

Expressions

Well, it looks like the draught is over, the Fredericton Express, who recently lost 8 of 9 games, are on a winning streak once again. The snowstorms over the weekend didn't exactly help as they lost to Baltimore, a team which had previously lost 5 straight.

Since the call up of Clint Malarchuk to the Nordiques, Brian Ford has been the mainstay in nets for the Express. Ford has performed admirably all year and has one of the leagues lowest goals against averages. Demers has been high on Brian Flood all year. Indeed, earlier he didn't want to send Ford down when he had both Malarchuk and Caprice. Brian Ford is destined to be one of the good ones.

Goaltending help has arrived for the Express. Ken Ellacot was sent down from Vancouver. Ellacot was no longer needed by the Canucks after the acquisition of John Garret from the Nordiques. Unfortunately for him, he was at the bottom of the totem pole. Ellacot didn't see much playing time in Vancouver. You can bet that here in Fredericton Ellacot will see plenty of action. This demotion probably will help his career. Bench warmers often get rusty and when called upon, don't really perform all that well. There are no bench warmers here.

Recently, in the Daily Gleaner, the Booster Club published a list of their members. There were a lot of UNB students on that list. Well, we want to see more.

Ski News

By DAVID STEVENS

After what has proven to be an extremely dismal start to the ski season, the first New Brunswick Cup races were finally held on Feb. 5 and 6th at Sugarloaf Park in Campbellton. UNB was well represented, and was also very successful. The men's and women's slalom was held on Saturday and in what proved to be more of a survival test than a ski race, UNB ski club racers were awarded a gold, a silver and a bronze medal.

Patsy Dawson (who also is a member of the N.B. Canada Games ski team) handily won the women's senior category in very convincing fashion. In the men's senior A category, only 3 or 13 starters completed the course in both runs. At first, the announcing of race results seemed to imply that UNB was synonymous with DNF (Did not finish). Nevertheless, Tim Leitch managed a 2nd and Roland Roy a 3rd.

The giant slalom held on Sunday proved to be a much

more open and contested event. Again, in the Women's senior category, Patsy Dawson proved her ability with a 3rd. (Having a skier like Patsy more than makes up for all the hackers). In the men's event, Doug Johnson won with little difficulty. Doug is another member of the NB Ski Team).

On the lighter side of what was an extremely eventful road trip there are some comments that must be directed to certain persons.

D.K. - you really must learn how to drink from a glass and do watch out for those 10's.

S.S. - Perhaps you should switch to FE and take tree harvesting.

T.L. - Have your borrowed any good cars lately?

And last but certainly not least -- Chuckles, if you aren't careful you're going to O.D. on toffee someday.

Congratulations to everybody, and best of luck to Patsy and Doug at the Canada Games

Raiders win big over weekend

By JOHN GEARY
Brunswick Sports Staff

Now that's more like it. Last week, it was suggested that the UNB Red Raiders had something to prove - they had to show the university what kind of basketball team they were. Well, they certainly rose to the occasion this past weekend, defeating the Acadia Axemen 71-67 Friday night, and upsetting the 5th-ranked Dalhousie University Tigers 79-70, Saturday.

Friday night found the Raiders heading into a crucial game. While it was not a "must" win situation, the Raiders could not really afford to lose to a team that was 3-9 - not if they were serious about making the AUAA play-offs. The Raiders did not start out fast against Acadia, but they played well enough to build a 26-16 lead with 5:41 left in the first half. Unfortunately, they let up just a little too soon, and the Axemen poured in 13 straight points in the next two minutes to take a 29-26 lead. That seemed to wake up the home side, who turned on the offence in the final minute, and took a 40-33 lead into the dressing room.

UNB again raised that to 10 points, but they couldn't seem to put the Axemen away; Acadia was on the ropes, but they weren't out. They managed to close within 4 points in the last minute of the half, making the game seem closer than it really was. Team captain Scott Devine, who hooped 17 points in that contest, felt that even though the score was close at the end, the Raiders were in control of the game. "The play got a little sloppy, in general, down the stretch," he said after the game. "But when you're up 10 points with 2 minutes to play, sometimes you have a mental let down, at least that's been the trend for our team this year. It shouldn't happen, but it does. Fortunately, our concentration lapses didn't hurt us. But you have to remember, they never did get any closer than 4 points in the second half, and that was only in the final minute."

That win boosted the Raiders to 6-5, and pushed them over the .500 mark in AUAA play for the first time this season. However, the big one was yet to come. UNB would be hosting the Dal Tigers Saturday, and the Tigers were the 5th-ranked team in the country. The Raiders would certainly have to play a different game against them, to have a chance of winning. "We're going to have to control the tempo," Devine commented. "We can't get into a running game with them. We'll have to slow it down."

A very good crowd turned

out to Saturday's game, and they weren't disappointed, as both teams displayed some excellent basketball. The Raiders didn't quite slow it down enough, though, and for most of the initial twenty minutes,

the straw that broke the Tiger's back. The Raiders got two more buckets in the waning seconds, but they already had the win chalked up by then.

Coach Don Nelson was full

AUAA's?



Ann Kennerly PHOTO

tried trading buckets with the Tigers. Some cold shooting by UNB, and a number of costly turnovers helped the Tigers build a 41-34 half-time lead. One thing which helped keep the Raiders in the game in the first half was some strong work on the defensive boards, particularly by Paul Holder, who came down with a number of key rebounds for the defence.

The Raiders started off slow in the second half, and found themselves facing a 10 point deficit with just over a quarter of the game left. That's when they did an about-face, much to the chagrin of the Tigers. They shut down the Dal offence, and started generating some of their own, until with 11:03 left, they took the lead for the first time in the game, going up 49-47. The lead changed hands a number of times after that, but the Raiders never trailed by more than 4 down the stretch. With 1:23 left, the UNB squad took a 71-70 lead, and never relinquished it after that. Scott Nicholson sank a couple of crucial free throws a few moments later, giving his team a 3 point buffer. Don McCormack added two more of those with half a minute showing on the game clock, and that was

of praise for his team following that victory. "It was an excellent game for us. We were down at the half, but the guys didn't quit - they came back with a superb effort. They really had to play at their full potential, and they did. It was certainly a well-deserved win. It gives us a record of 7-5, and if we can get a split in our final four games, we should have the play-offs."

The Raiders took on the Mt. Allison Mounties at the main gym Wednesday night, and as is often the case after they've had a big win, they came out a little flat against their next opponents, in this case, the Mounties. UNB only led 45-41 at the half, but they did have a somewhat better second half, and managed to defeat Mt. A. 99-85, recording their eighth win against five losses. Scott Devine had 24 points to lead UNB.

This weekend, the team travels to Charlottetown, for a pair of games against UPEI Panthers. UNB needs at least a split to assure themselves of a play-off berth. And while a sweep would be nice, they are gearing up for the first game.

The Raiders have an AUAA play-off berth well within their grasp; all they have to do now is reach out and grab it.

AUAA
Friday, Feb. 25th
Saturday Feb 26th
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Friday
6:30 p.m. - Dalhousie Tigers
(2nd place)
vs.
3rd place

8:00 p.m. - UNB Red
Bloomers (1st place)
vs.
4th place

CHAMPIONSHIP
GAME 2:00 SATURDAY
AFTERNOON
L.B. GYM
UNB Campus