

Women's Basketball

Reds edged by N.S. schools: SMU by 2, Dal by 3



photo Maria Paisley

by Maria Paisley
Brunswick Sports

It was the Varsity Reds women's basketball team's first appearance in 'the Pit' since early December.

The Varsity Reds faced the league powerhouse Dal Tigers and the winless Saint Mary's Huskies on the weekend and suffered heartbreaking losses—but not without a fight.

The Reds faced the SMU Huskies, who were 0-8, on Friday night battling to a 66-64 loss. UNB led the Huskies 42-31 at the half-time.

But coach Jill Healy, sister of Mark Jeffery and a former UNB player, and the Huskies came back in the second half with a vengeance firing in another 35 points. The Huskies closed in on the Reds by one

point with only 11 minutes remaining in the game. Reds' Gina Lohnes kept the team just beyond the crisis point with four timely points.

UNB was unable to hold off the Huskies as they tied the game at 61 a piece with only three minutes remaining in the game. The Reds battled to hold the tie—but to no avail. SMU's all-star guard Jadranka Crnogorac tossed in a three pointer in the dying seconds to end the game at 66-64 in the Huskies favor. The Huskies remain in the league basement with a 1-8 record.

Heather Grasman was the top Reds scorer with 14 points, while Lohnes tossed in 13 points in a losing cause.

The Reds returned on Sunday hoping to split their weekend series in

'the Pit' against the league leading Dal Tigers with a 9-0 record.

The game also saw the return of former UNB player Jackie Flieger in 'the Pit' since switching to Dal in the summer. Flieger was only able to record a modest three points, struggling from the three point range which is usually her strong point.

The Reds and the Tigers battled to 36 a piece tie at the half-time.

The second half was a see-saw battle with neither team leading by more than four points in the second half.

UNB's Grasman tossed in a three

pointer in the last second of the game to close the score to 67-64 for the Tigers. The Reds record dropped to 2-8, while the Tigers increased their record to a perfect 10-0 and are ranked 8th in the nation.

The Reds will be heading to the Rock this weekend for a double header against the 8-2 Memorial Seahawks. The Seahawks record at home stands at 4-0 while the Reds are 1-5 on the road. The Reds will also be looking to break a five game losing streak. MUN is coming off a weekend split of 4-point games against Acadia, who sits fourth in the league.

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lead by the 7:32 mark. As UNB struggled to counter the Tigers offense, they found themselves down by four until Kreiner nailed his 12-foot turnaround jumper with two minutes remaining in the game. One of Brian Scales' nine assists came at 1:26, as Kreiner's lay-up attempt was good. However, with 26 seconds remaining, Scales missed two free throws and the game went to overtime.

In the first five minute overtime, UNB gained a three point advantage but saw it transcend into a three point deficit. However, the score was locked at 88-88 when Dal's Blair Pallopson

headed to the charity stripe with 2 seconds left. The V-Reds supporters in the stands went wild, and Pallopson failed to hit either free throw attempt.

Again, UNB managed to secure a lead that reached seven points by the one minute mark. But a short jump shot by Dal's Tim Elliott and a three pointer by Jeff Mayo cut the lead to two with 18 seconds on the clock. However, Gordon McNeilly's steal with 6 seconds left sealed the V-Reds' victory.

Player of the Game awards went to Kreiner for his 28 point performance, and also Orr-Ewing, who tallied 26 and snatched 13 rebounds.

Both teams charted similar statistics in each category except for field goal attempts, free throw attempts and

personal fouls. While Dal made 37 of 98 field goals, UNB drained only 30 on just 79 shot attempts. But V-Reds coach Clint Hamilton finally seemed to receive the calls that he believed had been going against him for so long. The referees blew the whistle on the Tigers 41 times, resulting in a record 62 UNB free throw attempts (of which they made 41, another record) and 6 Tigers fouling out. Dalhousie only went to the line 31 times, exactly half as much as UNB.

The upset puts the V-Reds, who now own a record of 4-6, in 5th place in the league, and more importantly, in playoff contention. This weekend the V-Reds travel to Newfoundland for a pair of games against the Memorial Seahawks, who trail UNB by four points.

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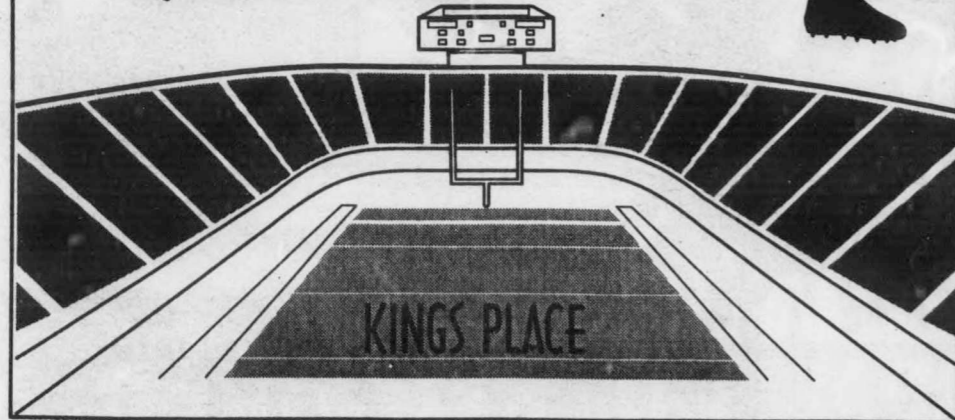
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