

Blazers defeat Jaguars

BY RON CAMERON
Brunswickan Staff

The UNB Red Blazers hockey team found the ideal way to begin the term break, not only did they win their third consecutive provincial senior "A" championship, they also had the pleasure of knocking off their arch-rivals from Moncton in the final.

What was supposed to be a three team tournament was reduced to a two team best of three series when the St. John Golden Lights dropped out of the "A" division. The two teams, the Blazers and the Jaguars were to meet in Big Cove where the A and B level tournaments were being held.

The first game went at Big Cover Arena Saturday afternoon. As everybody expected the contest turned into a goaltenders duel as two of the best women's

goalies in the country faced each other, for Moncton former Canadian all-star Ann-Marie Levi, and for UNB, Wendy Dickinson. The Blazers got on the scoreboard first when Carol Cooper came off the boards with the puck and fired it past Levi, that at the 16:01 mark, and after one period of play it was 1-0 UNB.

In the second frame the Blazers increased their lead to 2-0, as Joanne Gillies was left alone in front of the net and put home a Cathy Dickinson pass, the Blazers came close to a number of times in the second but couldn't beat Levi.

In the final twenty minutes the two teams settled into a pattern of end to end hockey, but neither team scored until the Jaguars won a key face-off in the Blazers end and Janet Hudson narrowed the UNB lead to one at the 18:40 mark. For the final minute

and thirty seconds Moncton kept the puck in the Blazers zone, but UNB centre Anne Campbell stayed on the ice and won six consecutive faceoffs to tie up the win.

The second game faceoff at 9 a.m. Sunday morning, and this time things didn't go as well. UNB roared out of the gate as they rang up a quick 2-0 lead, on Diane Leblanc and Joanne goals but it was all down hill from there. The Jaguars tied the score before the end of the first period on goals by Jeanne Cormier and Carmel Levi. Things didn't get any better in the second period as Moncton swarmed around the UNB net, only Dickinson's goaltending kept the score 2-2. But the Blazers slide gathered momentum and with 59 seconds left in the game Levi scored again to win the game and tie the series.

continued on page 22

Free Throws Free Throws Free Throws

Maybe they overlooked a couple of people. Marg Jones and Debbie Knowles certainly deserved spots on this year's AUAA elite squads that were announced at the L.B. Gym between the semi-final games Friday night. League MVP, and rightfully so, was Bloomer sophomore scoring sensation Jennifer George, who was simply an awesome force for any team that had to try control her. Look for this kid to earn All-Canadian honors, that will be announced at the nationals in Winnipeg.

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Sue McMaster, another Bloomer and former member of the national team program, joined George on the first team of all-stars. Sue, a big girl with a nice touch around the basket has been a dominant force in the league since her arrival on the college scene from the Senior and high school circuits last year.

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Here we go. Although the Bloomers may have a David vs. Goliath struggle to upset the Galters from the top run of the CIAU ladder, look for them to at least make it to the top four. They will be playing Calgary in the opening round, and they definitely have the capability to beat the Dinnies. One thing is for certain, they won't go out in the blaze of Jellow they did last year, falling to Bishops and Winnipeg in straight games by wide margins.

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For the Bloomers to have a successful tournament, and that means bringing home the "Bronze Baby", they will need exceptional games from not only the expected leaders like Jennifer and Sue, they will have to see outstanding performances from some others, especially the likes of 6'2" freshman Janet Nichols, who proved she can play against the best before the Christmas break when she did a more than credible job against national team big girl Andrea Blackwell, who herself is one of the top centers in the world.

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The Raiders showed some guts last weekend as they came up with a couple of resounding victories over the Mt. Allison Mounties, their arch rival for the doormat of the league. Phil Guthrie was especially awesome in their performances as the sophomore from Toronto hooped 46 points in the two encounters.

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As the season draws to a close, the Red Raiders will get one last chance to pull the upset as they host the CIAU Eastern Regionals March 9-10th. While we can all hope for an upset, I wouldn't bet your house or Porsche on it however. Should be some exciting basketball, however, as four, or three plus the Raiders, of the top ten teams in the country battle it out for the berth in the CIAU tourney, to be held in Halifax the following week at the Metro Centre.

UNB IRONMEN SPRING TOUR 1984

The month of March is the big fundraising month for U.N.B.F.R.C.'s Annual Spring Tour. Events include Rugby Pubs on Friday, March 2nd and March 30th and also on Thursday, March 8th there will be a "Rugby Revival" at the Riverview Arms. Please help support the Ironmen's spring tour.

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