#### -CLUB SPORTS

### Ironmen forging ahead

by Ashes and Bones

Fredericton Loyalists.

running team that knew its own Croucher charged the field. strengths and weaknesses to the practicing but for a week.

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as captain Kevin Kerstens, Chris lead 5-0. However, the continue the U.N.B. rivalry with Irwin, Ian Johnstone, Matt determination of the Ironnen S.T.U. at noon followed at 3:30 Thorpe, and John Beggs had played together in the past, the faces of Not to be denied they slowly County. Welsh recruit Dylan Ashpole, Quebec flanker Andrew Lauchlan, former All-Canadian defensive beautiful try for Pack Leader back Mark Greatorex were being Jeremy Battye to tie the score at branded as Ironmen for the first five apiece.

then added another to go up 6-0 midway through the first half. The Ironmen refused to be daunted and after a tenacious goal minutes they slowly advanced up the field.

Rucking and mauling the ball ferociously they drove the Loyalists back until they could not help conceding a try in the dying seconds of the half. Unfortunately the convert attempt failed and the Ironmen

trailed 6-5. The second half began much like the first with the Loyalists quickly opening the scoring with yet another conversion. At this point the superior fitness of the Ironmen showed itself as they mounted another offence culminating when captain Kevin Kersten after quickly taking the ball on a penalty kick and driving into the Loyalist Pack, passed off to Dylan Ashpole who dove into the end zone for his second try of the game.

This try would prove to be the winner for though the Loyalists fought on with determination, coming a few yards short at times of scoring the winning try, they were unable to breach the Ironmen defence. The Loyalists final chance to win came when awarded several penalty kicks their kicker drifted the ball inches wide on each occasion.

The 1st XV were unable to rest on their laurels as the following Saturday they played the Caledonia Cup Champion St. John Trojans. The Trojans have in recent years been the most dominant rugby force in the province and so the young, relatively new Ironmen team were faced with a daunting task.

The much bigger and stronger Trojan pack took immediate control, but it was not until the end of the first quarter that they managed to break through UNB's fearless defence. The first half saw 2 further tries by the Trojans with the last coming on the

stroke of half-time. The 2nd half opened up with the Ironmen maintaining their spirited effort. However, clever tactical rugby resulted in overlaps on which the Trojans capitalized. Against the run of play, a back move by U.N.B. enabled right-winger Ian Johnstone to cross the line, bringing the final tally to 35-5.

with a dramatic 10-9 win over the Ironmen like it. Rain poured backfield to win the match 15-5. down from the heavens and wind

> gained control of the match until Captain John Croucher set up a

The Ironmen maintained their The Loyalists opened the momentum coming into the 2nd scoring with a conversion in the half. Several times their lack of first five minutes of the game and familiarity proved costly as they were unable to anticipate each others' moves and thus missed scoring the winning try.

UNB continued to press, but an line stance that lasted at least five overanxious attack in the final 20 minutes proved fatal as the

That same day the Ironmen 2nd Panthers stormed back up the XV travelled to U.P.E.I. Panthers field to score a conversion and On Tuesday the fourteenth the for their opener in the recently take the lead 8-5. They scored a Ironmen 1st XV, coached by Bob created University League. The converted try minutes later on a Cockburn, opened their season weather was terrible, the way the miss communication in the

The most noticeable feature of Whereas the loyalists had been gusted mightily across the pitch. all three games was the spirit playing together throughout the Undaunted, even encouraged, the which the Ironmen showed summer and brought a smooth U.N.B. squad lead by Captain John throughout the entire eighty minute matches. Whether behind Amazingly 10 rookies started or in front they never cease to try match, the Ironmen had been for the Ironmen. This lack of their hardest and would like to familiarity proved costly as the prove this to you as tomorrow on While such returning veterans Panthers quickly scored a try to College Field the 2nd XV made up for the lack of veterans. by the 1st XV against Kings

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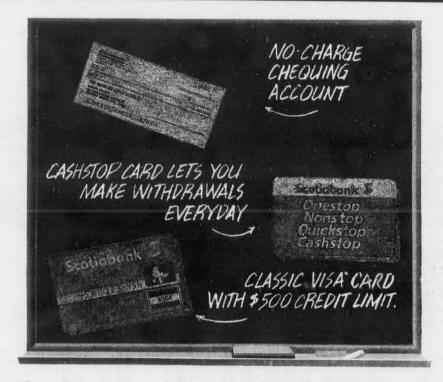
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