA) game. It was the first NBA game I've ever seen but some of the guys had gone to games in Boston and New York." The two AUAA teams were given VIP floor seats in the hockey players benches to avoid sacrificing valuable paid seating.

Organized by Moosehead, it was the first NBA game ever played in New Brunswick. Ironically, the only other neutral site game that night was in Puerto Rico between the Atlanta Hawks and Miami Heat.

The teams featured some prominent NBA Stars including the Blazers' Clyde 'The Glide' Drexler as well as the Nets' Derrick Coleman and Rick Mahorn. Former Net Chris Dudley was playing his first game against his former teammates after signing with the Blazers as a free agent this summer.

Intensity was not on order for the evening. Both teams played lackadaisically, lulling the crowd for the most part. The Blazers prevailed in the end 117-111, leaving throngs of Nets fans disappointed, some of whom paid \$150 for floor seats.

It was entertaining, however, to see some of the largest human beings in the world. The Nets' Dwayne Shintzius tipped the scales

at 7'2", 285 lbs and Benoit Benjamin was close behind at 7'0", 260 lbs. Aube comments "We were heading to the dressing room after the game and the Blazers were waiting to warm up, it was just amazing how big they are. I thought Bryan Elliot was a big guy (6'6", 240), and he is but not compared to those guys." Aube also confided "We didn't really get to meet the players but a few of the guys went around for autographs in between games."

Unfortunately, the Reds had to leave with six minutes left on the clock to insure a good night's sleep before the Fall Classic the following afternoon. They missed an epic finale as the Blazers' Rod Strickland dribbled the ball to centercourt in the dying seconds and watched the clock run down. A fitting end to the New Brunswick's christening NBA game.

Hockey
High hopes for Reds

by Maria Paisley
Sports Editor

Varsity Reds women's volleyball team hopes to duplicate their last year's performance again this year.

UNB will be starting their season with the UNB Women's Invitational Volleyball Tournament this weekend at the LB Gym. The Reds will be hosting Acadia, Dal, Sir John Abbott College from Montreal, Mt A, UPEI, Carleton and UdeM.

The Reds were AUAA Champions last year and have only lost the services of last year's captain Monica Gaudet from last year's line-up. UNB went undefeated in the league play last year leading

the league with a 16-0 record and followed up with the AUAA Championships.

Coach Al McGarvie considers



AUAA MVP and CIAU 2nd team All Canadian Carla Mason "a big asset in the league for the team". Veteran and AUAA All-Star Chantal

Martin trained with the National Women's Volleyball Team.

Beaconsfield, Quebec native Vanessa Rice from the Sir John Abbott College is the key recruit for the Reds. Coach McGarvie considers Beaconsfield to be "the hotbed of women's volleyball".

Coach McGarvie believes the Reds will "have a hard job and hope to repeat as AUAA champions this year. Mt A will provide the toughest competition in the league, while the other teams will be the same as last year. The goal for the team this year is to be ranked in the CIAU's."

UNB will start the UNB Invitational with a game against Acadia on Friday in the Main Gym at 4:45pm.

Reds crowned top guns of the hill

by Neil Duxbury
Brunns Sports

The UNB Varsity Reds won the third annual River City Shootout defeating the Université de Québec à Trois Rivières Patriotes 4-2 and the STU Tommies 8-3.

On Saturday afternoon they matched up against les Patriotes and got off to a quick start when Scott Muscott scored early. The Reds kept up the pressure pinning les Patriotes inside their blue line and doubled their lead when Derek Cormier scored from close in, off a feed from Luke Naylor. Towards the end of a period when the sin bins were rarely empty, an uncharacteristic mistake by Franc LeBlanc on the boards led to UQTR's opener.

In the first half of the second Mike Cavanagh and Jason Underhill scored to stretch the Reds lead to 3. After this burst of action the game slowed to a crawl with a succession of whistles and penalties with the only interesting action being Luke Naylor's 360 away from 2 defenders leading to a shot on goal as the lines changed behind him.

The tedium continued long into the third until a burst with about 5 minutes to go saw Chris Peach go close and then UQTR drew one back with 4 minutes to go. With a glimmer of hope les Patriotes came forward with more purpose and the checking became heavier.



Luke Naylor breaks on UQTR's goal. Photo Terry Dickson

Despite pulling their netminder the Patriotes were unable to score and left town having lost both games.

The Reds seemed to be hungover from Saturday's game when they took to the ice Sunday. The team seemed less sharp overall but it showed particularly on defence, which they had shone at against UQTR, allowing the Tommies many chances, though they were only able to convert 3. The game was evenly matched through the first two periods and at the end of the second the teams were tied at three. Ted Naylor got UNB's first and Alistair Still banged in two goals during the

second.

The third was a completely different story. The Reds came out and shut down STU's offence then burst forward in the middle of the period with 5 goals in a 5 minute burst, 2 from Ted's twin Luke and one apiece from Jason Underhill, Troy Ryan and Toby Burkitt.

The Reds travel to Boston this weekend for exhibition games against Brown and Harvard universities. The Reds' next league game is the "Battle of the Hill part 2" on November 2nd at 7.30pm, when the Tommies come back to the Aitken centre looking for revenge.

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