

'UNB sports in for rough financial times'



Allan Archibald of UNB signals a Devils' goal in a game played at the LBR against STU.

By BOB MARSHALL

In my final article of the year, I would like to discuss the reasons for UNB's position in Intercollegiate sport in regard to major sports and what will be done, as well as what should be done.

These days when one discusses sport anywhere on the campus the first question that comes to the front is, why is UNB doing so poorly in football, basketball and hockey. People around UNB are used to winners or at least teams who are competitive and suddenly they are not getting them.

The first thing which comes into the conversation is coaching but this reason is put aside because it is generally agreed that UNB has a fine coaching staff. Finally the group turns to money and athletic scholarships, not necessarily in that order.

Being a person involved with the varsity athletics program at UNB, I grew tired of the constant criticism given our teams by people who are not in the know about athletics, so decided to talk to the people in the business of college sport to find out what had to be done.

The first thing that had to be considered was finances. It is a well known fact that the UNB Athletic Budget is being cut this year from \$280,000 to \$250,000. This cut is due to the number of students being down, as the Athletic Budget is proportional to the number of students enrolled.

Two things arise out of this cut and the first is which part of the Athletic Budget is going to get the axe, it could be either the Intramural budget or the Varsity budget. The second is the question of why enrollment is going down and also why the Athletic Department should have to depend upon enrollment.

The answer to the first part of this problem is very complex. The Intramural program at UNB is a fine one and student participation is quite high. The Intramural budget at UNB is high because of the cost of such things as ice time, officials, equipment, and hockey sticks. Many people who are not directly involved with Intercollegiate or who do not attend UNB games have a legitimate claim in saying Varsity Athletics are overspending and that intramurals should not be cut.

As a person who was involved with varsity athletics this year, I can't see where budgets can take a cut if we are to maintain a level of competitiveness. The answer to the problem is not an easy one, but

it looks as if UNB sport is in for hard financial times.

The second part of the financial problem is whether your budget should directly depend upon student population. Costs in athletics are the same regardless of whether your student population drops 400 people or not. Teams which are operating on very limited budgets now can't afford to be cut, because of shortage of students.

The big hang-up which most people feel is holding back UNB's sports is the lack of financial aid to athletes. Since this is a controversial topic, I went to local people who were quite informed in this area.

The first person I talked with was the coach I was associated with during the season, the basketball coach, Mr. Don Nelson. Nelson told me that he definitely feels athletes should be given aid if they qualify academically. He thinks that UNB gives financial aid to those who have academic talents, so why not reward those who have special talents in the field of athletics.

In setting up this program, Nelson feels we should establish a program to fit our institution regardless of what other universities are doing. He told me that we should inspect other aid programs and take the good portions which would fit into our standards. He thinks by doing this we can enter a competitive field for the students-athlete. Regarding the size of these grants, Nelson said that they should at least cover the cost of tuition.

While I was in talking with Nelson I asked him if he had any views on the extensive use of American talent in this conference especially in basketball. Nelson said that he had no objection to the number of imports being used.

After talking with Nelson, I went to Mr. LeRoy Washburn was fully in favour of athletic scholarships if they are handled correctly.

In an essay he wrote on the topic, Washburn says "I think that financial aid to athletes can be very beneficial if used in the proper context. The problem arises when we introduce the variables that make men, coaches, athletic directors, and even whole colleges start to count the things they consider of utmost importance, 'things' like won, loss, position in the league, filling the stadium, getting the best man power available by any means, and many other short range goals."

In analyzing what Mr. Washburn laid out in his essay, he agreed that

scholarships were necessary but only if they were administrated correctly. In talking with Mr. Washburn, I asked him what he thought about imports for sports. His view was that your athletes should represent your student body. In other words if your student body is 95 percent Canadian then your athletes should be 95 percent Canadian. This way Mr. Washburn would hold the line on imports for sports.

The third person I approached was Mr. Tom Hanley, who is the basketball coach at Saint Thomas University. Mr. Hanley is an employee of the Provincial Department of Physical Education and has been a long time coach in N.B. sports. His view was an interesting one as he agreed with the concept of athletic scholarships but in a limited manner.

He felt that the number of imports should definitely be limited. The suggestions he gave was that the number of Americans in basketball should be limited to three, with the number on the floor being limited to two, at any one time.

After talking to these three, I sat down and thought about these suggestions and drew up a few conclusions of my own. Before giving you these views, I must say that not all will agree with them, but suggestions of the reader are always accepted.

The first suggestion I came up with is that we must come up with scholarships or some type of financial aid to athletes. We must place ourselves in a competitive position along with other Universities to draw the student-athlete. The criteria for determining who is to receive these is still in question but they are a definite must.

The number of imports to be used was the second item I considered and I concluded that some type of limitation is needed. The idea of the C.F.L. might be a suggestion, but something is definitely needed as in this year's Canadian Intercollegiate Basketball final there were four Canadians, all told, with one of them never getting into the game.

The third consideration is budget. There are several ways to better this system and the first is not making your budget dependent on student population. Also you have to draw outside interest in the town, as well as alumni grants to athletes. Another suggestion is charging the student admission, on a reduced rate, to Intercollegiate games. Open admission to the University is another means. The standards of UNB are not lowered,

in my opinion, by who you admit, but more by who you graduate. Even if open admissions are not tried, a less strict standard would help the cause.

These conclusions and suggest-

ions are just my thoughts and they could be far off base. In any case athletics at UNB are in a bad position financially and competitively and it is time that something is done before it is too late.

Bombers, second losing year

By PETER NEILY

UNB Red Bombers for the second straight season finished on a losing track, things were worse this year as shown by the statistics, but there were a couple of bright spots. Bob Clive continued to be one of the best rushers in the league and if there had been a few more team members that could carry the ball as well, UNB would have had a winning team. Another bright spot was the good work of the defensive lines as they kept the Bombers in many games until the opposition finally over-whelmed them.

The season started on a bad note as two exhibition games were easily won by the opposing teams, Sir George of Montreal won the first one by a 10-2 score. UPEI then walked in and skunked the Bombers 16-0. The play of the Bombers in these two games left fans wondering if the rest of the year was to be like this. Fortunately exhibition games prove little as UNB came back to win the next two out of three games in scheduled league play.

The first game was an impressive 24-7 road romp over St. F.X. and when the team travelled to Dal. the next weekend a big win was expected. This victory was not realized as Dal scored on the second last play of the game to win 22-21, this was a real heart breaker as a win here would have helped UNB's chances at a title.

The first home game saw UNB completely control Mt. A. in the second half as they won easily 19-8. The game was probably the best home one of the season played by

the Bombers, even some swampies got into the act with a UNB flag burning at halftime at center field.

For the rest of the season disaster struck the UNB camp as John Malcolm, star quarterback, was injured the next week and Forbes, quarterbacking at UPEI, was also injured during the third stanza as the Bombers lost 26-9.

The last two games were at home and played in a real mud bowl at College Field. Acadia was the first team to walk in and defeat UNB as they won 23-17. League leading SMU Huskies came to town and tripled the score on the Bombers 39-13. This ended the season for the Bombers and gave them a 2-6 won lost record.

The league's All Star team included two UNB players, Bob Clive and John Danaher. The team failed to include any UNB defensive players which surely was a mistake as the Bombers had a good line of defence.

Graduating or leaving the team are; Larry Jack, Chuck Poirier, Gary Norcott, Mike McGlynn, Mark LaBlanc, Cecil Humphries, Bob Kay, John Danaher, and Mike Lloyd.

The list of players for next year calls for a strengthened defensive backfield and the same for defensive tackle positions. The schedule for next year favours the Bombers as they meet the not so powerful teams first and the stronger opponents such as Acadia and SMU later in the season. A better finishing next year would be expected due to an offense similar to last year's but more experienced.

UNB Red Bombers Statistics:

	1971	1972
Yards Rushing;	209 attemps	212 attemps
Net Yards;	855 yards	859 yards
Average Yards;	4.1 yards	4.1 yards
Passes attempted;	152 passes	107 passes
Passes completed;	66 passes	45 passes
Passes, yards;	905 yards	683 yards
Offensive plays;	361	319
Sverag		
Average per play;	4.9	5.0
Yardage;	1760	1542
Touchdowns;	16	12

1973 Schedule:

Sept. 15	UPEI at UNB (exhibition)
Sept. 22	Dal. at UNB
Sept. 29	UNB at Mt. A.
Oct. 6	UNB open
Oct. 13	UPEI at UNB
Oct. 20	UNB at Acadia
Oct. 28	UNB at SMU
Nov. 3	St. F.X. at UNB
Nov. 10	Playoff between no. 1 and no. 2 at site selected by no.1