

# SPORTS

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## Devils in playoff hunt

By IAN SUTHERLAND  
Brunswickan Staff

A combination of the Red Devils winning and Dalhousie Tigers losing last weekend has kept UNB in the hunt for a playoff berth in the Atlantic Universities Hockey Conference.

Last Friday night, the Red Devils romped to a 9-3 victory over cross town rival St. Thomas Tommies while at the same time the Tigers were dropping a decision in Sackville against Mount Allison Mounties. Dalhousie then travelled to Charlottetown Saturday and found themselves on the losing end of a 7-3 score.

Rookie Robbie Forbes paced the Devils last Friday against STU with three goals and three assists, while linemates John LeBlanc counted two goals and

four assists and Mark Jeffrey one goal and four assists. Mark Welton added two more goals for the Devils, with George Kelly contributing a singleton.

### Rookie Robbie Forbes paced the Devils last Friday against STU.

The results of last weekend leave Dalhousie in fourth place with a record of 8-9-2, while the Devils are fifth at 8-11. The top four teams advance to the playoffs. The Devils travel to Charlottetown this Saturday and Sunday for games against UPEI, with other games remaining against St. Thomas, Acadia and Dalhousie, all in Fredericton.

Dalhousie, meanwhile, has home games remaining against St. Mary's Huskies and Mon-

ton and hit the road for contests against St. F.X., St. Thomas and UNB. The Dalhousie-UNB game is the second-to-last game of the season for both teams, scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 16th at the Aitken Centre. The Devils also travel down to the LBR on Wednesday, Feb. 13 for the third game against St. Thomas and face off against Acadia on Sunday, Feb. 17 for the final game of the regular season.

"If we win all five of our games, I can't imagine us not making the playoffs," Devils' coach Don MacAdam observed. "I don't see Dalhousie winning all of their remaining games. I think we can make the playoffs by winning four of our remaining games."

The fact that the Devils are still talking about a playoff spot has a lot to do with goaltender Omar Fournier,

By IAN SUTHERLAND  
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The Atlantic Universities Athletic Association swimming championships will be held at the Sir Max Aitken Pool here Feb. 14-16, with both the men's and women's team from UNB expected to challenge for medals.

The three day event sees heats being run each of the three mornings between 10 a.m. and 12 noon, with finals going each of the three nights

beginning at 6 p.m. The Sir Max Aitken Pool is in the Lady Beaverbrook Gymnasium. No admission is being charged for any of the events.

Both the men's and women's championships were won by teams from Dalhousie University last year, and both of those teams are regarded as the teams to beat in the championships this time around. Other schools who will be competing include Acadia, Memorial and Mount Allison.

and the effect he has had on the team. The Devils played their best home game of the season a week and a half ago when they beat Moncton in Fournier's first start as a Devil, and then walked all over the Tommies.

"It all started with Omar," MacAdam agreed. "He added extra life to the team by making the big save when we needed it. And the team has allowed fewer shots on goal in the last two games. Omar definitely picked up the team."

Against the Panthers, MacAdam is looking for the good effort UNB teams have always given against the

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Charlottetown school. "The Red Devils have always played well against UPEI and Moncton, no matter where we are in the standings. We also have five guys on our team from the Island, so they have extra motivation playing in front of their friends and family."

## Raiders Drop 2 more: face Acadia tonight

By IAN CAMPBELL  
Brunswickan Staff

The UNB Red Raiders game up two tough losses on the weekend to the visiting St. Francis Xavier X-men. Friday night the Raiders lost 69-65 and Saturday afternoon they were outplayed in a 75-63 contest. Both games were exciting as the Raiders never seemed out of contention until the final minutes of each. The Raiders continue to show their sound defensive game, and give a high-spirited performance despite their poor conference record with now stands at one win and twelve losses. Their inexperience and lack of scoring punch remain their problems.

In Friday's confrontation UNB showed some come-from-behind skills as they overcame a bad first quarter and tied the X-men at 57 with 8:53 to go in the game. That first quarter showed the relentless defence of the Raiders indicative of their play throughout most of the series. In that first quarter loose balls were dived at by players resembling darting snakes. Such tenacity did not let up. By the fourth quarter a tired UNB side still had the grit to send out for men charging back to stop the long pass of the X-men. Special mention should be given to Doug Rutherford who held the scor-

ing power of St. Francis's Chris Sellitri to just 12 points.

Rutherford and Dale McIsaac, UNB's two big men, demonstrated their own inside

scoring prowess tallying 19 and 12 points respectively. Rutherford's 19 mark was tops in the game followed by X-men Brent Baker who had 19 points. The

teams were tied in field goals at 28. Fouls against the Raiders made the difference in the score. Only poor shooting from the foul line by St. Francis kept the Raiders close, that, and their own accuracy at the line.

Coach Don Nelson was pleased with the performance of this club. He noted that, "the team played hard but lacked the bit play at the right time." Coach Nelson attributed the loss to the problems which have plagued the team all year long. "We lack a prolific scorer and a big man inside. The team needs a 50% shooter like a Scott Devine or a Donny McCormack," he said. With the game as close as it was Friday night it was indeed the inability of UNB to make "the big play at the right time" that lost it.

Saturday's match was not as close. UNB was, however, able to take the lead for the first time in the series during the first half. They did not retain it and came out of that half down by three points. It was a half marked by chippy play by both sides as they battled for position underneath the baskets. Refereeing was lenient.

Despite the physicalness of the game it was not as strongly played defensively by the Raiders. The scoring authority of St. Francis was released in this more free-wheeling style. A poised Brent Baker scored 17 points in the first half alone.

Coach Nelson's well placed time-outs helped control the moment of St. Francis's explosive side not evident the night before. The impressive individual efforts of Raider Mark Newell, who dropped in many of his high arced outside shots, were not enough to recapture the lead from the more experienced St. Francis team.

The Raiders fell behind early in the second half. Foul trouble continued. With 9:40 left to play, the Raider's big centre, Dale McIsaac, fouled out. This was devastating for the Raiders who were consistently giving up the ball to the superior rebounding game of the X-men led by Chris Sellitri. The Raiders struggled to stay within 10 points of St. Francis in that second half. The game finished with a basket at the buzzer by X-men Ken Scott and a 75-63 score. High scorers for St. Francis were the game leading 27 of Brent Baker and Ken Gayle's 14. Top men for UNB were Tom Gillespie with 176 and Mark Newell with 14.

Coach Nelson, although disappointed with the weekend, was optimistic saying, "that such tough games increase the level of play among the players." The Raiders will face two more "tough games" at home tonight and tomorrow as they face number one ranked Acadia. No doubt, they can use the experience.

