

Bloomers win weekend battles

by Kelly Craig

Last Friday night the UNB Red Bloomers hosted the St.FX X-ettes at the Lady Beaverbrook Gymnasium. It was a spectacular night for the Bloomers as they easily defeated the Lady X-ettes.

UNB played a solid game of basketball the whole way through. They pulled together as a team and all members made a much needed contribution. Jill Jackson came out in spades for the Bloomers as she had an

excellent night defensively. She copped several St.FX rebounds to help the Bloomers in their win against FX.

Kara Palmer had an excellent night offensively for the Bloomers as did Bonnie and Jennifer Hale. Kara's performance earned her the player of the game award. Tracy Ross did not play in Friday night's game as she is still plagued by an injury. However, at the half UNB was on top 30-20.

The second half was just as

solid as the first as UNB increased their ten point lead to defeat the X-ettes 63-49. UNB managed to capitalize on all the mistakes made by the Lady X-ettes to give them a very convincing win.

Saturday afternoon the Bloomers again came out strong as they defeated Dalhousie 71-64. UNB again played a solid game and a total team effort was put forth by all.

Kara Palmer's performance this season has put her atop the AUSA scoring league as she stands just three points behind Cindy Flynn of St.Mary's. Jennifer Hale of UNB has also

made the top three in AUSA scoring with a total 125 points. Both players for UNB have been solid contributors all season as has been Jill Jackson. Jackson's performance has earned her several athlete of the week awards and she was named athlete of the month for the month of January.

This weekend the Bloomer head to Newfoundland for a double header against Memorial. Currently UNB stands in a four way tie for first place in the AUSA league. This weekend should set nth pace for the rest of the season.

Varsity Mania huge success

by Boner Dabone

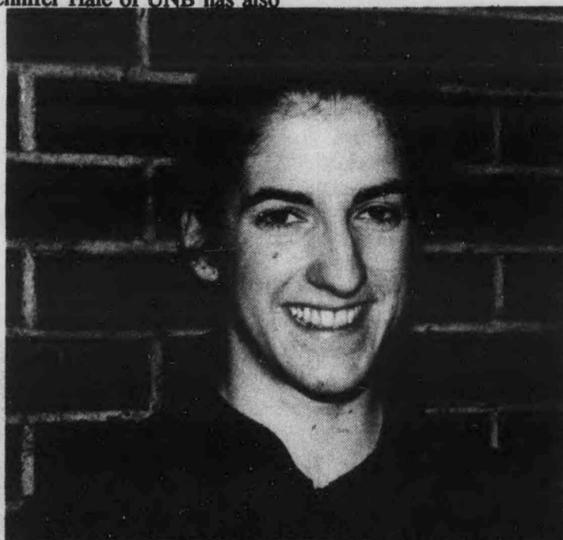
Last Saturday afternoon, those present at the Aitken Centre witnessed a hockey battle of epic proportions. The UNB Red Devils whipped the STU Tommies, 7 to 4. The final shot of the game only added insult to injury with an open net goal in the dying seconds of the third period. Of course this superb event was well attended by a large Varsity-Mania crowd. Over 1,800 enthusiastic fans cheered the Red Devils onto victory. Even the STU fans and the Bleacher Creature made an attempt to some rowdiness, but sadly their efforts, and that of their team, were overshadowed by the tremendous noise and ruckus put up the UNB fans.

When UNB Red Devil Karl Taylor was asked what Varsity-Mania did for the team, he replied "It sure get's us pumped up for the game, and that only makes us play harder", his teammate, Troy Binnie added "a lively crowd really boosts our confidence, and that means winning". Like Red Devil head coach Mike Johnson said "It was good to see STU's contingent there, that may spark even more of a rivalry in the future". Like I say, "Nice try STU, but no cigar". And that folks, is what it is all about, full seats, noise and cheers, getting pumped-up, and having a good time.

The first period intermission was highlighted by the "Great

Varsity-Mania Shootout' competition. Several contestants shot it out for great prizes, along with a little help from the Smart Pac Pig. In the end though, only one could emerge victorious. Congratulations to Troy Gallagher, the shootout champ. Way to go as well to those crazy individuals who were chosen as Varsity-Mania Fans of the Game. Special mention goes to Neill House, who won the Residence Challenge with the largest group crowd. This event also helped to wrap up the Winter Carnival, a week of fun and frolic put on at UNB by the Student Union. Varsity Mania would like to thank every fan who attended the event, and all our sponsors who helped make it possible.

A reminder that the next and final Varsity Mania event of the season will take place at the Lady Beaverbrook Gymnasium, Sunday February 24, at 3:00 in the afternoon, when UNB Red Bloomers take on the UPEI Panthers. Women's basketball at UNB is always a smashout success, especially against UPEI. Varsity-Mania is billing this game as 'The Grand Finale'. You can count on lots of excitement as Varsity Mania has it's last hurrah of the year. If the Fever of Varsity-Mania and UNB Athletics has not caught you yet, then here is your last chance. Be there, because everybody else will.



Co-captain Kara Palmer of the UNB Bloomers

Photo by Randy Goodleaf

Sports Shorts

Beavers to host AUSA's

Next weekend the UNB Beavers swim team will host the rest of the AUSA for the championship title. Last year both the men's and women's team came away the victors as they defeated the Dalhousie Tigers.

This year the team is looking to repeat as AUSA champions. The swimming has been fierce between Dal and UNB all season and everything comes to a head next weekend at the Sir Max Aitken pool.

The Beavers have been working hard all season to perfect their talents in the pool. All there hard work, however, will depend on a solid team effort.

Rebels hosted AUSA Invite

The UNB Rebels hosted the AUSA invitational tournament last weekend at the LB Gym. The Rebels were joined in the Gymnasium by the Dal Tigers, the U de M team, and the Memorial team. All competition was fierce but Dalhousie came away the victors as they won all their matches.

UNB started off with a tough match against Memorial and won 3 games to 2. However, they were not so lucky the rest of the tournament as they lost 3-0 to Moncton and then lost 3-0 against Dal.

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