

SPORTS

Deadline for stories is Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. Sports Desk 453-4983

Sticks set for AUAA's

by Alison Clark
Frank Denis

Ever since the regular season started 2 months ago, the UNB Red Sticks have had their sights set on two particular weekends. One of them is this weekend when they travel to Saint Mary's University in Halifax.

The Red Sticks who have dominated the AUAA league this season by going 9-0 should have an easy time capturing their fourth consecutive title.

UNB has dominated the AUAA's in scoring this season with a total of 41 goals. Moncton native Josette Babineau accounted for fourteen of those goals to lead the league in scoring.

While Babineau says her team is focused on this weekend and the task at hand, they are also looking forward to the nationals the weekend after. "In the past when we've gone to the CIAU championships we didn't know what to expect. This year is different though. We know that we can compete at the national level and expect to do very well. Going to the invitational tournament in Toronto in September, made us realize we were contenders because of our fine performance".

One of the reasons for their being better prepared besides having gotten their feet wet against the top teams across Canada is the fact that they have lots of practice playing on artificial turf which is what both tournaments will be held on. "Coach Donna Hornibrook has had us practising in the gym to simulate the even surface of the turf. It's a lot different

than on grass because on grass you get funny bounces. We've also had quite a bit of game experience on turf both at Saint Mary's and in Toronto".

The Red Sticks play the Universite de Moncton tomorrow at 11:30 a.m. in one AUAA semi-final while UPEI takes on SMU in the 1:00 p.m. semi-final. The semi final winners will meet to decide the championship on Saturday at 1:00 p.m.

The Redsticks travelled to PEI last Saturday to play the last game of their regular season. It shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone that UNB clobbered the second place Lady Panthers 4-1. Josette Babineau came through with three goals for the Redsticks while Joan Robere added a single. This victory completed UNB's second, consecutive, undefeated season.

The competition the Red Sticks face this weekend will not be as strong as those they will face the weekend after.

If all goes well out west both the University of Victoria and UBC will be making the long trip to Halifax. As well, the University of Toronto will be another team for UNB to beat. All three teams as well as UNB have been ranked consistently in the top five all year so there should be some very competitive field hockey played at Saint Mary's.

Congratulations to the UNB Red Sticks on a very successful season and good luck at the AUAA and CIAU tournaments.



Red Sticks undefeated

The UNB Red Sticks finished the regular season with a perfect 9-0 record and now have their sights set on a CIAU national championship. Before that however the Red Sticks must repeat as AUAA champions this weekend in Halifax.



Red Devils prepare for Battle of the Hill

by Frank Denis

The Battle of the Hill heats up for another season next Wednesday when the St. Thomas Tommies host the UNB Red Devils in AUAA hockey action.

The game slated for the LBR on October, 30 at 7:30 pm, promises to be a hard hitting, fast paced game with both teams trying for campus bragging rights.

According to UNB captain Murray Nystrom, the game is more than just a game. "The hype that builds for a game against STU's is incredible. People are already talking about it on campus and the media always gets caught up in the excitement. This season our rookies have heard a lot about the rivalry so they're especially anxious to see how intense it is."

In their 4 games last year, the Red Devils beat St. Thomas 3 times and tied once to take the season's series. However, two of those games turned out to be only one goal victories.

This season the STU Tommies could put up a good fight considering they have a strong nucleus of players returning. Back are defensemen Garth Joy, Scott MacTavish and Vojtech Kucera to name just a few.

The biggest loss for the Tommies from last season has to be Ron Vaive, the younger brother of Buffalo Sabre forward Rick Vaive. Ron Vaive always seemed to be a factor in games against UNB and his absence will be missed upfront.

As far as UNB goes they feel more determined than ever. "This season's team appears to be the team to beat.

Because we didn't have any exhibition games it will take a while to mold the team together as far as who plays with who, but once we do mold I think we have the core to beat any team in the league," says UNB head coach Mike Johnston.

Johnston's team now has three games under their belts following last night's game against Moncton.

Last weekend the Red Devils kicked off their 90th season with a split against the UPEI Panthers in Charlottetown.

In Saturday's opener rookie Trevor Boland was the offensive star with two goals in UNB's 4-3 victory. Also scoring were Brian in Wilson and Mark Cavanagh. Replying for UPEI were John Nelson with two and Shane MacEachern.

Nelson led the way for the

Panthers on Sunday with 3 goals while Derek Clancey had two in the 7-5 victory. Brent Thompson and Kent MacDonald rounded out the scoring.

Replying for UNB were Murray Nystrom with two, Ken Murchison, Karl Taylor and Boland all with singles.

After Wednesday's game against STU the Red Devils hit the road again with a pair of games next weekend against Saint Mary's and Universite de Moncton.

Athletes of the week

Mike Connolly of the UNB Red Shirts receives the male Athlete of the Week. Mike scored 2 goals this weekend as the Shirts defeated SMU 2-0 and Mt. A 1-0. The Charlottetown, PEI native was nominated Pepsi Player of the Game for both games. Mike is a 2nd year Physical Education student and captain of the Red Shirts.

Felicia Greer of the UNB Lady Harrier Cross-Country Team is this week's female Athlete of the Week. Felicia finished third on the rough, hilly course at St. F.X. She has been the only Lady Harrier to break up the Dalhousie pack to which UNB finished 2nd. Felicia is a 4th year Physical Education student from Fredericton, NB.