

Women's Basketball

UNB vs Acadia: Down by two, shooting for three



Erin Savage goes for two. Photo Warren Watson

by Murray Thorpe
Brunswickan Sports

Down by two, shooting for three was the way the womens Varsity Reds were handed their sixth loss in a row by a margin of three or fewer points.

The Reds played to an exciting 57-55 loss against the Acadia Axettes this past Sunday. The game came down to the last shot when Erin Savage, with 5 seconds to go, rimmed a shot which appeared to be from outside the three point range. Sixty seconds earlier, down by six points, it seemed unlikely that UNB would be shooting for the tie, not to mention the win.

During a phone interview, Reds Coach Joyce Slipp spoke of the last moments of the game. "We were just going for a tie... Actually there was a little over a minute left and we were down six points ... so

the plan was to get the ball and just drive to the hoop, hope we got fouled and get the clock stopped. We were successful in two of those (baskets) and then, when we got the ball the last time, I am not sure the girls knew how much time was left. Of course, there were no time outs so I couldn't help them out ... It was a shot taken by my fourth year captain (Savage)... the shot couldn't have been taken by anybody (that) I'd rather have the ball in (the hands of) at the time. Unfortunately, it rimmed out. It was a good shot."

Heather Grasman, lead the Reds with 13 points followed by Erin Savage and Shelly Ryan with 12 and 11 points respectively. Candace Jeffrey, toughed it out with a shot to the nose and hit for 14 points for Acadia. The Reds had a lower field goal shooting percentage of 31 per cent compared with Acadia's 37 per cent. However, the Reds out re-

bounded the Axettes 50 to 45.

Laura Saunders, coach of the Axettes and a former player for Joyce Slipp realized Acadia had just had a "real tough game" and said, "you look at UNB's kids, I think they really busted their backsides for 40 minutes."

The Axettes are now 7 and 7, coming off a 10 point loss to UPEI and a five point loss to St. FX.

The Reds just came off a 59 to 56 loss to St. FX on Friday at home. Shelly Ryan and Erin Savage were the top shooters for the Reds with 14 and 10 respectively. Cathy Jamieson had 13 points and Ruby Viray had 12 points for the X-ettes. The teams' field goal percentages were equal at 32.3 per cent, but UNB was out rebounded 52 to 43.

Injured and not playing for the Reds were Bridget Gamble and Melanie Clark. Gamble hurt herself in practice

and is out for ten days, while Clark has a stress fracture in her foot which has kept her out most of the year.

The Reds are now at 2 and 12, but are not yet mathematically out of the playoffs. Coach Slipp commented, "no team in the AUAA has dominated us. We have been close with every single team so we are very close to being there."



Gordon McNeilly jumps against Acadia. Photo Warren Watson

Men's Basketball

...while the men: Down by three, shooting for two

by Murray Thorpe
Brunswickan Sports

Down by three, shooting for two, is how the men's Varsity Reds game ended against Acadia on Sunday. The Reds were down 73-70 with 18 seconds left. Dave Low missed a two-pointer with 10

seconds left and Acadia finished the game with two free-throws to make the final 75 to 70.

Coming off Friday's four point home win over St. Francis Xavier, by a score of 94 to 70, the Reds looked as if they were on the way to a solid win against Acadia with a 43 to 30 lead at the half. When asked

about the second half, Reds Coach Clint Hamilton said we were "two different teams. Their defense took us right out of it and nobody stepped up."

Coach Dave Nutbrown of Acadia commented on the turn-around. "The kids [Acadia] played harder and with a little more confidence in the second half. We picked it up. Maybe for a few minutes UNB thought they had us on the ropes, and that they had already delivered the knock out punch. That gave us the chance to get back into the game."

The Reds were not 100 per cent as their captain, Brian Scales, had the flu the day before the game and, according to Coach Hamilton, "he was gutting it out." Scales played but had to come out of the second half with an eye injury. Scales returned to training Wednesday and should play against

UPEI this weekend.

Geoff Kott of Acadia led all scorers with 21 points, with his teammate Derek Cotton scoring 14. For the Reds, Simon Orr-Ewing had 12, Dave Low had 11 and Brian Scales had 10.

On Friday, off of the bench, Marc Aube had 14 points and Jeff Tegart had 12. Jon Kreiner and Dave Low also had 12, with Simon Orr-Ewing shooting for 10 points.

UNB edged Acadia out in the field goal and rebounding statistics, while Acadia held the edge with 12 more free throws and a higher three-point shot percentage. UNB hit 41 per cent of their field goals on Sunday, while on Friday they made 55 per cent. Sunday was UNB's last four-point match of the season and they now have 6 two-point games left to stay in the top six teams, in order to make the playoffs. UNB is in

a three way tie for fourth, fifth and sixth. As they have been the last two years, UNB went 3 out of 8 in their four-point games. Coach Hamilton, although disappointed about the loss to Acadia, would not admit defeat and said, "losing is never fatal. We have to find a way in the last six games to stay in the fight... That's the bottom line. You have to find a way to be successful in the stretch."

Hockey

V-Reds health of primary importance

The Brunswickan

Danny Grant is not concerned about winning this weekend. He just wants a healthy team.

The Varsity Reds complete their regular season schedule against Mount Allison and Moncton this weekend. Sunday's game against UdeM is likely to be the key to the playoff situation.

While Grant "would like the team to finish second" he sees little advantage to home ice in the AUAA playoffs. The

format calls for the team with the better league record to visit the other team's rink Wednesday night, before heading back to their building for games Saturday and, if necessary, Sunday.

With injuries and suspensions weakening the team, Grant's main concern is "having everybody healthy." Damien Bloye is currently the sole player likely to miss the playoffs. The left wing, who separated his shoulder against Mt Allison last Wednesday, made a strong impression in his rookie season, seeing a lot of ice time on

the penalty killing unit. This weekend should see the return of Chris Nadeau and Jeff Andrews who will be trying to recover their game fitness prior to the playoffs, while other V-Reds have suspension problems. The V-Reds final home game is against MTA, at the Aitken Centre, Saturday afternoon at 2pm. If the V-Reds finish second they travel on Wednesday night. If they finish third or fourth, then playoffs begin at the Aitken Centre. If they finish fourth they face STU.

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