

Sports



— WOMEN'S BASKETBALL —

Reds face tough weekend

Gamble, Savage step up after sickness claims Hale and Fliieger

Varsity Briefs

6 in a row for hockey team

The Varsity Reds hockey team downed the St. Mary's Huskies last Saturday 6-3 for their sixth straight win. Derek Cormier led the way for the Reds notching a goal and two assists while Alastair Still added a goal and one assist. Chris Peach, Rob Knesaurek, Toby Burkitt and Todd Sparks each had singles for UNB. The team heads to Nova Scotia this weekend to face Acadia and Dalhousie. Assistant coach Jim Fuyarchuk left the team last week to coach the South African National team in Johannesburg. Fuyarchuk will prepare the team for the World Hockey Championships C pool from March 12 to 26.

W. Volleyball continues run

Both Varsity Red Volleyball teams hosted Dalhousie last weekend with mixed results. The women extended their perfect record to 10-0 with a straight set win on Sunday and a 3-1 win on Saturday. Chantal Martin had 16 kills in the first effort while Lori Gorman had 8 kills on Sunday. The men weren't so fortunate as they lost both games in straight sets dropping them to 2-4. Both teams head to Dalhousie today for a weekend tournament.

Athletes of the Week

Michelle MacWhirter, Swimming

Michelle MacWhirter is this week's Female Athlete of the Week. Michelle is a first year BPE student from Cornerbrooke, Nfld. Her previous accomplishments include Cornerbrooke Athlete of the year and swimmer of the year. This weekend Michelle was named Diet Pepsi Swimmer of the Meet against Dalhousie. She won six out of six events and qualified for the National Championships. "Her contribution was essential to UNB's first win over Dalhousie women in almost 5 years," said coach Andrew Cole.

Alastair Still, Hockey

Alastair Still is this week's Male Athlete of the Week. Alastair is a 2nd year Science student from Mississauga, Ont. he was named AUAA Diet Pepsi Player of the Game against the St. Mary's Huskies. "With his strong work ethic and strong penalty killing performance Alastair provided a lot of on ice leadership throughout the last two games," says coach Mike Johnston. On Saturday, Alastair scored his first goal of the season and killed off several key penalties.

This Week in UNB Sports

Friday, January 21

Swimming @ Dalhousie Invitational (to 23rd)
M. Volleyball @ Dalhousie Classic (to 23rd)
W. Volleyball @ Dalhousie Classic (to 23rd)

Saturday, January 22

W. Basketball vs. St. FX (6:30 pm @ LB Gym)
M. Basketball vs. St. FX (8:30 pm @ LB Gym)
Hockey @ Acadia (CHSR 97.9 FM, 7:30 pm)
Wrestling @ St. FX

Sunday, January 23

W. Basketball vs. Dalhousie (1:00 pm @ LB Gym)
M. Basketball vs. Dalhousie (3:00 pm @ LB Gym)
Hockey @ Dalhousie (CHSR 97.9 FM, 3 pm)

UNBelievable!

by Matt Collins
Sports Staff

The Varsity Reds women's basketball team welcomes St. Francis Xavier and Dalhousie to the Lady Beaverbrooke Gym for what should be their toughest weekend of the season.

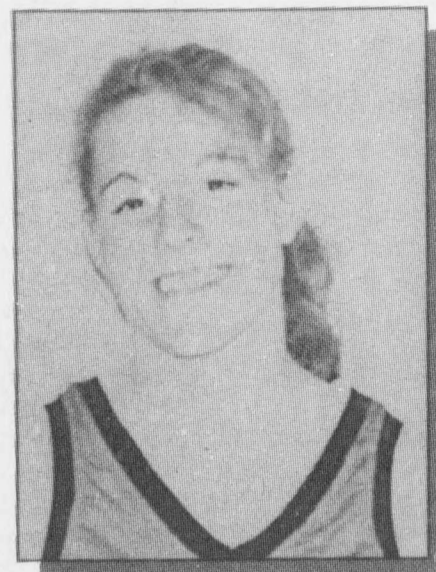
They tip off against the X-ettes at 6:30 pm tomorrow night and face the Tigers in a 1:00 pm start on Sunday. St. FX lies second in the AUAA standings while Dalhousie is third.

The Saint Mary's Huskies handed team their first loss of the regular season last weekend in Halifax. The Huskies, who lead by six at the half, went on to post a 68-50 victory.

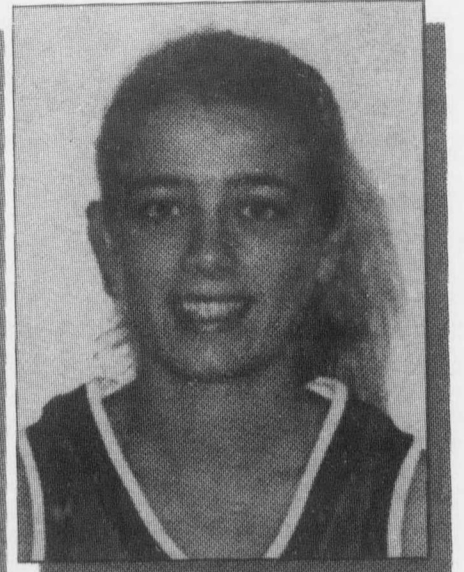
The Reds made the trip to Nova Scotia without the services of Jackie Fliieger and Bonnie Hale. Fliieger, the second leading scorer on the team, has been out with a mild case of mononucleosis and could be back in the line-up as early as tomorrow. Hale, who is counted on for her leadership and consistency, has been out with an illness as well and is not expected to be back until the end of February.

Without Fliieger and Hale, the back-court duties of the Reds now lie in the hands of Bridget Gamble and Erin Savage. In only their second year of university ball, these two have been thrust into a position where they have no choice but to perform. While they may be feeling a great deal of pressure, they are confident of each others skills and depend on each other when they step on the floor.

They both have played on New Brunswick Provincial teams and have become very familiar with each others style of play. As Gamble explains, "Erin and I play well together. We both can get the ball up the court and I feel comfortable



Erin Savage



Bridget Gamble

when she's there. We read each other extremely well."

Savage also feels that the two play as if they were one. "I feel we clique really well. I feel more comfortable with her than anyone else. It's like we always know where the other is going to be."

While the two have been accustomed to coming off the bench in game situations, they always have to be prepared for what the team demands of them. With a present squad of only eight girls, they have to learn to adjust their individual role.

Instead of being a back-up point guard, Gamble is now running the show for the Reds. While she did have an off day during the Saint Mary's game, she had a formidable performance in the 52-46 victory over Acadia. But she knows she's got to bring her game up a notch.

As she points out, "The team has to count on me to get the ball up the court and I've got to do it."

Savage also realizes that she has to step up if the team is to be successful. "My role right now is scoring. I play good defence but I really have to score much more." These were words of truth after watching her performance against the Axettes last Friday.

With the score 44-42 in favor of the Reds with 1:06 left in the game, Savage hit a 16 footer to put the team up by four. She then came back defensively and caused a turnover, and sank 6-7 freethrows in the last minute of play to seal the victory.

So while they did suffer their first loss of the season, the Reds also grew as a team. While Savage and Gamble may have doubts in their minds as to whether or not they can handle the pressure, they have no reason to.

These are two very talented players who have a lot to offer to this team. And the experience they got last weekend is only going to make them that much better.

Swimming

Teams drown competition at meet

Men sweep while women notch first win over Dal in 5 years

by Maria Paisley
Sports Staff

The Varsity Reds Swim teams are heading to Dalhousie University for the AUAA Conference Invitational on Saturday and Sunday with the women's squad tied for first with Dal and the men's side is in first place ahead of Dal in the AUAA standings.

The Reds started off the second part of their season on a strong note by dominating the Acadia Axemen and Axewomen and the Dalhousie Tigers last weekend. UNB's women's squad had their first win over the Dal Tigers in almost five years winning eight of the 11 events while the men's team won all but two of the events. The AUAA

swimmers of the meet were awarded to UNB's Michelle MacWhirter and Iain Tennent who both won each of the three events they entered.

In the Acadia meet the women's squad won all of the events while the men's squad won all of the events except one.

There were a number of outstanding performances achieved by many of the Varsity Reds including Paula Crutcher's first place swim on Sunday in the 800 m freestyle where she missed the CIAU qualifying time by 0.26 second, a heart break but a sure inspiration for her teammates. In addition, UNB won every relay that they were entered in at both Acadia and Dal.

Michelle MacWhirter has been named both AUAA Athlete of the week and UNB Athlete of the week for her contribution to the team's wins over the weekend. MacWhirter won the 50 m freestyle, 100 m fly and was a member of the 800 m relay team against Acadia and at Dal she won the 50 m freestyle,

200 m fly and the 400 m freestyle relay. She was named AUAA Diet Pepsi swimmer of the meet at Dal. In addition she won six out of a possible six events and in doing so, she qualified for the National Championships. "Her contribution was essential to UNB's first win over Dalhousie women in almost five years", said coach Cole.

On the men's side Brian Woods had a strong performance at the Acadia meet winning the 50 m freestyle, 100 m backstroke and the 100 m freestyle. While Iain Tennent won the 200 m freestyle, 200 m fly and the 400 m freestyle at Dalhousie.

The Reds are heading back to Dalhousie this weekend for the AUAA Conference Invitational where they will meet all of the teams in the conference. After this meet they will have one more AUAA meet which will be against Mt. A before the AUAA Championships which will be held at UNB in late February.