

UNB SPORTS

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BLOOMERS BATTLE FOR #1

By Mark Savoie

The UNB Red Bloomers had an impressive home stand last weekend with an easy 72-37 win over St. FX Friday evening and an emotional 58-50 victory over number eight ranked Dalhousie Saturday afternoon. This performance leaves the Bloomers with an excellent shot at home court advantage for the AUAA playoffs. As the cliché goes, 'their in control of their own destiny.'

In the game against St. FX it was immediately clear that the X-ettes were overmatched by the Bloomers. The Red Bloomers held St. FX scoreless for the first four minutes, by which point they had opened a 12-0 lead. They expanded on this, and by halftime were in complete control with a score of 41-12. In the second half the Red Bloomers coasted towards the final result, as coach Claire Mitton shuffled in players off the bench with regularity. Pauline Lordon was the offensive star in this game with a game high 23 points, 20 of which came in a stellar first half exhibition which saw her miss only two field goals.

Dalhousie was a different story. The Bloomers were up for this game as a rematch of their heartbreaking 82-80 loss in Dalhousie last term. However, instead of repeating the shootout of their previous struggle, this time the two teams played a more defensive game. The Bloomers defence was ignited by Jill Jackson, whose five open court steals were converted for six points at the other end. Leanne Brady also had a pair of open court steals, one of which off of Dalhousie's Mary K. Layers resulted in a retaliatory foul that

was the toughest this reporter has seen this season.

At the offensive end the Bloomers were led by Kara Palmer and Jill Jackson. Kara hit for 20 points, while Jill followed with 17. This offensive showing for Jill, coupled with her defensive leadership, won her UNB Female Athlete of the Week honors. At halftime the Bloomers led 28-22 and in the second half they pushed this up to 54-33 with five minutes left. At this point Dalhousie managed their only sustained run of the game, hitting 11 consecutive points and outscoring UNB 17-4 over those last five minutes. Two factors contributed to this last minute effort. The first was that Dalhousie started making

desperation three-point shots, and the other factor was that the Bloomers seemed to be more interested in holding the ball for as long as possible than they were in scoring more baskets.

In this game the Bloomers excelled in the two areas which hurt them in their prior confrontation with Dalhousie. Perhaps the most important aspect of the team's success was their rebounding at the defensive end. On only two occasions was Dalhousie able to capitalize on a third shot opportunity. The other improvement in the team's game was the area of foul trouble. In this game none of the starters were ever in serious foul trouble and as a result were able to stay on the court for an average of 35

minutes each. This type of playing time will be essential if the Bloomers hope for success in the upcoming pair of games against UPEI.

UPEI is undefeated and is also currently ranked number six in the country. They play an extremely aggressive, physical game and have remarkable balance among the starting five. If the Bloomers are able to sweep UPEI they will host the AUAA playoffs. If they are only able to manage a split they will probably be forced to travel to UPEI for the playoffs. Finishing first in the league means more than just hosting the playoffs, however, as the first place team will play the fourth place team (probably Acadia) in the semi-finals. This

would be a much easier match than opening against Dalhousie or UPEI.

The first game this weekend will see the Bloomers hosting UPEI in the Main Gym at 8:30 tonight. After the game UPEI will travel back to the island for a Saturday match against SMU, before hosting the Bloomers on Sunday afternoon. The Bloomers are hoping that on Sunday they will catch a tired team as UPEI plays its third game in three days. The Bloomers will again be short two players this weekend, as Jennifer Brown is still out with her broken hand and Kim Cole is out with a knee disorder called chondromalacia which will cause her to miss the rest of the season.

INJURIES INJURE REDS

REDS LOSE TO MONCTON

By Kelly Craig

This past weekend, the Lady Reds travelled to Moncton to battle U de M. The team was not in the best of condition for a volleyball match. Two starters were out of the match with injuries and another starter played with an injury. Altogether, it was a weak match for UNB; they lost to U de M 3 games to 0. The scores improved as the match went on but it wasn't enough. UNB lost 15-0, 15-5, and 15-13. Injuries really hurt the team bad. Tanya Manuel and Elaine Buck, two of the Lady Reds power houses, were out of the

match with injuries. Julie Campbell, although suffering from shin splints, played a spectacular game for the Lady Reds. Julie had six stuff blocks against some of U de M's hardest hitters.

Lisa Pellerin was voted player of the game for her setters positions. Bonnie Fairclouse also had a very good, solid defensive game. Bonnie went up against U de M's hard hitters and had a couple of successful stuff blocks. All in all, Coach Kamermans wasn't utterly disappointed with the games. The girls did well considering the injuries they had.

against the other teams. Although UNB is out of the playoffs, they have had a good season. The rookie team has According to Coach Kamermans, "The first game went very fast. The girls didn't know what hit them." The team's hitting power is down with all the injuries they have acquired. The rookies have gained more experience and will come in handy for the match-up this weekend against Dal.

The team has made a 100% improvement over the season. They improved quickly and impressively. UNB has a very strong bench and that helps

come a long way with their style of play.

This weekend the Lady Reds travel to Dal for a two match weekend. Dal is a strong, tall, and experienced team. Coach Kamermans is not expecting a win because of the injuries to the team, but will give Dal some good competition. Right now, Coach Kamermans wants to end the season, "with up spirits."

"It's been a tough year," said Coach Kamermans. The experience this year will help the team be better ready for next season. Coach Kamermans wants to get as much time for the rookies as possible.

Athletes of the Week

First year Red Bloomer, Jill Jackson has earned UNB's Female Athlete-of-the-Week honors for her enthusiastic performance this past weekend. Friday night, the 18 year old Education student had 4 points and 2 steals in the Bloomers easy win over St. FX (72-38). However, it was Saturday afternoons performance against #8 Dalhousie that was the key. The East Riverside, NB native contributed 17 points and 5 steals to the Bloomers 58-50

victory. Coach Claire Mitton thought that Jill "was the sparkplug and key factor to the Bloomer victory over Dal. Jill dominated defensively against the Dal guards and took them out of their game."

Guy Gallibois of the volleyball Rebels has been honored as UNB's Male Athlete-of-the-Week. The fourth year Education student led the team to two victories over Memorial this past weekend (3-1 and 3-0). During the Rebels play,

Guy kept his team cool and calm to show the leadership that the setter should have. The Paspébiac, Que native was instrumental in the victory according to Coach Paul Belanger. "Without Guy taking control the way he did, it was possible the team could have fallen apart." This control and leadership was apparent in the final game on Sunday, when after trailing 10-4 the Rebels came back to win 15-12.

SORRY NO PICTURE