

Tommies trounce Red Devils 8-4

The UNB Red Devils had a tough time of it on Monday when they took on STU at the LB Arena. STU started the

game with a goal at the 44 second mark and never stopped pressing. UNB tied the game at 6:37 with a goal by Scott

McKinnon but STU came right back a minute later with a goal by Scott MacTavish, UNB would tie it up again with a goal by Mike Poithier but two more goals for STU gave them the lead at the end of the first period and they would maintain this lead for the rest of the game.

UNB came close to tying it in the third period with the score 5-4 holding them back. STU shut the door with 3 unanswered goals in the end of the third to finish with score 8-4 and with shots on net 47-29 in favour of STU.

The game was not lacking in rough play and fights with Hugh Hospodar checking Scott MacTavish through the STU bench door and numerous players being sent off the ice for fighting.

With the loss UNB is now in a two way tie with STU for the last playoff spot. If UNB is going to make the playoffs they are going to have to play better and with more discipline than they did on Monday. The game was enjoyable to watch with all the action but if UNB doesn't start to show some improvements, the Red Devils' fans may dwindle down to the amount of people showing up for Red Bombers games.



STU pressing UNB

Photo by Dave McCluskey

Bloomer's fall

by TIM LYNCH

The UNB Red Bloomers have fallen from the undefeated ranks in the Atlantic Conference. This year's nemesis, the UPEI Lady Panthers, handed the Bloomers a 65-56 defeat last Sunday in Charlottetown. The two teams were tied at the half, and it was the Bloomers who were leading midway through the second half, but UPEI rallied for the victory. Sue McMaster led the way for the Bloomers with 29 points while Pauline Lordon added 18.

UNB head coach Claire Mitton felt a three minute span in that second half was the turning point of the game. "At 12:43 of the second half we were up by five points and PEI called a timeout to adjust. After the next three minutes I had to call a timeout because we were down by four, so the momentum changed tremendously within a three minute swing."

Despite the loss to UPEI,

which saw the Bloomers' record drop to 4-1, Coach Mitton remains optimistic about beating the defending AUSA champions in the future. "We played quite well, actually we were very pleased with how well we played. Each time we play them we get better and each time we play them, we get closer. I think what we have to do is just to continue to work with that frame of mind of constant improvement."

The Bloomers' next game is this Sunday at 1:00 p.m. in the L.B. Gym against St. Mary's. SMU is coming off a 76-50 loss at the hands of the powerful Panthers last weekend. Coach Mitton believes UNB's talent and experience will give the Bloomers the edge over SMU.

"St. Mary's is a very young ball club, they are certainly very optimistic and hard working. At the same time their skill level isn't as high as some of the other premier teams in the AUSA, but they've been in a lot of ball games."

Herb's NHL Puck Ups

Stick swinging incidents have become numerous this year, and is definitely an issue that has to be eliminated for hockey to keep its fan support.

This year we have several suspensions due to stick abuse yet the sticks still aren't staying down. The reason for the increased stick work can only be due to an increase in equipment used. Now that almost all players wear helmets and many wear face guards as well, players have the idea they can get their sticks up in the air and not hurt anybody. Some even think using a stick to Karate Chop is allowable conduct. Much of this problem stems from coaching at the minor hockey level. If coaches made sure players kept their sticks when they were young the problem would be under control. After all if a coach sits you down for getting your stick up you learn quickly what that piece of wood is really for. It is sad to see talented N.H.L. Players use sticks for other purposes than trying to fill the net with hockey pucks.

This all leads to Dino Ciccarelli's stick work on Luke Richardson, the Toronto Maple Leaf rookie. Here is one of the most talented players in the game losing his cool and paying with a 10-game suspension. Ciccarelli was having a great year, being in the Top 10 in the scoring race. This incident was a culmination of problems in his hockey career. When Dino first played Major Junior in Ontario, he was the second most promising player in the country behind a youthful Wayne Gretzky. Gretzky's story since then is well-known but Dino's is often forgotten. After his first year he finished his junior career injured most of the time, and was picked low in the draft. A great year in the Central Hockey League got him to the N.H.L. Since then his career appeared to be on the right track until last spring. He ended the season by getting into a stick-swing incident that resulted in a suspension at the beginning of this season. Then

came the biggest disappointment of his career when he didn't make Team Canada this fall. Ciccarelli felt he deserved to be on that team and has carried a chip on his shoulder ever since. A recent charge of indecent exposure against him put him on the breaking point. He broke when he took his stick to Richardson. Dino has brought a lot of his problems and deserves punishment, but probably feels he doesn't have a friend in the world right now considering the public reaction to the incidents of the past few months.

The N.H.L. could have a new scoring champion this year if Gretzky stays out long enough. Mario Lemieux has moved ahead of Gretzky in the scoring race and should have at least two weeks to pad his lead. That might not be enough time but with Coffey helping Lemieux instead of Gretzky, it looks like we will have our first scoring race since 1979-80. Remember keep your best puck forward!

From the Litterbox

When we last heard from Stephen Marks he was slurping coolies in New Orleans. Since then Mr. Marks' whereabouts have been unknown. Fortunately Marks called the other day, just in time to help us out with this week's column. Somehow he had found his way to San Francisco. He told us that visiting the gay capital of North America just wasn't his idea of a good time.

I asked him, "What are you doing there, if you don't like the city?" His reply was "the football promised to be great and turned out to be just that."

I then tried to corner him by asking if he had become a Viking fan. He dodged the question by talking about how those Vikings were not only beating top contenders like New Orleans and San Francisco, but blowing them away.

I suggested that he must be thinking the Vikings could beat anybody. He responded: "The Vikings play the Redskins next and will make Paleskins out of them."

I retorted, "Marks, we believe in objective reporting."

He replied, "I am being objective. Washington can't beat this team now, those Vikes are

on a roll. I mean that Anthony Carter is something else and Wade Wilson is passing the ball like he stole Dan Marino's genes. And that defensive unit is really punishing."

I gave up on attempting to make the Redskins out as a worthy opponent and asked about the A.F.C. match-up.

Marks was quick to point out that two of the best QBs in football would be in that game, Cleveland's Bernie Kosar and Denver's John Elway. Still he saw this as a close defensive battle. He pointed out that Elway is called "The Messiah" but that doesn't mean he'll be a hero again this time. He then said, "Kosar's got something to prove and should be the QB throwing the winning touchdown."

"So Marks, you're telling me that the Cleveland Browns and Minnesota Vikings are going to play in the Super Bowl?" I asked; "those teams have no idea what it's like to win a Super Bowl!"

Marks agreed with me but said, "This has been a wacky year in football and nobody can tell me that is going to change now."

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