

VIEW From The Cheap Seats

By Mark Savoie

Through no fault of *The Brunswickan*, you are probably aware by now that three varsity sports teams have been eliminated from our university's roster, and that one has been added. The three to go are men's volleyball and men's and women's cross country. The one added is women's soccer. I am told by Lara Rooke (SU VP-External) that this does still need to be ratified by UNB President Robin Armstrong; she insists that this is a mere formality.

The cuts and additions have been made in the dual spirit of budget slashing and gender equity. The prevailing standard of seven men's teams and four women's team has become increasingly unacceptable, and as such it was really only a matter of time before a men's team was eliminated and a women's team was added. A full year ago (October 15, 1993) *The Brunswickan* suggested that the Rebels (men's volleyball) be removed and be replaced by either the Red Blazers (women's ice hockey) or the Yeowomen (women's soccer). Given that the Yeowomen have a much better structure than do the Red Blazers, and that there is a strong AUSA league for them to play in, it is not surprising that this is the women's team they have elected to add.

While these two decisions have largely solved the gender equity problem for the nonce, it does little or nothing to solve our Athletic Department's budgetary problems. I cannot see that women's soccer will be any cheaper than is men's volleyball. In fact, given the larger minimum roster size of soccer to volleyball; thus more uniforms, more miscellaneous equipment, more accommodations; women's soccer may actually prove to be more expensive.

So, in order to slash their varsity sports budget, the Athletic Department has elected to unload both our men's and women's cross country teams. To say that this is a mere drop in the budget only understates the sheer ludicrousness of this decision. Cross country is not an expensive sport. I would be surprised if the budgets of these two teams combined equalled that of any other team. The hockey team probably spends more money on a single road trip than do these teams over an entire season. This is especially true of their little exhibition tour of Boston this weekend. How it is possible to justify the elimination of two innocuous teams such as cross country while sending our hockey team on an international exhibition is beyond my limited reasoning powers! I don't know if this is the norm, but when I reported on the cross country teams of the University of Western Upper Canada in 1991 and 1992, the athletes were even responsible for the purchase of their own running shoes. I reiterate: cross country is not an expensive sport, and its elimination is merely a sop by the Athletic Department to make the Board of Governors think that they are doing all that they can do to solve the budgetary problems.

It has been suggested to me—and I find myself in agreement—that the Athletic Department is hoping their financial problems will be solved by either St. Mary's (SMU) or UPEI. Our field hockey team has in common with our men's volleyball team the fact of a very weak three team league, and also is more expensive in terms of equipment and travel. The difference is that cutting field hockey would damage gender equity; and (perhaps more importantly) that while our men's volleyball team is at best uncompetitive, our field hockey team is one of the very best programs in the country. For these two reasons, it would be extremely impolitic for the university to cut this team. However, should either SMU or UPEI eliminate their field hockey program, AUSA field hockey would be doomed to fold as well, making UNB a happy but innocent victim of that collapse. If I were Coach Donna Hornibrook or any of her players on the field hockey team I'd be very nervous right now, and I'd also be trying to get reassurances from both SMU and UPEI that their respective budget axes will not touch their field hockey teams. It is a sad necessity of university life in the nineties that hard decisions must be made. Budgets aren't inexhaustible, and the maintenance of our libraries and research equipment to close to up to date status is ultimately more important than any or all of our varsity teams if UNB is to legitimise its already shaky status as a major university. As such, I acquiesce... grudgingly, to the need for budget cuts in our athletic program. However, the Athletic Department has an obligation to ensure that these are made responsibly. The elimination of our two cross country teams in response to the Athletic Department's current deficit is, quite frankly, pathetic. As such, it is also totally inappropriate. If surgery is needed, then operate; but don't torture us by cutting off one limb at a time.

I would like to hear from any of UNB's club teams that have been experiencing difficulties because of the moratorium on non-Venture Campaign fund-raising imposed by the university. I can be reached at *The Brunswickan's* main office (Room 35 of the SUB) or on their phone line of 453-4983.

Woes continue for soccer Reds

by Maria Paisley
Sports Editor

The Reds are out of the playoff contention.

The UNB Varsity Reds missed the AUSA soccer playoffs for the second year in a row. The Reds ended their season in a split decision by defeating the UPEI Panthers 1-0 on Saturday. Dawit Kebede scored the lone goal for the Reds while Darcy McCourt got the shutout. Brad MacVicar was chosen as the player of the game.

Reds netminder Pat Byrne was not as successful in the 4-1 loss to the UdeM Blue Eagles. Gray Zurheide

had the lone UNB goal.

UNB will be heading into the season-ending games with a 3-6 record at the Acadia Axemen on Saturday and Sunday will travel to the Dalhousie Tigers.

The Reds have also lost off the field with the death of former player Malcolm Lightfoot in October from injuries sustained in a car accident. The players are now wearing arm bands in his memory and have dedicated the rest of their season to him.

Assistant Coach for the past six seasons and former full back Dave Rouse has spent the past three months in Halifax hospital being treated for leukemia.

Cross Country

Runners prepare for AUAAs

by Chad Desborough
Brunswick Sports

The Varsity Reds Cross Country team travelled this past weekend to compete in the Moncton Invitational which was held at the Centennial Park in less than ideal racing conditions. The rain didn't hamper individual performances, but the women's and men's teams were without the services of top runners; Shelly Robichaud, Jenn Phillips, and Jamie Cleveland.

The lady Reds showed no signs of slowing down, as Joanne Belleavance and Meaghan Roushorne put in personal best performances with an impressive 11th and 12th positioning. Not far behind

in 14th place was Karen Franks and Sarah Crooker in 16th.

The women's team finished an impressive 3rd overall even though missing their top runners.

The men had their strongest showing of the season, but without their top runner, came up short against arch-rivals Dalhousie. James Murphy led the Reds Charge with a season best 3rd place. Not far back was a tightly bunched group of UNB runners as Andrew Dunphy led by finishing 6th while Chad Desborough was 8th. Ian Washburn in 9th and Dave Fraser in 10th. The men's team finished a very strong 2nd place.

Coach Tim Randall was very pleased with the overall perform-

ances of the team, "Everyone has learned a great deal about racing strategy and along with the improvement and fitness has created a real chance of winning the AUSA Championships." Tim also feels "Dalhousie is definitely going to be the team to beat, and come AUAAs, it's going to come down to the team who wants it most."

The top seven runners from both the men's and women's teams will be going to the AUAAs. The place on the team is determined by the runner's performance over the season.

The Reds next meet will take place in Halifax on Saturday, November 5 as Dalhousie hosts the AUSA Championships in Point Pleasant Park.

Mens Basketball

Hoopsters shine at Fall Classic

by Christina Hunter
Brunswick Sports

The Reds looked tremendous at the Fall Classic, and will face Laval again this weekend on an upbeat note.

UNB put it to the Rouge et Or early, although the team had been plagued by injuries and played a late game against Bishop's the night before. UNB defeated the Bishops Gaitors 86-69. Marc Aube and Andy McKay led the scoring with 17 and 15 points respectively. The men showed no sign of fatigue, however. On the contrary, they beat Laval as if energised by the win on Saturday.

Hometown boy Clint Simmons made half a dozen foul shots early in the first half to even up the game at 20, while Laval's Radu Nicolae made two more after a short scuffle between the Reds' Joe O'Brien and Laval's Jean Sebastien Michel. UNB finally missed a few fouls, but Marc Aube scored three points to give the Reds a 12 point lead. Near the end of the first half, Laval began to run down and miss out on scoring opportunities. With 4.9 seconds left Jon Stevenson made a three point play, bringing the score up to 42-27 for UNB at the half.

The Co-ed Cheerleaders provided inspiring half-time cheers,

and fanned the Reds into the second half of an exciting game. Perhaps the fact that coach Clint Hamilton was "dissatisfied" with UNB's performance in the first half also had something to do with the team's motivation.



Andy McKay. Photo K G Porter

"Score is not indicative of performance," Hamilton stressed after the game. He demanded commitment at the half-time team meeting, and encouraged offensive and defensive principles. The coach was concerned with the way the Reds were "turning the ball over." He stated that the team was more suc-

cessful in the second half because the play was disciplined. Clint Simmons, who scored in the double digits, credits his performance (and the team's) to Hamilton for "conditioning" them.

"He encourages us to take care of ourselves. We get to bed early," Simmons said. He noted that although Laval was a team that thrived on emotion, UNB had a solid weekend. Laval may have been "energetic," but it became apparent early in the game that the Reds were irresistible.

The second half opened with four turnovers. Simmons scored three points, along with the team's top-rated recruits, David Low and Jon Kreiner (who made a three point play). Laval was no match for UNB and lost 84-52.

Simmons felt that this victory was a good building block: "We want to face them in Laval next weekend and be confident, not cocky." Hamilton knows that Laval will be loaded for bear in the next tournament. He was satisfied with the way the Reds moved the ball offensively, but plans to fine-tune defense on a "one on one" basis. Notwithstanding, Laval couldn't keep UNB covered on Sunday. The Reds have the opportunity to come out on top once again, on the 28th.

Womens Basketball

...and the Women split their series

by Caroline Gross
Brunswick Sports

The Varsity Reds Women Basketball team may be given a run for their money in league play.

The game to see at the Fall Classic was the one never played - that between the Reds and St. Mary's Huskies. The Huskies put in a bid to unseat last year's AUSA champs with wins over the two Quebec teams. SMU beat Laval 72-70 and soundly defeated Bishops 78-49.

UNB split their games defeating Bishops 67-52 on Saturday but Sunday fell to Laval 76-67. In the game against Laval the Reds trailed by 17 points after 10 minutes of the first half (29-12) but closed the gap to 45-37 at the half. They put in a concerted burst in the second half to

come within three before Laval got back into the game. Top scorers for UNB were Donna Retson, Kim Newman, Krista Foreman and rookie Bobby Munn.

In the Bishops game UNB overpowered the visiting team jumping out to a half time lead of 37-25. The Reds never looked back and downed Bishops 67-52. Donna Retson again lead the scoring with 22 points and Krista Foreman wasn't far behind with 19.

This tournament gave a chance for coach Claire Mitton to see the rookies, who comprise half of the team, in action in a game situation for the first time.

The Reds will be travelling to Laval for the Laval tournament this weekend. UNB's next home game is November 5th against MUN.



Bonnie Munn. Photo Mike Dean