Varsity Reds Off to Slow Start

by Maria Paisley **Sports Editor**

The UNB Varsity Reds Soccer team started off the season on a losing note being defeated by divisional rival Universite de Moncton Blue Eagles 3-1.

This is coach Gary Brown's 24th year of coaching the men's soccer team and for 22 of those years the team has made the playoffs. Last year the team was plagued by the injuries of three big players in mid season and were driven out of a playoff position. Although their winter season was successful with two big wins, the Nashwaksis and the Main Maritime Academy, two major indoor tournaments.

The Varsity Reds did manage to garner some honors last year with the league's leading scorer mid way through the season Gray Zurheide. Zurheide was named the AUAA All-Star and CIAU 2nd Team All-Canadian for his performance. He was also named the UNB and AUAA Male Athlete of the Week three times last year and UNB Male Athlete of the Month for September. In addition he was named CIAU Athlete of the Week once last year (only UNB male

Reds Tony White and Brad MacVicar try to beat a U de M player in a 3-1 loss.



Photo by Kevin G. Porter

athlete to do so). "Currently Zurheide is injured and is expected back in the middle of the season making it a come from behind season." said Brown.

including both goaltenders, and 30 players trying out for the team. In addition to having some key recruits the Varsity Reds also have a new assistant coach. Mike Green, formerly of the Australian under-19 national team, will be helping the goal tenders.

Brown considers 17 year old Matthew Compton, who played for the PEI under-19 team during the summer, "a great find". Compton scored the lone UNB goal against There are 9 returning players, U de M and his play earned him the UNB Male Athlete of the Week.

Brown feels that "the team has a chance at the championship and the teams objective for the year is to make the playoffs." The Reds next game will be Sunday at Mt. A and the following weekend they will have two home games.

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