

Red Shirts victorious

By CHRISTIE WALKER

Once again, the UNB Red Shirts have proved to Atlantic Canada they are a soccer powerhouse. Although the odds were seemingly against them, for not only were they playing on unfamiliar Astroturf at the Huskies stadium, but they were away from their home crowd, they played two fast, hard games of soccer last weekend at the AUAA soccer championships held in Halifax.

Despite the poor crowd turnout those fans who did come out were treated not only to beautiful weather, but an excellent weekend of skilful spectacular soccer, and for those fans from UNB, another AUAA victory, our eleventh.

The weekend opener began at 1 p.m. Saturday between the Eastern Division second place team, the Dalhousie Tigers and the UNB Red Shirts, who were first in the Western division after a played 10, won 7, lost 2, tied 1 season record. It also marked CIAU All Star centre full back Larry Courvoisier's return to the field after a four game absence due to a knee injury.

After a slow, cautious start, leaving both sides scoreless at half time, both teams warmed up to the unfamiliar playing surface and settled down to play what many UNB players called 'the most difficult game of the weekend.'

In the second half both teams were awarded penalty kicks. Edward Thompson scored for the UNB side, bringing the game at the end of the regular time to a 1-1 tie.

A score from Greg Kraft in the first half of a 30 minute overtime period gave the Red Shirts a slight edge, which they lost when Dal scored to bring the game to a 2-2 tie. A final goal from Kraft left the Tigers behind and the shirts victorious with a 3-2 score in this

semi-final event.

Surprising to all, was the UPEI, St. Mary's result from the game played following the UNB-Dal game. With a 0-0 tie after the regular game and a 1-1 tie after 30 minutes of overtime the players took penalty shots leaving SMU in the dust with only two scores compared to UPEI's four.

With both Halifax teams eliminated from the finals, especially surprising since local papers predicted that St. Mary's would walk away with the trophy, only die hard fans came out to watch the UNB Red Shirts walk away with the AUAA title. It was obvious that the UPEI Panthers' were tired after their extended game from the previous day, and that the fitness level of the Red Shirts, due to the excellent coaching of head coach, Gary Brown, was far superior to that of the Panthers. Nonetheless, the air was tension filled and fans who expected a rough game of tackling soccer were surprised to see the Astroturf exhibiting even the most menacing of players, leaving behind a distinctly civilized game. The Shirts played a strong, careful game and managed to soundly defeat the tired Panthers with a 2-0 score with goals coming from Greg Kraft and Steve Mackey in the second half.

With this AUAA championship under their belt, the Shirts are now ranked 3rd in the nation and will play 2nd place McGill University from Montreal tomorrow at 2 p.m. at Chapman Field in the semi-finals of the CIAU championships. It was McGill that the Shirts beat in the semi-finals two years ago, before going on to beat Sir Wilfred Laurier for the CIAU championships. Is history about to repeat itself? Support the Red Shirts and see for yourself.



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Top: Ed Thompson, left fullback on the Red Shirts, shows his elation with his team's victory in the finals.

Above: Greg Kraft (left) and Steve Mackey storm down the field during action at the AUAA's last week.

Below: Star striker Dwight Hornibrook prepares to send the ball into orbit past his UPEI opponents.

Three picked all-stars



Larry Courvoisier



Joe Turpin



Dwight Hornibrook

This week the AUAA All-Star team was announced by the AUAA office in Halifax and there were three Red Shirts players selected as outstanding representatives of the conference. The three All-Stars from the newly crowned AUAA Champions were star centre half Larry Courvoisier, midfielder and captain Joe Turpin, and striker Dwight Hornibrook. All three played vital roles in the Shirts' season and fully deserved their recognition. The team also received the CIHI-Labatt Sport's Achievement Award this week for their championship victory.



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