

A SPORTING CHANCE !!!.....

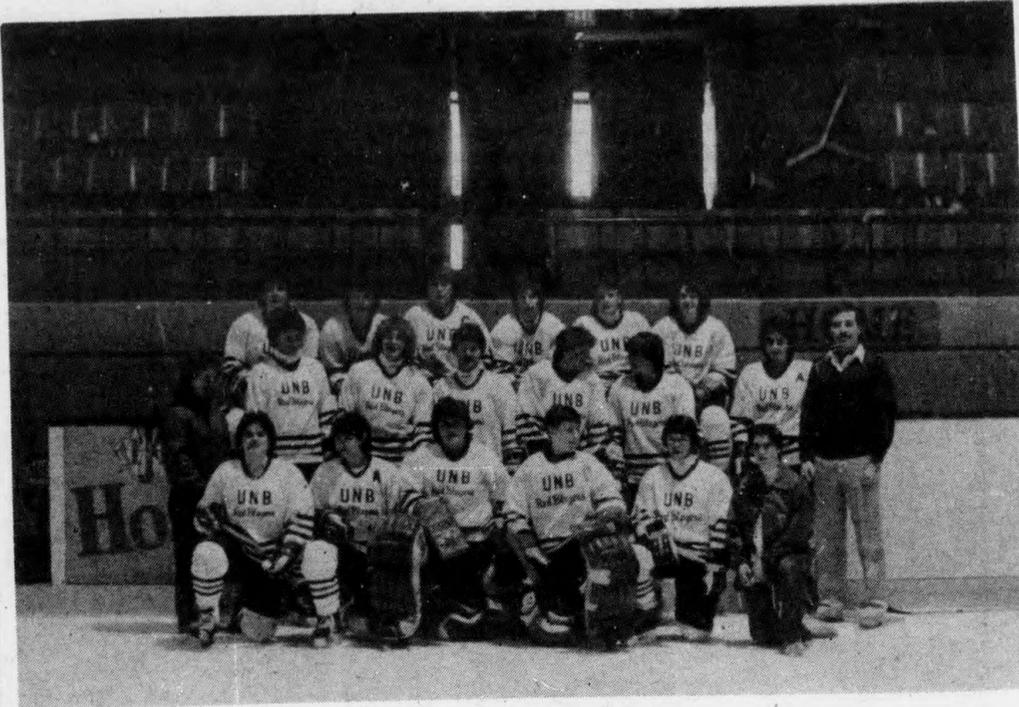
By REGAN LEGASSIE

Tuesday morning I had a very interesting chat with someone who is well known around the university community. As a matter of fact, he has just returned from what I guess you might term a "business trip" to a certain mid-western city. Now for all of you who are a little slow, and missed that hint, which by the way, was about as subtle as being hit with a brick, that person is none other than UNB Red Devil Coach Don MacAdam. I went into the interview hoping to get some kind of a big scoop on what life in the big leagues is like, but instead I came away with a greater understanding of a man I have known for almost two years now. The Don MacAdam I talked to was more concerned with building the fortunes of his AUAA hockey club than trying to get an inside track on a nice cushy job in the NHL. Don't get me wrong her folks, I'm not trying to make the man out to be a Saint or anything like that, (although I'm sure he would have no objections to it) but I'm simply trying to set the record straight on a few points that everybody has been wondering about since he led the Red Devils to an AUAA championship in the 1983-84 season.

First of all, I have no doubts that MacAdam could make it in the NHL, but he is solidly committed to making sure the Devils return to their proper position atop the league standings. Although he admits that he was invited to both St. Louis and Philadelphia, MacAdam says the trip provided him with a "real good opportunity to talk to some hockey people and make some good contacts for UNB." At this point, you have to realize how difficult it has to be to sell a school like UNB, to players, or even coaches, when it has virtually no incentive of its own to make the job of recruiting an easy one. Any of the really good hockey talent that may be floating around in the states has probably already been snapped up by the very competitive American Universities. For example, MacAdam mentioned that while in St. Louis he had the chance to attend the Midwest High School Hockey Championships and although there was no one who really stood out as possible college talent, he went on to say that he was more interested in seeing what was available by the way of minor league players or drafted players who still are not NHL calibre and the possibility of them coming to play for the Red and Black. At this point I asked how hard it was to compete with the bigger American Universities and the former AUAA Coach of the Year told me that the main pool was among those who played Major-Junior hockey and were ineligible to play for the American Universities.

Now that I've whet your appetite a little, let's get into the real meat of the matter. Like everyone else, I was curious to know what life in the NHL is like so I asked MacAdam what the biggest difference was between life in the AUAA and the NHL. Naturally the answer I got was an expected one, but he also told me that there was an "incredible amount of similarities between what we do at UNB, what Coach Jessiman does with the Express and what Coach Demers does with the Blues." The only difference here however is that in the NHL "even the slowest skaters are playing at a very high level and have a natural instinct for the game." Once again however, MacAdam reverted back to his own team stating that players such as Paul Murphy, Robbie Forbes and Mark Jeffrey possess the same instinct even though they may not be accustomed to the level of play that's present in the NHL. By this time, I was getting a bit mad at myself because every time I asked MacAdam a question which I hoped would make him tip his hand towards his own future, he managed to slam the door (very politely however) in my face. Finally not being able to stand it anymore, I came right out and asked him if he had any intention of leaving the Devils for the big time in St. Louis, to which he simply replied "my job at this very moment is to coach UNB" and that the rumors of his trip being something more serious were "greatly exaggerated." There you have it folks. I gave it my best shot and came away empty handed; with more suspicions now than I had before I started and only one strong conclusion. Whatever the future holds for Donny MacAdam, only one man knows for sure and he's not talking, at least not right now, but who knows, anything can happen WITH A SPORTING CHANCE!!!

Blazers go to Nationals



Front Row: Carol Allport, Debbie MacLoon, Wendy Dickinson, Sue Keirstead, Chris MacLoon; Second row: Kathy Cleveland (manager), Sandy Ward, Boom Boom Cox, JoAnne Gillies, Alison Lee, Anne Campbell, France Thibodeau, Mike Power (coach); Third row: Cathy Potts, Cindy Campbell, Carol Cooper, Diane Leblanc, Carolin Boushal, Rose Theriault. Missing: Paula MacDonald.

By MARY SCOTT

After a long season which began with a meeting on September 17th the UNB Red Blazer women's hockey team are ready for their season finale. On Wednesday, March 20th, the Blazers will leave for the Shoppers Drug Mart Women's National Hockey Tournament in Summerside, P.E.I.

This tournament features the 10 best teams from across the country, play starts Thursday morning and wraps up with the National Final Sunday at 2:30 p.m. UNB who have represented New Brunswick at all three previous Nationals will be looking to improve on their ninth place finish of a year ago in Edmonton, but the girls will have their work cut out. The format of the tournament has the ten teams divided into two five team divisions. In with UNB are the two time former champs, along with defending champion Alberta. Also on the UNB schedule will be the host team P.E.I. and the always strong Saskatchewan. The top four finishers in each division advance to the playoff rounds, which commence Saturday.

Alberta will be the Blazers' first game, that will open the tournament at 9 a.m. Thursday, followed by Ontario at 5 p.m. On Friday the Blazers will face the Saskies at 9:20 a.m., and the host Islanders in a 5:20 p.m. match. This will be the first time the Nationals are being held east of Ontario, that means for the first friends and supporters of the team will be able to travel a reasonable

distance to cheer on the Blazers, this will mean a great deal to the players after three years of being unknown athletes playing in front of strangers.

The entire tournament will be held in Summerside's Chail Arena, which is one of the Island's top hockey buildings, the Cahil is home to Summerside's Junior A team.

This year's Red Blazer team is felt to be quite a bit better than any of the three previous squads that went to national tournaments. The most notable difference is offensively. Last season in 29 games the Blazer's totaled just 63 goals, in 29 games to this point in the

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