



It has been a remarkable summer in the sporting world this year. There have been several huge stories that have taken place. The NHL saw the New Jersey Devils beat the living bejezus out of the Detroit Red Wings; the NBA saw the Hakeem Olajuwon show as the Houston Rockets embarrassed the Orlando Magic; Mickey Mantle got a liver transplant on short notice only to die of lung cancer shortly afterwards; Michael Jordan and Patrick Ewing elected to attempt to destroy the NBA's existing employee relations; Monica Seles came out of her seclusionary semi-retirement to dominate everyone who's not having tax problems; Jacques Villeneuve (would someone please tell those Nobel Prize candidates at ESPN that the name is not pronounced Jack) won the Indy 500 and the Indy Car championship; and Cal Ripken, Jr. broke Lou Gehrig's record for consecutive games played. This was indeed a busy summer.

The most disturbing aspect of the summer was the Mickey Mantle story. First of all, it was personally disgusting to hear so many people saying that since his liver problems were essentially self-inflicted he should have been ineligible for a transplant. I realise that the right wing shift that has taken place in the States has made people much less sympathetic to simple human dignity, but this strikes me as being unnecessarily cold blooded. Most of the wrath that was heaped upon Mantle was, however, reserved not for the fact that he received a transplant, but that he was able to get one so quickly. "Obviously," people thought, "he's getting a liver so quickly because he's a celebrity—because he's Mickey Mantle." Of course, such a belief ignores such trivial matters like compatibility. Some people get a transplant quickly while others have to wait interminably, while others never do find an adequate match. Unfortunately, organ transplants cannot be done on a simple first come, first serve basis. They hinge entirely on availability and compatibility, and to find fault with Mantle because he got lucky is really quite stupid.

To be honest, the complaints against the liver transplant didn't really bother me that much. The complaints were completely ineffectual, and therefore they were essentially insignificant. Quite frankly, if people are inclined towards hysterical idiocy then I'm not about to stop them. What did disturb me were the tributes to Mantle which occurred after his diagnosis with lung cancer and subsequent death. Almost every damn one of these tributes made mention of his drinking and "party" lifestyle. These tributes took the form of an apology; that although Mickey Mantle was a drunkard, he was nevertheless a good and worthwhile human being. Even Mickey Mantle fell into this trap, saying over and over that he had wasted his life, that he was an unsuitable role model, and for people to not live their lives the way that he lived his. The sad thing about this is that Mickey Mantle came to actually believe that he had lived his life improperly. He was effectively gulled by the pressures of polite society into thinking that the fact that his lifestyle had contributed to his premature death meant that his lifestyle was wrong. This was an especially easy trap to fall into given the present political correctness of an anti-alcohol hysteria. However, it is also unmitigated bullshit. Mantle lived one of the best lives that any man could possibly hope to experience. True, the last three years of his life were a small slice of hell, but the first sixty years were sensational. I doubt very much that, if given the opportunity, Mickey Mantle would choose to live his life in a different manner just to live another decade or so. Quality of life is just as important as length of life, probably more so. The quality of Mickey Mantle's life was so high that a lost decade is insignificant. People die; deal with it.

The Monica Seles comeback has been truly remarkable. Until she went up against Steffi Graf in the US Open final she had completely dominated her opposition. Even her one gut check against Anke Huber in the quarter finals was passed with flying colours, with her surviving three break points en route to a first set tie-breaker victory. The match against Graf proved to be her downfall—at least for now—but even then it was only a possibly missed call (I admit I'm biased in her favour) on her set point in the first set tie-breaker that allowed Graf to capture that very important first set. I don't mean to call down Graf, however, since she took what she was given and ran with it, which is the mark off a true competitor.

As many kudos as I give to Seles, it nevertheless remains true that she had and has no business being ranked co-number one or number two. True, she is either the best or second best female tennis player in the world, but it is also true that these rankings are based entirely on performance. Personal considerations are not supposed to be a factor. I know that Seles did not stop playing tennis of her own accord, that her fall from the number one ranking was not of her doing. That is not the issue at hand, however. Whether or not her injury was her fault is immaterial. The only thing that must matter is her performance on the tennis court. If she is unable to play, then her ranking must fall. I know that it is grossly unfair that she be penalised because some lunatic wanted Steffi Graf to be ranked number one, and I know that it is especially unjust since the lunatic will be getting exactly the result that he wanted, but, and I really hate to be the one to tell you this, LIFE AIN'T FAIR. And so, when you have a situation like this where a player like Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario can be relegated from number two to number three by a player who hasn't played a match in over two years—hardly fair either—then you have to follow the established rules. Seles should have been forced to earn her way back to the top just like everyone else who has suffered a serious injury. Given her play thus far into her comeback, it wouldn't have taken long.

Hats off to Varsity Mania and their residence challenge at the soccer matches last Sunday. I have complained about just about every single aspect of this event in the past, but this year was different. For the first time that I can actually remember, the residences actually stayed to watch most of the match they attended. It was only after the V-Reds had went up 4-1 late in the second half that they began leaving en masse, and that can be attributed to the ingrained Canadian custom of leaving early to beat the traffic. I was, however, disappointed to see the residences only show up for the last fifteen or so minutes of the women's soccer match. This was a historic match, being as it was the first varsity women's soccer match in UNB's history. To be fair, the blame for this should lie with those happy souls at Orientation, who advertised that the event would begin at 1:00 p.m. My final complaint is for the no-mind who did the player introductions at the start of the game. For his sake I hope that he was drunk out of his mind, because I hate to even imagine what his GPA is like if he is really as stupid as he sounded. Learn to read, buddy.

Cross Country

UNB sweeps through Maine

by Peter J. Cullen

Brunswickan Sports

Cross-country coach Tim Randall forecasts an excellent season. UNB claimed both the men's and women's races at a September 9 meet in Presque-Isle, Maine. Now the team has already set

their sights on a championship season and ultimately the Canadian Interscholastic Athletic Union (CIAU) championships.

Although practice time has been minimal, Randall was very impressed with the results from Presque-Isle.

"Everyone ran very well—we won without much training." While the women devastated their opponents by finishing with 6 people in the top 8 positions, the men outdistanced their competitors by a much smaller margin. "The girls are very strong. The competition is closer for the boys," said Randall.

Sensing good things ahead, Randall predicts massive success for both the men and the women, especially the females. He cannot see any reason why this year's team will not achieve national recognition. "Our goal for the girls is the CIAU. For the guys, the AUAA and just to do the best they can. They're fairly young and we're trying to build," he said. Randall unhesitatingly promotes a team concept for the women, reluctant to single out particulars in the early season, but he did note two standouts for the men, saying, "All the girls are very good. For the boys, James Murphy and Andrew Dunphy are probably the leaders."

Due to the sport's early season, the team has obviously not reached their full potential yet. "We've practiced with some people... but most are just starting back at school," Randall said. There are several returning team members that will become better as the season progresses. Continued practice and new additions will also help fortify the current team.

In less than two weeks, the cross-country team will venture to Antigonish for a contest at St.FX. The Homecoming Weekend will feature another competition and two races are scheduled in Moncton this season. The team hopes to learn from these meets all the way to the CIAUs at Western.

While the team is already strengthened by some exceptional runners, new members are welcomed. The team assembles on the front steps of the Lady Beaverbrook Gymnasium on Monday to Thursday at 5:30 p.m., and again on Saturday. "The team has around 25 members but we'll probably end up with around 30," Randall said.

The cross-country team's returning runners and promising newcomers appear to have an extremely promising season looming before them. With the AUAA contest planned for November 4, and the desired CIAU competition fated for November 11, Randall is looking full steam ahead. "I'm excited about our prospects and how good the team really does look," he proclaimed. If the first race offers any indication, Randall may indeed have good cause to express his enthusiasm.

Men's Soccer Quick start for V-Reds

by Mark Savoie
Sports Editor

Basically, most of their players are Summer Games players.

"Talent wise, I think we have a little bit more talent than they do, but when you're not playing together the first thing you've got to do is learn to play with your own team. That kind of showed as we went through the half. We started finishing on our shots on goal, as opposed to the first half. We had a lot of opportunities, but we just missed on the finish. That usually takes quite a while to establish."

In that same vein, Brown observed that there remains plenty of room for improvement. "If anything, we didn't play up to all our capability. We have a lot of work to do. Having Mike Green in their stabilised the guys in the back. He's a goalie who's had a lot of experience. Mattias [Mangberg], from Sweden, has been a very nice entry. He scored a wonderful goal that maybe picked us up quite a bit." Brown also made mention of returning veteran striker Gray Zurheide, who has been one of the AUAA's most consistent scorers over the last few seasons.

So far as this season is concerned, Brown is remaining cautious in making predictions. "It's definitely a playoff team. I think we've got a contender for sure, but we can't be overly optimistic at the beginning of the season since we don't know what everybody else has. This league is pretty volatile in so far as players coming in from different parts of the world." Nevertheless, Brown added that "we feel really strong."

The Varsity Reds' next game is tomorrow afternoon at 3:00 p.m. at Chapman Field against the Memorial University of Newfoundland Seahawks. This will be the V-Reds' last home game for the month of September, as their next three games will be played in Nova Scotia and Mt. Allison. It is also the first of three consecutive four point games which could make or break the season.

Top three career games played in MLB

1. Pete Rose	3652
2. Carl Yastrzemski	3308
3. Hank Aaron	3298

It took the UNB Varsity Reds three goals to get one that was allowed, but each of their next three afterwards counted as they dominated the UPEI Panthers en route to a 4-1 victory last Sunday afternoon. The victory gives the V-Reds a rousing start to their season, promising better results than were achieved last year when they finished out of the playoffs.

Early in the match they were able to take advantage of some confusion in the UPEI backfield for a goal, only to have it called back because of an infraction. Then, just nineteen minutes into the match, they were able to direct a header off of a corner towards the back of the net, only to have it stopped on the line by UPEI fullback Chris Gallant's hand. This, of course, is illegal, and resulted in Mr. Gallant's departure from the match with a red card and a penalty kick for the V-Reds. Unfortunately for UNB, however, Gray Zurheide stepped up and blasted the penalty a good two metres over the bar.

The luck finally changed for UNB 31 minutes into the match, when Bradley MacVicar launched a chip from the top of the penalty area over the helpless UPEI keeper to roll in off of the far post. The celebration after this goal was perhaps overly prolonged, however, as UPEI's Dion Johnson was left utterly unmarked in UNB's penalty area just one minute later. Johnson gratefully accepted a pass from his team-mates in this position, and calmly dispatched the ball behind UNB keeper Michael Green for the tying goal.

As a result of this goal the V-Reds ended the first half tied with UPEI, despite clearly being the dominant team on the pitch. The second half began with pressure from the Panthers, who were trying to take full advantage of the fact that they now had a moderately stiff breeze at their backs.

They were unable to gain any positive results from this pressure, however, and the tide gradually began to turn back UNB's way. Finally, 68 minutes into the match, as the large Varsity Mania crowd in attendance began anticipating a potentially drawn game, Swedish exchange student Mattias Mangberg blasted a howitzer from just outside the 18 yard box into the top opposite corner.

This goal changed the complexion of the game from UPEI's perspective, as they were now forced to push men forward in hopes of scoring a tying goal. This, in turn, opened gaping holes in their defence, allowing both Gray Zurheide and Paul Noble easy tap-ins in the 85th and 86th minutes respectively.

Coach Gary Brown of the Varsity Reds was obviously pleased with the result. "I thought we played well considering we haven't been playing for quite a while. We're going against a team that's been playing together all summer.

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