

# Bloomers pleased with season

So far this season fans have been treated to another find brand of Red Bloomers Women's Basketball. The 1984-85 edition of the Bloomers boasts a cast of talented and dedicated players. This year, they are under the guidance of a new coach, Claire Mitton. She has been very successful with the team, sitting undefeated in AUSA competition and performing very well at two major tournaments.

How have the team handled the coaching change? How does Claire like her new coaching job? Keeping these questions in mind, I decided to interview Claire along with two of her players.

Claire is the former coach of Kennebecasis Valley High girl's basketball team. She was also involved in coaching the New Brunswick Canada Games Basketball Team. When asked to reflect on her experience as coach of the Bloomers, she said that there are highs and lows. One of the lows may be the injuries that have plagued the team. All in all, she seemed to be quite pleased.

It seems obvious that the transition from high school to University basketball would be a difficult one. However Claire mentioned that her experiences in coaching the Canada Games team provided a stepping stone in her coaching career. This, in her opinion, made the transition easier. As a physical educator in high school, she enjoyed teaching and spending a lot of time with athletes. She felt her job as coach of a university team was more specialized.

In reflecting on the team's performance, Claire feels they are progressing quite well. She gave praise to the team for how well they have handled the coaching change. Claire is a firm believer in discipline. She also commented that along with this comes consistency, intensity and dedication. So far this style seems to be working quite well.

When asked about the AUSA, Claire was impressed by the quality of her opponents. This weekend they face a UPEI team, which should prove to be the clash of the titans. She added that Saint Mary's will also provide stiff competition. Dalhousie, she mentioned, have some very talented players. So far, the Bloomers have faced injury problems, but Claire feels they have done well under the circumstances.

Finally, I asked her about

how she felt about her team would to at the National Championship if everyone was healthy. "I think we would be very successful," she replied. Most people would have to agree with her. Good luck Bloomers!

Debbie Knowles, a 25 year old fourth year BBA student is playing in her second year with the Bloomers. She commented that she felt they were having an excellent season so far. When asked if injuries were

hurting the team, she replied that it was keeping the healthy players in better shape.

Debbie said she was a little disappointed in her own performance and would like to contribute more to the team's offense. However, Debbie is a firm believer in teamwork, and she feels this is a positive contribution.

Finally, she was asked about how she has adapted to the coaching change. Debbie seemed to be very pleased with Claire and added that

everyone is encourage to contribute. "Claire doesn't emphasize any individuals." She believed that Claire positively promoted teamwork.

Pam Hartling, a 21 year old BBA student playing for the Bloomers, was very pleased with their performance. One of the big factors she mentioned was that the team have readjusted their goals since the beginning of the year. Earlier, they aimed at just winning the AUSA championship, but now they want to go undefeated.

She seemed to be pleased with the coaching change. Pam enjoys playing for Claire because she instills confidence in her players. As a result, Pam feels she is contributing more to the team. "Last year we were a very offensively minded team." She felt that Claire promoted the team and attitude. She added that she got more out of playing for Claire.

## Andy and Wendell: Express players in school

By KEN QUIGLEY

Brunswick interview with Express goalie Wendell Young and defenseman Andy Schliebesner.

**Brunswick:** Wendell, its obvious that you are affected by the constant downflow of goalies from the NHL. If a coach thinks he's in a slump, he sends them down to the AHL, where they're expected to play regularly. Thus you get bumped. How does this effect your performance and attitude once you return to the net?

**Wendell:** I think the major

thing of that is that I get to sit in the stands quite a bit and get out of the playing game. From there, I can watch the other goalie and learn how to play the puck more effectively. I think it was a big time when Brodeur came down from Vancouver. It was eight weeks before I played again.

**Brunswick:** But how does it effect your attitude? Do you find it hard getting back into it after a long break?

**Wendell:** I think the biggest thing about it is your confidence. If your playing a lot, you know your playing well. I

think half the game out there is to be confident, and being off the ice for a while, I wasn't very confident. But when you get back out there and start playing again, your confidence comes right back.

**Brunswick:** All players, without a doubt, will eventually fall into a slump. It must be considerably more difficult for someone in your position who has to prove himself to the NHL. A serious slump can mean the end of a career for you in hockey. How do you respond to that?

**Andy:** Basically, what you're

saying is that there's a lot of pressure out there, but that's a part of hockey. Like you say, there is a lot of scouts in the stands from either Vancouver or Quebec and other NHL teams looking to see if you could do the job. I guess what really makes the difference between a good player and a mediocre one is the guy that can handle the pressure and perform well.

If he does go into a slump, then he's going to have to do his damndest to pull himself

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## Black Bears host tournament

This past weekend, the UNB Black Bears competed in two tournaments. Three members of the team travelled to Guelph, Ontario for the top rated tournament in Canada. The three wrestlers that competed were Chris Fuocco, Dwayne Wakerell and Randy Smith. Dave Bessey would have gone but he was injured the day before the tournament.

Chris Fuocco competing at 68 kgb had the best results finishing 4th out of 17 wrestlers. Chris won 4 bouts and lost 2. He has been improving everytime out and has looked right at home competing at the national level. For his excellent performance at the tournament Chris is the male athlete of the week.

Dwayne Wakerall wrestling in his first university tournament at the national level fought extremely tough at 65 kg) winning 1 bout and losing two. This resulted in Dwayne placing 7th out of 13 wrestlers. Randy Smith competing at the 61 kg did not fare as well losing both bouts he wrestled in.

While they competed at the

Guelph open, the other members of the Black Bears wrestled in the Mt. Allison Open. This being the first tournament of the season and considering that the top wrestlers were in Guelph or injured, the results were not that good. However, the wrestlers did wrestle fairly well and showed that they had the potential to do very well in the tournaments to come.

The tournament featured the top team in the New England States, that being Springfield College, along with a wrestling club from Montreal and all the Atlantic University teams.

Of the eight wrestlers that competed only Mike Sharpe at 72 kg managed to pick up a medal. Mike won a bronze medal winning three matches and losing two.

Richard Vail wrestling at 95 kg in his first ever tournament had a surprisingly good tournament finishing 4th and in the process winning his best match ever.

Kevin Hodgson, back at UNB after a two year absence placed 4th at 57 kg and would

have placed better if it weren't for the fact that he was injured. Todd Bursey, wrestling in the same weight class as Kevin finished 5th which was a good placing for Todd since this was the toughest weight class in the tournament.

Mike Hovey, at heavy

weight, Don Regan at 76 kg and Ron Richard at 80 kg all finished 5th.

The results obtained here will be changing this weekend when the Black Bears host their onw tournament starting at 11:00 a.m. Saturday in the West Gym.

## Indoor Field Hockey

A relatively new sport is gaining momentum at UNB. The sport is field hockey played indoors. The majority of the Red Sticks along with a lot of other people have now moved to the South Gym on campus.

The sport is played with similar equipment - sticks and balls but it is a fast paced action filled game *inside*. There are side boards to play the ball off and 6 people to a side. The game is a combination of field hockey, ice hockey and basketball. The games are high scoring and exciting - so exciting in fact that there has developed a need for an indoor league. At present there are 3 mixed

teams that play Tuesday and Thursday nights from 4-5:30 p.m. with pickup games Saturdays at 9 a.m.

The indoor players are looking forward to games this Sunday against other indoor teams in the province as UNB is hosting an Indoor Tournament which begins at 9 at the South Gym and continues all day.

Several UNB Red Sticks are presently trying out for an Atlantic Indoor University Team which will compete at the CIAU's at York University in March.

For further information on the league either see Joyce Slipp at the UNB gym or come to the South Gym during one of the times states above.