

ATHLETICS GROWING

By Kelly Craig

Jim Born is the Athletic Director of UNB. This is a position that he has held for the past six years. Jim is originally from Dowagiac, Michigan. He received both his undergraduate and graduate degree from Michigan State University.

In 1969, Jim became Assistant football coach and wrestling coach as St. Francis Xavier. He also became a member of the faculty. Two years later he became football coach, wrestling coach, and a teacher here at the University of New Brunswick. Six years ago he replaced Malcolm Early as Athletic Director.

This year has been a successful year for athletics at UNB. Not so much successful that UNB has won any AUAA titles, but it has been a success in other ways. The Athletics went through a season of growth and development. Most of the teams this year consisted of freshman and sophomore players.

The athletic program has gained this season. The enrollment in athletics has increased by three times over the past three or four years. It's been an informing season for the teams with seminars like the drug seminar they had. The schedules have been better and team travel has improved. This year the team captains have had the opportunity

to meet and add their input and Jim Born feels this has provided a "better program". Also, Varsity Mania took off this year with a bang and provided good fan support for the games.

The athletic program will not be expanding as far as more teams are concerned because of financial considerations. Of course, "we have not been in a position where we had to drop a sport since wrestling came in in 1971," said Jim of the athletic department expansion. However, the program is expanding as far as interest is concerned. The interest in sports seems to have grown and as stated the enrollment has increased tremendously.

According to Shirley Cleave,

the intramural program went, "reasonably well. The men had reasonably good participation as did the women." Next year the same sort of intramural program will be done. One exception will be that the inter-residence/intramural program will be locked together.

Jim feels that the relationship between teaching and coaching goes "hand in hand". In order to have a successful program, full time coaches are required. Coaching and teaching are synonymous as far as a good coach makes for a good teacher. Teaching gives you a perspective for coaching.

The program at the athletic department is definitely building itself up. The coaches worked

very hard and brought a lot of injuries and rookies through the season. "Everyone related well together," said Jim of the coaches, staff and athletic director. Down the road, maybe two or three years, UNB will be hanging some more AUAA banners in the gymnasium. There is also a possibility of a CIAU title or two.

"This has been a very enjoyable year and a successful one," Jim said in speaking of Varsity Mania and the Shinerama during Orientation week. The number of students taking part was very good and pleasant to see. Now the only thing left to do is prepare for next year and another "crack" at the AUAA's.

WAYNE OR LEMIEUX ?

Mario Lemieux is bigger, stronger, taller, younger and even has curlier hair, but none of that makes Wayne Gretzky particularly nervous.

For most of the decade, willowy Wayne Gretzky has ruled the NHL, a solitary superstar who transcended the rest.

Now there is clearly at least a good race.

The skinny player known as hockey's Great One wears his championship mileage on

diamond-studded fingers, having won four Stanley Cups with the Edmonton Oilers.

Today he is enough recovered from the slightly broken heart incurred when he was sent from the Oilers to the Los Angeles Kings to be in studious pursuit of a fifth cup.

While Lemieux has gradually gained recognition for his domineering assaults on opposing defencemen, a bold style that contrasts with Gretzky's evasive

maneuverings in the enemy zone, he hasn't yet intertwined his statistics with the sort of charisma that cloaked Gretzky's career from the start.

Like the 27-year-old Gretzky, Lemieux has never scored fewer than 100 points a season since coming to the NHL.

But unlike Gretzky the 23-year-old Lemieux, gangly and powerful with spidery limbs that outreach all others, has never tested his talent in the play-offs.

Getting Pittsburgh into the play-offs, now that he secured his \$1.6 million contract as proof of his and the club's mutual indebtedness, is Lemieux's mission.

But it was Gretzky's track record, in the form of four Stanley Cups, that proved this year to be the undoing of his job

security.

While Lemieux was ensconced in Pittsburgh like a monumental promise of greatness to come, the already Great One was shipped to a slumbering hockey market on the West Coast and asked to work magic there.

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A CLOSE RACE

A comparison of the careers
of Wayne Gretzky and
Mario Lemieux:

GAMES
(through Dec. 11)

Gretzky: 726
Lemieux: 319

GOALS per Game

Gretzky: 0.83
Lemieux: 0.76

ASSISTS per Game

Gretzky: 1.56
Lemieux: 1.08

POINTS per Game

Gretzky: 2.40
Lemieux: 1.84



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