

Red Blazers Enter Playoffs

by Ron Cameron

The UNB Red Blazers ride a winning streak going into their Eleventh Annual Tournament here in the city this weekend.

The Red Blazers won their last four New Brunswick Senior Hockey League games of the regular season. This saw them move from sixth to fourth place on the last day of the schedule. "Back in November I said our goal was to finish fourth," says UNB Coach Mike Power. "It didn't look too good when we were 1 and 11 on February 17th." But a late season rally saw UNB finish 6-12, pulling past the Kings County Electric and Port City Flyers last Saturday with a dramatic 4-3 win at the Aitken Center over the Electric.

In that game the Red Blazers trailed 3-2 with just 3 minutes to play when rookie Penny Brown scored her third goal of the game to tie things up. Then with just 17 seconds left in the third period UNB Captain Andrea Stilwell fired home a loose puck which would be the winner. Nicole Breau picked up the win in goal.

An exhibition game Sunday saw a short-handed UNB squad fall 7-0 to a bigger,

faster boys Bantam team from the FYHA. This was a game that, according to Coach Power, served its purpose in allowing the ladies to practice game skills, and also show some character by playing the game when some of their teammates "found they were unable to help out that day."

This weekend's Tournament will also serve as the Senior League Playoffs. "We feel that rather than spread our playoffs over the province in best of three series we would copy the successful formula of Basketball New Brunswick and their High School final Tournament."

The top six teams according to league play will be in Fredericton for the two day event. "It's the first ever League playoff, and since it is

being held the same week as the International Women's Championships that are being televised it makes Ladies Hockey rather high profile at least for a few days." Power went on to say, "We hope a few people will come out to watch, it's free, and the Aitken Center is comfortable, but the goal is to have the competition, and then the League players, and coaches can all say there, we did it; we proved we can do it, now respect our game!"

The Tournament begins play at the Keswick Valley Recreation Center in Burt's Corner for two games, as the Aitken University Center had given its commitment to an Atlantic Lawyers Tournament, then moves back to the AUC for the rest of the eleven games.

Tournament Schedule

- Saturday March 24
 - Game # 1. 11:45am (at Keswick) Grand Falls vs Shediac
 - 2. 1:00pm (at Keswick) Moncton vs UNB
 - 3. 5:15pm (AUC) UNB vs Port City
 - 4. 6:30pm (AUC) Grand Falls vs Kings County
 - 5. 7:45pm (AUC) Moncton vs Port City
 - 6. 9:00pm (AUC) Shediac vs Kings County
- Sunday March 24
 - all at AUC
 - 7. 10:15am: 1st Place Red Div. vs 2nd Black
 - 8. 11:30am: 1st Black vs 2nd Red
 - 9. 12:45pm: 3rd Red vs 3rd Black
 - 10. 2:00pm: Loser #7 vs Loser #8
 - 11. 3:15pm: Winner #7 vs Winner #8

Masters Record Shattered

A three year old Canadian Masters swimming record was broken here Saturday at the UNB Masters Swim Club's Third Annual Meet. Michele Oliver of the host club swam a 100-metre individual medley in 1:12.77, a whole second off the previous women's age 30-34 short course record set by Pat Gilmore of Seychelt, B.C. in February 1987.

Oliver, who swam a total of eight events during the single day meet, already holds seven Canadian records. This record, her eighth, is her first since joining the UNB Masters and only the second Canadian record to be held by a New Brunswick club.

Although Oliver's was the only record time of the meet, UNB Masters coach Shelly Hanley noted some exceptional swims by her team. Among

the women, veteran Mary Pacey added a new event, 100-metre individual medley, to her repertoire. T. Brodie and M. Saunders performed well in 200-metre freestyle, as did J. Campbell in 50-metre backstroke. Shantha Venugopal's 50-metre freestyle showed where F.A.S.T. sons Raghu and Rajiv get their talent.

Note worthy male UNB Masters were S. Sale (50-metre and 100-metre butterfly), J. Sexsmith (50-metre backstroke and 100-metre breaststroke), rookie R. Wilson (50-metre breaststroke), A McAllister (50-metre butterfly and 100-metre individual medley), J.G. Violette and J. Harper (100-metre individual medley), B. McKim (50-metre breaststroke), C. Stevenson (50-metre

butterfly), and D. Tree, whose anchor-leg of the mixed relay was a personal best.

Fifty-one swimmers competed in Saturday's event at the Sir Max Aitken Pool. UNB Masters' largest meet yet attracted delegation from Bathurst and Saint John as well as Fredericton's "Y" Ancient Mariners. Out of province swimmers came from Picou, Halifax (Dalhousie Masters), and New Richmond, Quebec.

Coach Hanley, who doubled as meet manager for the weekend, expects her swimmers to make New Brunswick's presence more widely felt later this spring when she joins Oliver, Pacey, and eight other UNB Masters to travel to the Canadian Masters Championships to be held May 11-13 in Regina.

Athletic Awards Banquet

Continued from page 33 of the sport of soccer. This year he will be leaving the Red Shirts due to graduation. His record of achievement over the past five years has symbolized the excellence pursued by all UNB athletes.

The Moosehead Male Rookie of the Year award was received by Brian Woods. Brian has strongly added to the Beavers swim team and is an excellent asset to the team. Labatts Female Rookie of the Year was Chris Hashimoto. Chris made great strides at both the AUA

level as well as at the CIAU level. The Garnet Copeland Medal for the best all round athlete went to Pauline Lordon of the Bloomers. Pauline's performance over the past year speaks for itself. Pauline has been a force for the Bloomers for the past five years. She will be missed next year as the Bloomers strive for another AUA title.

Joyce Slipp was honoured as the CIAU Coach of the Year. Joyce has been head Coach of the Red Sticks for many years.

Her work with the team has been shown in the performance of her players. On behalf of the UNB Athletes, Stewart Galloway and Pauline Lordon presented to Dr. James Downey the Gold Ring of Distinction. As Dr. Downey prepares to end his final term as UNB President, he received this award to show the appreciation of the Athletic Society for his support. It was a season of unforgettable athletics and promises to be just as good next year.

VIEW FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

By Tim Lynch

Blue Eagles Reach Apex

The Moncton Blue Eagles flexed their wings nationally last Saturday as they captured their third national hockey championship in the last ten years winning 2-1 over Sir Wilfrid Laurier University. It was a superb hockey game. There were several solid hits and some exceptional goaltending. Mathieu Balfreau was the Moncton hero with the game winner midway through the third period. The Blue Eagles represented the AUA superbly, we should all be proud.

The rich are richer, and the poor are now richer, too. Thus, baseball commences. Frankly, I could care less. With the foul stench emanating from the spirit of recent player-owner negotiations, I probably won't be interested in baseball until the pennant races are aizzling. Speaking of pennant races, the final few games of the NHL regular season go a long way in deciding who will be successful in the opening round of the playoffs, given the success that most teams have had on several occasions this season. This year the NHL regular season does mean something. There are several teams to watch in the playoffs. The divisional and conference favourites will now be highlighted.

Wales Conference Adams Division

The Philadelphia Flyers. What? Yes, the Flyers certainly have a shot to win the Adams Division this year. After all, they finished the regular season with the best record in the division. They have a strong forward line and a solid defense. They have a chance to win the Adams Division this year. Given the Habs' dismal record, they will not be a threat. If they have home-ice advantage, they will have a chance to win the Adams Division. The Montreal offense is still improving, but they are not a threat to the Flyers.

Patrick Division

The Tampa Bay Lightning. The Tampa Bay Lightning have a chance to win the Patrick Division this year. They have a strong forward line and a solid defense. They have a chance to win the Patrick Division this year. Given the Penguins' record, they will not be a threat. If they have home-ice advantage, they will have a chance to win the Patrick Division. The Montreal offense is still improving, but they are not a threat to the Lightning.

Campbell Conference Norris Division

The St. Louis Blues. The St. Louis Blues have a chance to win the Norris Division this year. They have a strong forward line and a solid defense. They have a chance to win the Norris Division this year. Given the Blackhawks' record, they will not be a threat. If they have home-ice advantage, they will have a chance to win the Norris Division. The Toronto won't advance past the second round.

Smythe Division

The New York Rangers. The New York Rangers have a chance to win the Smythe Division this year. They have a strong forward line and a solid defense. They have a chance to win the Smythe Division this year. Given the Canadiens' record, they will not be a threat. If they have home-ice advantage, they will have a chance to win the Smythe Division. The Winnipeg Jets. They've got proficient players in Pat Elgin, and Dave McLlwain. Probably never heard of these guys, but they are good players. They have a chance to win the Smythe Division.

The Montreal Canadiens. The Montreal Canadiens have a chance to win the Smythe Division this year. They have a strong forward line and a solid defense. They have a chance to win the Smythe Division this year. Given the Canadiens' record, they will not be a threat. If they have home-ice advantage, they will have a chance to win the Smythe Division.

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