

UNB SPORTS

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NEW COACH FOR RED DEVILS ?

by Tim Lynch

Some of UNB's hockey coaches have gone on to successful coaching careers elsewhere, even in the NHL. Some of them have not. Time will only tell in which direction UNB's next hockey coach will travel.

In about one week's time, the UNB Red Devils will have named their new head coach. More than 20 applications were received for the job that was created when Rick Nickelchok was relieved of his coaching duties back in early December. Mark Jeffrey, who guided the team for the rest of the season as the interim head coach, did not apply for the job. Mark had mentioned in January that he only wished to be an interim coach.

According to UNB Athletic Director, Jim Born, five people are currently being interviewed from the original list, and the interviews will be completed by Monday. Born anticipates that a coaching decision will be made late next week.

Born emphasized technical knowledge, recruiting and recruiting contacts, and academic credentials as being key qualities that the new coach must possess. Seeking and convincing the "student athlete" to come to UNB is no small task. At least the administration is projecting a constant image with respect to the hockey program. Not only does UNB cater to "student players", but a "teacher coach" is also a must. The new Red Devil boss will be a teaching member of the physical education and recreation faculty. High administrative capabilities are also required. In fact, this quality and the new coach's hockey prowess will be integrated this summer running UNB's hockey school. Interpersonal skills, not fully apparent or tangible during an interview, will also be placed in high regard by Born.

It is also expected that approximately twenty Red Devils who played last season will be back next year vying for a spot on the team. Don't forget that the majority of these players were Nickelchok recruits.

A 12-48-3 hockey record at UNB does not have the former coach of two and one-half seasons beaming. Consider the following:

The recruits he had his first year

were not his own due to the fact that he was hired late in the summer. He learned a valuable recruiting lesson in year two. Junior 'B' players cannot lead a team into the AUSA playoffs.

Nickelchok's contract with the University of New Brunswick will be terminated at the end of May. The new head coach will inherit a strong goal tending corps and a core of forwards and defencemen. Some of the latter have proven that they can play in the AUSA while others will be fighting for a job this fall.

This past season marked the fourth consecutive season that the Red Devils failed to qualify for post season play. Regardless of the coaching situation, dropping key games to St. F.X. and Mt. A. displayed the team's inconsistency. On the flipside, however, the Devils did manage to knock off STU, SMU, and Acadia who were nationally ranked. A nucleus with potential exists.

The tracks for a successful UNB hockey program has been laid. The new head coach will not be starting from scratch. There is a definite foundation to be built upon. The Express left behind a large hockey following when they left last year. This was evident by the 3600 fans or so that packed the Aitken Centre for the senior team's playoffs. Exposure of the team to the community and generation of off-campus fan interest should help the Red Devils' image. A lot of people

ignore university hockey because they're unfamiliar with the personnel but you need to have a winning record first.

The right coach, having the right contacts, having the right

attitude, having the right philosophy, having the right... The list goes on, but the right coach is of prime importance.

Although Born would not reveal the names of any candidates, one

person that comes to many people's minds is that of former Red Devil Gary Agnew. Agnew is currently serving as an assistant coach with the O.H.L.'s London Knights.



Photo by Bill Troer

The Red Devils last season 84-85

ON THE MOVE



WATCH OUT! THE HEART MARATHON IS COMING!

HOCKEY COACH WANTED

The University of New Brunswick is now seeking Applicants for the position of Head Hockey Coach

Applicants should have experience in one or more of the following areas;

- Self Defense
- Psychology of depression
- Skate Sharpening
- Working with the Disabled
- Typing Skills (an asset)

The successful candidate should also have won at least one game of anything in the past five years and have seen The Ice Capades, Slapshot, or the Canada Cup.

Please send resume and T-Shirt size to:

W.W. MacGillivray
Dean Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation
University of New Brunswick
P.O. Box 4400
E3B 5A3
or Phone 911

Red Devils Hockey (Koomittmunt tu Echsunenze)