

Fourth and long

by: Jamie Colvin

First off, I am quite apprehensive about filling the large void left by the two literary giants, namely Paul Arsenault and Murray Nystrom. The two were unfortunately unable to continue their weekly column "Out in Left Field" largely due to Murray's graduation. Their column was a quality weekly and my colleagues and I will do our best to continue the tradition.

Of some interest to faithful readers of last years column would be an update on Murray's progress. In what would have to be described as an irreplaceable loss to the Red Devil Hockey Team, Murray graduated with a Phys-Ed degree. He is now teaching something that he adhered to religiously all of his life—Fitness, at Western University in London. He is also involved with the men's hockey team there in an assistant coaching position. UNB's loss is surely Western's gain, and we wish him all the best.

Congratulations to the UNB Red Sticks—the second best field hockey team in all of Canada! Quite a feat when you consider that they went into the tournament ranked a distant fifth and nobody expecting them to reach the finals. Way to go girls, and next year we expect you to bring home the gold!

If there is anyone who still thinks that Mario Lemieux is still in the shadow of Wayne Gretzky—please wake up. Magnificent Mario after recently signing far and away the most lucrative deal in NHL's history (over 6 million annually), has rewarded his bosses (and teammates) by scoring an amazing 45 points in just 14 games, to lead Pittsburgh to an 11-3-1 record, the best start in franchise history. Mario and his supporting cast of the Penguins are clearly the most offensively talented team in the league. It is the skilled players like Mario, Kevin Stevens and Jaromir Jagr that benefit most from the reduced stickwork in the NHL. Look for this type of team to be the prototype for years to come. Offence is emerging as the winning formula in today's game. Hopefully Mario will stay healthy and shatter some of Gretzky's records that were thought unbreakable ten years ago.

Sticking with hockey, one had go to tip his hat to (Trader) Phil Esposito. Perhaps only Dave King (from his Olympic days) could rival Phil in putting together a competitive team with other teams castoffs. The Tampa Bay Lightning currently sit at 6-8-2 and are in the thick of things in the much improved Norris Division. Leading the Lightning's offensive attack is the again rejuvenated Kris Kontos who has 16 goals, second in the league only to Mario Lemieux. A good return from someone who was playing industrial hockey in Midland, Ontario less than a year ago.

Staying with the Lightning, what is one to make of female goalie Manon Rheume. I was a little suspicious about inviting a goalie who had but one start at the Major Junior level in Quebec. The media went wild for her and portrayed her as not being out of place against NHL shooters. However my worst feelings were verified by injured Red Devil and late release from Tampa Bay, Alastair Still. Still was on Rheume's practice team Tampa's training camp and felt that she had no place in being there. According to Still, she was a flopper goalie who was afraid to leave her crease to play the puck. Certainly not NHL calibre and more realistically not even Major Junior. In spite of this, she was recently signed to a three year deal by Tampa's IHL farm team in Atlanta. I have no problem with females trying to make it in professional sports, and what Manon did will certainly inspire females to try and reach the pinnacle in whatever sport they participate in. However, Rheume was used as a gimmick to attract media attention to Tampa's camp, something that Esposito openly admitted, and this is certainly not fair to other goalies who deserved to be there on their credentials. I guess anything to sell tickets would be true in this case.

Quality swim meet lives up to its billing

by D.J. Stanley

Last weekend the LB Gym was flowing with activity with many of the varsity teams seeing action, some at home and some abroad. At the S.M.A. Pool, the U.N.B. Beavers swim team hosted one of the most competitive events to hit Atlantic universities swimming.

Teams welcomed by our swimmers included Laval, McGill, Maine, Acadia, Dalhousie, Mt. A., and Memorial. The coaches of these teams have only been on the deck since the first of October, so this meet is early on the seasonal calendar. Nonetheless, the times recorded were impressive, keeping mind that the swimmers are in the midst of a hard training schedule.

Timed final results from Friday saw the U.N.B. women winning the 400 meter freestyle relay, including summer nationals' winner Iona Allen, Hillary Seagrave, Katherine McNeilly and Heather Palmateer. The men finished a close second in their respective event with Iain Tennant, Sean Perreira, Paul Halmazna and Jason Lukeman. In the individual events the U.N.B. women Iona Allen and Hillary Seagrave finished one, two in both the 400 Im and the 200 fly with both girls easily qualifying for CIAU's in these events.

The men including Iain Tennant finished fourth in the 200 fly with Jamie Bragg coming in right behind him. In the men's 200 breaststroke Stephan LeBlanc finished a very close second. The next event was the 200 free and Ontario native Heather Palmateer was the second university swimmer to finish behind Olympian Andrea Nugent.

With Friday's events under their belts, the swimmers prepared themselves for Saturday. Saturday morning saw the preliminaries with the finals coming in the evening. In most swim meets the top eight make the finals. Here at U.N.B. there is only six lanes but to add to the intensity and increase the competition, only the top four swimmers made it to the finals.

With the stands packed with varsity mania fans and belly floppers, the U.N.B. women took this time to shine. The finals began with the women beating Laval in the 200 m. medley relay. Rae Sears started things off and obtained a good position in the backstroke, Iona Allen swam the breaststroke and increased the position, then Hillary Seagrave smoke home to help the women win the nail biting event.

The men's team finished third with Sean Penny swimming backstroke, Stephan LeBlanc in breaststroke, Jacques Chamberland in fly and Sean Perreira bringing it home freestyle. In the men's 100 m. freestyle Jason Lukeman, AUAA male swimmer of the year swam to his usual first place finish with a notable second place finish by Thom Giberson from the Fredericton club team. The women then pulled together again and finished one, two in the 100 m. fly with Iona qualifying for CIAU's in another event and Hillary Seagrave respectively posting the victories.

Rae Sears was the second university swimmer across the line in the 100 meters backstroke showing herself to be in line for the season. In the 200 I.M. it was the duo of Allen and Seagrave that finished one and three respectively to take women over the top and winning Saturdays overall events beating Laval by a score of 45 - 37. The women worked together and all finalists racked up the points to give this victory to the women. The men also had convincing results with Iain Tennant and Paul Halmazna finishing second in the 100 meters fly.

Jason Lukeman was in second in the 50 free but posted the fastest time in the morning making him 'the fastest man in the pool' as was announced by the commentator of Saturdays events. The events finished on Saturday with 200 free relay and with the veteran mens team of Dave Kiriluta, Paul Halmazna, Jason Lukeman and Iain Tennant coming on top by 3 seconds.

It is obvious from these results that the swimmers fed off the

fans support not to mention the Alumni that was scattered around the deck. With swimming not having the reputation of being a spectator sport it was great to see UNB out behind their swim team.

Sunday's events were quick and painless for most! The women once again won the 800 meter free relay showing off a star squad and the men also boasted their colours with a second place finish. In the individual events on the men's side Stephan LeBlanc finished third in the 50 meter breaststroke. A fourth place finish in the 200 back relay a one, three and four finish by J. Lukeman, P. Halmazna and I. Tennent in the 50 fly and a second and third place finish in the 200 breaststroke relay. Jason Lukeman come out on top in the second running of the 50 free and in the mens 200 fly relay. J. Chamberland, P. Halmazna, J. Bragg and C. Selig finished third. In the 400 meter relay men finished second and third. On the womens side, the women came third in the 200 back relay and Rona and Hillary were first and third respectively in both the 50 m. fly and 100 m. IM. The women also won the 200 fly relay and finished the weekend off by placing 2nd in the 400 medly relay which included Rae Sears, Anne Allain, Heather Palmateer and Erica Cameron.

When asked how he felt the weekend went, head coach Andre Cole said with a semi smile 'This team has a lot of potential but they have to get their heads into racing and realize that each race is important.' Another swimmer when asked said that everyone is comfortable with everyone else and that enables the team to work together and have fun together. The action at the pool over the weekend created such a stir that a pipe burst and the pool had to close down. The swim team would like to thank everyone who showed up to support the team this weekend and remind everyone to keep their eyes open for one of the best seasons UNB swimming has ever seen.

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