

Ironmen on upbeat

by Bones

On Saturday the UNB Rugby Club slaughtered its opposition by a combined score of 101-10.

The Ironmen 1st XV mangled the UNB Old Boys 19-0. In the set plays the pack more than held their own. The back row of Andrew Lauchlan, John Sparks and Dave Murchison shut down any opposing back row play. Tight five Andrew Van Wart, Jon Beggs, Bernie Acre, Ken LeDrew, Kyle Leavitt refused to be pushed around and stormed into second phase play.

Rucking on every position, the forwards drove the Old Boys off the ball. Scrumhalf Hal Brothers used the second phase ball to good avail, spinning it out quickly to the backs or popping it to a forward on the crash ball.

Continually attacking, the Ironmen created an opening which winger John Bujold put to good use, zig-zagging in from the 22. Off a 5 yard scrum fullback Tim Keddy came into the line to receive the ball on the overlap and score. He then kicked his second of two converts for the day to give UNB a 14-0 halftime lead.

The Ironmen maintained their ferocity in the second half, driving the Old

Boys backwards. UNB rounded off the scoring as flyhalf Prentice Durbin faked wide and then passed to winger Dean Plant who charged in for the try.

Captain John Sparks is confident about tomorrow's game against the Caledonia Cup Champion St. John Trojans, "We've improved a great deal this season, the game on Saturday proved that, it was a great fifteen man performance. I've always maintained that individually we're better than the Trojans and now that were playing as a team, if we maintain that discipline and commitment I'm confident about tomorrow's game."

The 2nd XV marched onto the field and proceeded to demolish UPEI. In a span of thirty minutes they scored 31 unanswered points. Rucking the ball through 2nd and 3rd phase ball they overwhelmed the Panther forwards and continually found the overlap in the backfield.

Eightman Paul Jaros opened the scoring on an eightman pickup which saw him sell the dummy. Flanker Joel Gillis then notched a try after taking a pass from lock Neill Britt. The remaining 3 tries came from the backs. Centre Harold William scored on a 60 yard run,

winger Frank Dolan added 5 more on an overlap set up by a well formed ruck, and fullback Dan Maginn finished the scoring by joining the pack and helped drive over the line for yet another push over try. William converted three tries.

However, for the remainder of the game the Ironmen fell into a lull and let UPEI dictate the type of game played, finishing the match having allowed a try for a 31-7 victory.

While confident, South African born captain Joel Gillis is cautious about tomorrow's rematch in Sackville against Mt. A, "I was impressed with how well the pack and backfield worked together. If we impose our aggressive style of play and keep our cool we have a good shot at winning. Mt. A will be tough opposition, and we can't afford to have a 20 minute lull, it almost cost us last time."

The C side rounded off the afternoon with a match that can only be described as slaughter. Playing the Ironman game plan to a T, they refused to relent their attacking, rucking game. Consistently pounding the Panthers second team they drove for a 51-3 victory. Of special note is the spectacular footwork of rookie flanker Rob Hayes.

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Varsity Hockey

from Bridgewater's Senior AAA team. The 6'3", 200 lb defenceman may not be ready for the starting line-up but will figure in the team by the end of the season.

The list of retirees is long and distinguished. Gone are Ken Murchison and Clyde Simmons, two leaders who became Red staples over the last five years. Also gone are sharpshooter Trevor Boland and defenceman Rob

Boldon. And of course, both goaltenders from last year have pursued alternate avenues in the hockey world (Beer Leagues?).

But the hopes of the team lie in those players who will be returning. Newly crowned captain Todd Sparks will lead the way in his third season with the team while veteran assistants Karl Taylor, Mike Cavanagh and Alistair Still will help his cause.

Returning defencemen Dan Sherstanka and Kelly Reed will help the team's transition game as well as

notch a few points while sophomore Derek Cormier will make another run at the League scoring title now that Acadia's Duane Dennis is with the Edmonton Oilers' organization.

Reed was invited by Johnston to the National Team camp in Calgary this September and played a game against the Edmonton Oilers before succumbing to an illness which ended his try-out. However, the team will make an exhibition swing of the this winter and Reed is likely to be in the line-up when the circus hits the Maritimes.

Habs split Thanksgiving games

by Kevin G. Porter
Brunswick Sports

The Fredericton Canadiens opened their fifth season at home last weekend with a split as they beat the St. John Flames Saturday night but lost to the Portland Pirates in a matinee game on Monday.

The opening ceremony Saturday night involved a local performing group who sang some 'oldies' to warm up the crowd for Candace Cameron who toured the ice in a jeep. Candace's tour stopped at center ice where she met Habs bench boss Jacques Demers for the ceremonial first face-off.

With the opening ceremony behind them the game proceeded characterized by fast action and close checking yet resulted in a 2 goal deficit by the end of the first. The first period also involved a heavy weight-bout where Habs' Turner Stevenson thoroughly punished Todd Simpson of the Flames as they brawled for a several minutes.

The Habs tenacity paid off in the second as they were blessed with two power plays and as many goals from new comer Craig Conroy. The second period was however marred by the injury of Habs' Robert Guillet in a spectacular, and apparently painful collision between he and the Flames' goaltender Jason Muzzatti. The collision saw Guillet helped off the ice, not to return, while Muzzatti received treatment on the ice and remained in the game.

The third period saw the Flames grab the lead again, only to be tied up by a spectacular goal from Valeri Bure with only 2:07 left to force overtime.

Play in O/T was fast and furious resulting in a Jim Campbell goal for the Habs to break the stalemate at 4-3, improving the Habs' record to 2-0 against their provincial rivals.

The game on Monday was unfortunately far less of a show as the league's best team, the Portland Pirates, proved their standing is no accident. The Habs did manage to out shoot the Pirates and keep the score within reach for most of the game, but ultimately their lack of presence in their own end resulted in an 8-5 victory for the Pirates.

The Canadiens could not get a break as they were kept to the outside by good defensive work by the Pirates while both Habs goalkeepers seemed to be left open for any and all types of shots. The game was highlighted by some good scoring chances and five nice goals

along with both heavy-weight and middle-weight match-ups. First it was Donald Brashear who picked Kerry Clark (a Wendel Clark look-alike, brother perhaps?) out for a little two step which ended up with Brashear shaking the stuffing out of Clark. Craig Ferguson was featured in the second bout of the afternoon as he brawled with Jason Christie to a split decision.

Attendance was better than the pre-season games, although there was a small crowd in attendance on Saturday night and a respectable crowd on Monday afternoon. Hopefully the attendance figures will increase as this is probably Fredericton's only hope of seeing a sixth season at the AUC. The Canadiens' next home game is against the Adirondack Red Wings on Thursday Oct. 20 at 7:05.



Monctonian Scott Fraser getting one by Portland. Photo Kevin G. Porter

VIEW From The Cheap Seats

By Mark Savoie

Not so long ago the province of Quebec boasted of a major league city by the name of Montreal. While Montreal was not as large as New York or London, nor as historically and culturally significant as Rome or Paris, it was both large enough and old enough and culturally diverse enough that it could proudly hold its head up as one of the world's great cities. That was then. This is now, and now Montreal has been supplanted by both Toronto and Vancouver within Canada, and indeed, has become a backwater in world terms. Montreal is no longer a great city.

Among the areas where Montreal's second rate status is most apparent is sports. There once was a time when Montreal sportsmen dominated the Canadian sporting world. The Montreal Amateur Athletic Association set the standard for what was acceptable in Canadian sports. It was their definition of 'amateur' which decided who could compete at sports across the entire country. This definition was both classist and racist (by definition, no Indian could be an amateur), but it was the standard which all other sporting organisations in Canada used as their guidelines. Even Montreal's most prevalent ethnic group, the French, were usually excluded from membership in the MAAA. Etienne Desmarreau was only allowed to join the association after he had won a gold medal at the 1904 St. Louis Olympic Games. Even then, he was not awarded a voting membership.

Kingston, Ontario is the official birthplace of hockey; just as Cooperstown, NY is the official birthplace of baseball; but all serious hockey historians acknowledge that Montreal better deserves this title. (In so claiming, these 'serious' hockey historians somehow ignore the fact that the two McGill University students who introduced the game to their classmates claimed to have learned it in Halifax.) There is no doubt that basketball was invented in Springfield, Mass. by Michael J. Naismith; a man who had received his education in physical education from McGill University in Montreal. Even American football—not the real kind—has its roots in Montreal. McGill and Harvard University once played two games of football against each other on successive days in the 1870s. The first day they played by Harvard's rules; the second day by McGill's rules. It was adjudged by Harvard's students that the McGill rules were superior, and the game evolved to the point where it has now become possible for William Perry to play it professionally.

When it comes to hockey, Montreal's apologists will quite justly point to the Canadiens. Les Habitants have indeed single handedly kept Montreal one step ahead of Toronto; or, more accurately, the Montreal Forum one step ahead of Maple Leaf Gardens; as hockey's Mecca. However, at one point the Canadiens did not have to do it alone. Six different teams from Montreal have won the Stanley Cup. In addition to the Canadiens are the aforementioned Amateur Athletic Association, the Victorias, the Shamrocks, the Wanderers, and the Maroons. With the exception of the Maroons, all of these teams won their Stanley Cups before the Canadiens even existed. The Canadiens may well be the most important part of the Montreal tradition in hockey, but they are just a part of that tradition.

Montreal's heritage in football is not so grand. While the Montreal Alouettes have won their share of Grey Cups, their efforts have been eclipsed by those of the Edmonton Eskimos, not to mention the tough local standard set by the hockey team. Still, the tradition of the Montreal Alouettes is a proud one, and not one which need to hang its head. Unless, of course, you include the fiasco that was Vince Ferragamo and Nelson Skalbania. Skalbania's ownership ended up in the team becoming the Concordes and then the Alouettes again and then finally folding. Now there is no CFL team in Montreal. Answer me this: If Montreal is such a major Canadian City then why is the CFL willing to allow it to remain without a team? The CFL has teams in Baltimore, Maryland; Las Vegas, Nevada; Sacramento, California; and Shreveport, Louisiana; but none in Montreal. It's not just a matter that Montrealers wouldn't support the team, Torontonians don't support the Argonauts either. The difference is that the CFL would and will move heaven and earth to keep a team in Toronto. They can hardly claim to be a legitimate entity otherwise.

The tragedy of Montreal sports is baseball. Montreal has been a great baseball town for almost as long as it has been a great hockey town. The great Brooklyn Dodger teams of the 1950s were weaned in Montreal. Branch Rickey specifically chose Montreal as the city in which he would introduce Jackie Robinson to Organized Baseball. He did so with the mind that Montreal was a great international, multi-cultural, cosmopolitan city where the young Robinson could integrate himself with his teammates in an atmosphere with as little racism as possible. The Montreal part of this great experiment was a great success. It has been said that in Montreal, Jackie Robinson became the first black man ever to be mobbed by a white crowd with love in their hearts instead of hate. When the Dodgers moved from Brooklyn to Los Angeles in 1958 their connection with the Montreal Royals died, and soon the franchise died as well. It died and was not resurrected because it was considered by all that it was time for Montreal to have a major league team. The Montreal Expos became Canada's third major league team, and first since 1878. Now twenty-five years later, many expert baseball analysts are saying that the franchise cannot remain in Montreal. The combination of small crowds and a small external market have seemingly made it impossible to compete at the economic level. Don't be fooled by the Expos' success on the diamond this year. The Expos of the 1990s are a miracle of good management. The problem with miracles is that you can't call on them on demand, and that they don't last. If the Expos remain in Montreal, the day their management slips a notch to just average or especially if it ever becomes bad management, then the crash will be catastrophic. Perhaps the saddest thing about the whole mess is that the talk is of moving the team to Buffalo. Is Buffalo your idea of a great city, in any sense of the word?

If you still have doubt whether Montreal is still a great city ask yourself a few questions. Can you conceive of Montreal hosting another World's Fair like it did with Expo in 1967? Can you conceive of Montreal hosting another Summer Olympic Games like it did in 1976? I can't. Ask yourself another question: Where do the Raptors and the Grizzlies of the NBA play out of? The answer: Toronto and Vancouver. There is no serious thought of expansion to Montreal of which I am aware. Why should there be? Why should the NBA consider anchoring itself to a dying city?

The problem is not Montreal. In and of itself Montreal remains a great city. But even a great city does not exist in a vacuum. Montreal's second rate status is a direct result of the xenophobia of Quebec nationalism. In their frenzied defence of all things *québécois*, the Quebec *nationalistes* have also attacked all things not *québécois*. In so doing they have created an insular society where the cosmopolitan world of international professional sports cannot well survive.

Montreal need not be a small market. Its population is above that of many cities which have professional franchises at the major league level in each of baseball, basketball, football, and hockey. The real problem in terms of financing a franchise in Montreal is that you can't merchandise the teams' logos outside of the province. It used to be that all of Canada was a shared market for the Expos and the Blue Jays. Now the Blue Jays are Canada's team while the Expos are just Quebec's team. The popularity of the Toronto Maple Leafs throughout the country during their recent resurgence, despite the fact that it was the Montreal Canadiens who won the Stanley Cup during that resurgence, is a sure sign that the rest of Canada is hesitant to cheer for a Quebec team, even if they have cheered for that team in the past. I am a diehard Canadiens and Expos fan. If the Alouettes should ever return to the CFL, my allegiance to them will return as well. But if Quebec separates I will be gone, joining the legions who have already left. For the bleu, blanc, et rouge of Les Glorieux it will really hurt, but to be honest, I don't think even the Habs will be able to survive a separate Quebec. The problems of recruiting players to play in the third rate, racist nation that will be Quebec will make it impossible for the greatest tradition in North American sports to survive.