

Basketball

**Women split series at home**

**Reds fight for Playoffs**

by Matthew J. Collins  
Bruns Sports

Last year the Varsity Reds travelled to St. FX and Dal looking to capture the league title. This weekend the women will have quite a different task at hand—they will be fighting to clinch a playoff spot.

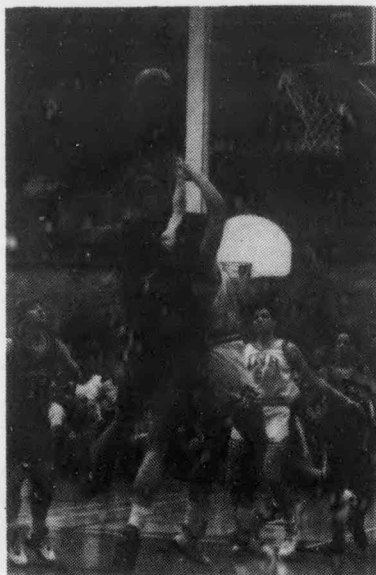
The Reds put their backs against the wall by virtue of a 59-54 loss to the Saint Mary's Huskies last Friday night. The Reds shot a dismal 20/50 from the field and only had one player in double figures, Erin Savage, with 15 points.

The women bounced back on Sunday, defeating the Acadia Axettes 49-42. But again, the offense struggled for the Reds who connected on only 20/45 attempts from the field. And the scoring fell in the hands of only two players, Donna Retson and Krista Foreman, who both netted 15 in the winning effort.

While the Reds have struggled offensively as of late, defensively they've been almost perfect. They held SMU to under 60 points, Acadia to under 50, and forced both teams to shoot below 40% from the field. But the Reds also had trouble scoring, and Coach Mitton realises that this is something her team has to work on.

"Defense has been our staller all year. We've really hung tough defensively and that's kept us in a lot of games. It's just that we've been unable to finish. We'll have to spend a lot of time on our offense this week."

Bridget Gamble agrees with her coach, stating that it has been defense which has given the Reds a chance to stay close in most of their games. "We've been



**Reds jump against SMU**  
Photo Mark Bray

tough on defense all season, and it's given us opportunities to get the job done on offense."

Despite this setback, the Reds are not about to roll over and die. As Krista Foreman explains, it would be a wasted season if they gave up now. "It means so much to everybody to make playoffs. We've put so much work into this season that it would be a shame to give up now."

And Coach Mitton is confident that her team can rise to the occasion. "They're looking forward to the challenge, and I wouldn't want to take any other group of players with me. They've got guts like you wouldn't believe. Not once have they backed down, and if any team can rise to the challenge it is this one."

**Reds sweep weekend series**

**Men look to capture playoff spot**

by Matthew J. Collins  
Bruns Sports

If you weren't at 'The Pit' on Sunday afternoon, then you missed one of the most memorable and emotional basketball games in recent history. The Reds men's squad defeated the Acadia Axemen 81-78 in overtime, and have positioned themselves to capture the team's first playoffs spot in over a decade. And we all have a rookie to thank.

With less than a minute remaining in regulation, Jon Kreiner stepped up to drill consecutive three-pointers, including one with 1.7 seconds remaining, to send Sunday's game against the Axemen into overtime.

As Kreiner states, "We needed a couple of three's because we were down by six, and when I hit those shots it was a great feeling. On the last shot no one was open, so I had to force it up and it went in. It was a big rush."

In the extra period, Stanleigh Mitchell took over, scoring all seven of the team's points. He finished the day with 28 points and 7 rebounds, but explained that the victory was a team effort. "Everyone has confidence in one another and that's why we've been able to play so well lately. The key was sticking together as a team."

While Mitchell had a stellar performance, he was quick to give Kreiner a great deal of recognition. "I think Jon is a candidate for Rookie of the Year. He does such a good job for us, and has all season. He stepped up big time for us today and I love him for that."

And so does Coach Hamilton. "For a freshman to step up and hit two shots like that, well, that's big time. The play broke down and he stepped up, that's the game



Marc Aubé makes a shot against Acadia. Photo Kevin G Porter

of basketball. I'm really proud of him."

But Hamilton is proud of his whole team, and should be. They also pounded the SMU Huskies on Friday night by a 89-67 margin. Mitchell was on his game again, swing 19 points and grabbing 8 rebounds. Big Brian Elliott also had a fine night, putting up 18 points while pulling down 6 rebounds.

While these individuals are key points to the success of this team, Hamilton feels that everybody contributes. "You can talk about individuals all you want but we win or lose as a

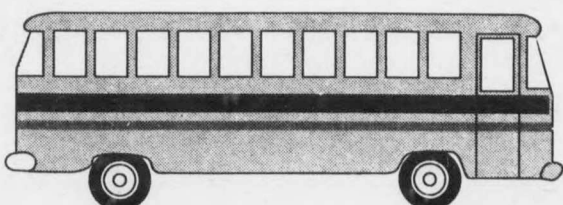
team, and that's the bottom line."

The Reds will go to St. FX and Dal this weekend hoping they can play their way into the playoffs. And Hamilton will lead them in the quest, fired up with the bitter-sweet victories of last weekend.

"Everybody wrote this team off and we stressed two weeks ago when we were in a bit of a slide that we control our own destiny. We have to take each game one at a time. The guys are starting to get it together, to get focused, and we're definitely prepared to make a run at the playoffs."

**ATTENTION:  
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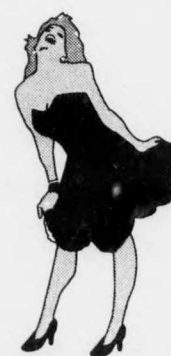
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