

SPORTS

Deadline for stories is Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. Sports Desk 453-4983

Raiders lose twice on the Cape

by Anand Irrinki

After four regular season games, the UNB Red Raiders find themselves with a bitter-sweet record of two and two. After sweeping Memorial in its opening two games, the Raiders found themselves outclassed by University/College of Cape Breton Capers. The Capers easily took two games from the Raiders last weekend and find themselves finishing their early season with a four and two record.

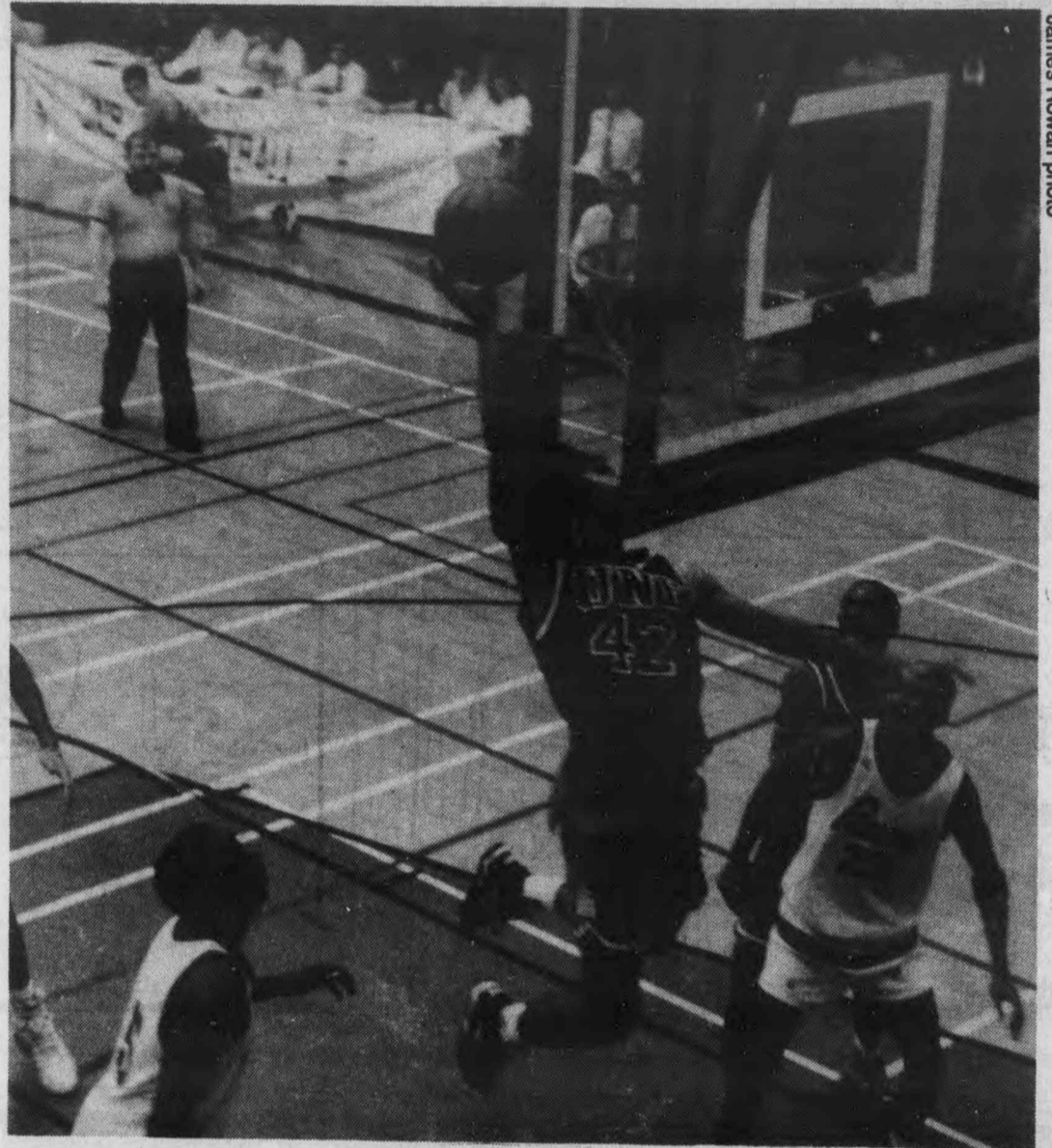
Heading into the Christmas break, UNB has both positive and negative points it can look back on. One of the positive points is the Raiders rejuvenated attitude. This years team features more comradie and hopefully this will pull UNB through the tough times. Other positive points include the play of Duff (a real Maritime name) Adams and Bobby O'Brien. When these players are healthy they have shown, that they have the ability to pull down rebounds and put up points. Yaw Obeng and Vinod Nairs steady play have provided necessary leadership to a young team. The rookie trio (Three amigos) which has seen some playing time has shown great promise.

Unfortunately there has been many negative aspects for the Raiders during their early season. Andy MacKay and Alex Kidney have had sporadic seasons. They have shown flashes of brilliance, but have also had many poor shooting efforts. These players field goal percentage must hover around 50 if they expect the team to be competitive. One other disappointment has been Coach Wright's reluctance to play Ken Badour. Badour has shown great ability during his sparse playing time. Hopefully Badour will begin

to see more playing time as the season progresses.

UNB may look at its two big losses to Cape Breton as a turning point in its year. Hopefully, the Raiders can see how much harder they must work (see Bernard King) if they wish to be competitive during the rest of the season. UCCB exploited one of UNB's supposed strengths, team defense. By racking up 115 and 85 points, UCCB proved to UNB that they do have some fire power. In the first game the Capers shot 82% and this may be looked upon as being the cause of the Raiders death, but I don't think so. In both games UNB was outrebounded by an average of 20 boards. All year long, team rebounding has been stressed as a key for the Raiders, but they can't seem to get the job done. Over the weekend UCCB finished with 31 offensive rebounds while UNB finished with 28 defensive rebounds. This seems to sum up the Raiders rebounding woes quite nicely. A good Christmas gift for the Raiders may be a rebounding clinic from Kevin (20 board man) Willis of the Atlanta Hawks.

The Raiders stop practicing during the exam period, but begin again after Christmas. They hope to get back on track in time for a tournament in Saint John on January 3 and 4. The Raiders open this tournament against the current number one team in Canada. No not Duke, but St. Francis Xavier. This matchup should tell us wether the Raiders have rebounded (what wittiness) from their losses to UCCB. The other semi-final in this tournament features powerhouse Husson versus Bishops. Both games should prove very interesting, so for many students heading to S.J. for the break, why not check



James Rowan photo

out some fine basketball action.

To end this weeks article off, I would like to present my Christmas wish list to basketball fans everywhere (remember, this is just in fun):

NBA
LA Lakers: continued performance from Sedale Threat.

Detroit Pistons: Give them back James Edwards and the "microwave".

Chicago Bulls: a good slump.
Sacramento Kings: no more slumps (this might be tough Santa)

Marv Albert: a new nasal

decongestant.

Pat Riley: continued play from John Starks and a new hair dryer.

NCAA

Duke: a second championship.

UNLV: some more players.

North Carolina: a better sophomore crew.

AUAA

Phil "Doc" Wright: Christian Laettner to transfer here.

Alex Kidney: a copy of his 2nd game versus Memorial.

Vinod Nair: a couple of inches and pounds, so he can really play center.

Ken Badour: more playing time.

Duff Adams: some "Gas X".
Craig Isley: renewed strength in his ankle.

Andy McKay: more consistent shooting.

Bobby O'Brien: continued success on the boards.

Yaw Obeng: some more recognition.

3 Rookies: some more experience (during less pressure games).

Good Luck on exams and Merry Christmas to all.

Bloomers host Husson

by Frank Denis

The UNB Red Bloomers wrap up the first half of their season tonight when they host Husson College at 7 pm in an exhibition game at the LB Gym.

The Bloomers enter the game fresh off their weekend sweep against the UCCB Capers last weekend in Sydney. The wins improve their record to 5-1, good enough for a first place tie with StFX in the AUAA overall standings.

Saturday saw UNB down the Capers by a score of 87-63 and on Sunday they cruised to an

easy 28 point victory 74-46.

Kara Palmer led the Bloomers offensively as she had 39 points on the weekend. Palmer is averaging 17.8 points per game and is third in the conference in scoring as well as rebounding. She leads the league in free throws and is second in field goals having made 39 of 72.

Other offensive sparkplugs in Saturday's win were Laura Swift with 16 and Jackie Flieger with 11.

Sunday saw Jennifer Hale and Palmer team up for 14 points a

piece for UNB. Swift had 12 more to run her two game point total to 28.

The pair of wins did not affect UNB's national ranking. They currently sit in ninth position.

Make your move.



ATHLETES

of the week

Kara Palmer of the UNB Red Bloomers is the female Athlete of the week. Captain of the Bloomers, Kara lead them with a total of 39 points and 17 rebounds in their two victories over UCCB. Kara was named Pepsi Player of the Game for both games in which she was a key contributing factor. Although the Red Bloomers were plagued with injuries, Kara's performance enabled the team to finish the 1st half of the season with a 5-1 record, good enough for 1st place in the AUAA. Kara is a 4th year Physical Education student from Perth Andover, N.B.

Murray Nystrom, captain of the Red Devils, is the male Athlete of the Week. Murray had four goals against Mt. A. in which UNB won 14-1. Murray broke out of his scoring slump in style netting a natural hat trick and led the way to a UNB victory. Murray is a 3rd year Physical Education student from Thunder Bay Ont.