

Bloomers Fall At A.U.A.A.'s

By Tim Lynch

The U.N.B. Red Bloomers were determined to leave P.E.I. last weekend with an AUSA championship. However, their semifinal opponents, the Dalhousie Lady Tigers, had other plans as they played one of their finest defensive basketball games of the season. That combined with UNB's sub-par offensive effort, gave the Tigers a 50-40 upset last Friday night in Charlottetown.

Dalhousie's tough brand of defence wreaked havoc on the Bloomers the entire game. Dal used a triangle-zone defence and constantly double-teamed potential Bloomer scorers. They limited high scoring Pauline Lordon to only six shots and three points.

UNB head coach Claire Mitton was fully aware of her teams' offensive problems. "We played good defence..., but we lost our "sync" offensively... we couldn't seem to get Pauline into the flow... we made adjustments at the half, but we never got any easy buckets."

As well, the Bloomers' speed

was neutralized by the taller Dalhousie squad and especially by the small UPEI gym. UNB wanted to establish a fast tempo to take advantage of Dal's lack of team speed.

"We really wanted to run... we didn't do the things we wanted to do in a running type of game... we walked the ball up the court and played their type of tempo. If we at least tried to push the ball a little bit, we would have put them in a pressure situation," commented the coach.

Both teams missed several early shots, but it was UNB who trailed for much of the first half. At one point they were down 15-8, but they reduced the Dalhousie lead to a single point with a minute and a half left. At that time, Sue McMaster connected on a pair of free throws to put the Bloomers ahead 20-19. It was UNB's first and last lead of the ball game. Dalhousie's leading rebounder, Trish McCormack, gave the Tigers a 23-21 halftime advantage when she sank a shot with just two seconds left on the clock.

Dalhousie quickly extended

their lead in the second half. They opened a 28-21 lead after a minute and a half's worth of action. The Bloomers could see their season fading, but once again they battled back. At the 9:30 mark they managed to cut the gap to three points, down 36-33. The Tigers then combined some consistent shot making with a few UNB misses to take a 44-35 lead over the next five minutes. The Bloomers were unable to bounce back as Dalhousie won by a margin of ten points.

The Bloomers were not victimized by turnovers. They weren't outhustled or out rebounded either. Dal simply shot more consistently from the field. They finished the game shooting 39 percent while UNB made only 27 percent of their shots.

Sue McMaster led the Bloomers with 14 points and 10 rebounds. Shelly Slater had 11 while Jane Williams added 6. The Tigers, on the other hand, were powered by forward Mary Cameron with 18 points and the McCormack sisters, Trish and Kathy. Both reached double digits in the scoring and

rebounding departments.

After a string of AUSA championships, this year's loss was the third time in a row.

In the other semifinal matchup, the UPEI Lady Panther defeated the Acadia Axettes 70-58. UPEI capped an undefeated season the following day with a 58-51 victory over Dalhousie in the AUSA Championship game. The win marked the second consecutive year that they had defeated Dal in the finals, and it also earned them a trip to Lethbridge, Alberta, the site of this year's CIAU championships. Action in Lethbridge got under way yesterday, continues today and will conclude tomorrow. UPEI has been nationally ranked as high as sixth during the season.

At the AUSA Awards banquet, Lordon, who averaged 19.4 points per game, was named the conference's most valuable player. She also copped all-star honours and was joined by McMaster on the first all-conference team. UPEI Ria Bahoduvsingh and Janet Nichols and Dal's Kathy McCormack were also on the

team. Rookie of the Year laurels went to Bathurst native Cindy Flynn of St. Mary's while UPEI's David MacNeill captured the coach of the year award.

The Bloomers will be losing three key starters from their lineup due to graduation. It will be difficult to fill the void created by the departures of McMaster, Slater, and Williams. Coach Mitton realized next season will be a rebuilding season, but she believes recruiting will be successful. "I'm very positive and optimistic about our recruiting. I've had to work extremely hard at that end of it because of the fact we're losing the people that we are. We've had commitment already from some of the premiere players in New Brunswick.

Raiders Finished

By GARY LEROUX

The UNB Red Raiders tried to salvage another pair of wins last weekend as they went on the road to take on the UPEI panthers.

Unfortunately for the Red Raiders, they came out on the short end of both contests, as they closed out the 87-88 men's basketball season.

On Saturday evening the Panthers dropped UNB by a lopsided 90-56 score. The leading scores for the Red Raiders were Andy Hayward with 23, and Richard MacKay with 11. Sunday's contest was

a better effort with UPEI squeaking out a 92-87 decision. Once again UNB's leaders were MacKay and Hayward who ended their final games as Red Raiders with 27 and 20 points, respectively.

These games marked the final appearance for UNB head coach Don Nelson, as well as for his two fifth year seniors. He is going on a one-year sabbatical after more than three decades as the head coach here at UNB, after which he will probably retire. MacKay, perhaps the best point guard in the AUSA, finishes out his career after an injury-plagued

season. Hayward set a UNB single season scoring record this year, and has a good shot at being named AUSA player of the year. He led the league in scoring this past season, and established himself among UNB's all time basketball elite. Finally, the Red Raiders may lose a third starter if fourth year player Mark Hazlett decides not to return.



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