

## The Front Row

Mark James Jeffrey

By Frank Denis  
Former Sports Editor

I can remember the day as if it was yesterday. August 4, 1991. It was around supper time when the phone rang. A friend on the line said that the day before Mark Jeffrey had been killed in an accident north of Montreal. I was shocked...stunned. Apparently a tree he was cutting down at his in laws cottage had hit electrical wires.

It was strange, perhaps even ironic, because earlier in the same day I had thought about Mark Jeffrey and the rest of the Red Devils hockey team. I was looking forward to not only a new school year, but also a new UNB hockey season. I thought of Mark because he symbolized UNB hockey.

During his years as a player with the team in the mid 80's and later as an assistant coach, no one gave more to the team than Mark Jeffrey. During the 1988-89 season with Rick Nicklechok behind their bench, the Red Devils deserted their coach by walking out on him. With no other choice Nicklechok stepped down and the team was handed over to Jeffrey in the interim. The players came back and the team finished up the regular season due in large part to Jeffrey's urging.

Over the summer of 1989, the university hired current head coach Mike Johnston who immediately appointed Mark Jeffrey an assistant coach. The team under their guidance showed an immediate improvement and made the playoffs for the first time in 5 seasons. While Johnston was cool and collected behind the bench, Jeffrey was always fired up and vocal drawing the ire of opposing teams.

I have many memories of Mark from my interviews of him after games to our talks on the long bus rides back to Fredericton after road trips. We would talk about his days as a Red Devil player when the team won the AUAA championship in 1984. We would also talk about me and what I wanted to do with my life. While I wanted to know a lot about him, Mark Jeffrey also wanted to know much about me.

Those memories came back as his number 17 was raised to the Aitken Centre's rafters on November 22, 1991 in the first Mark Jeffrey game. The arena was still as the sell out crowd stood in honour of number 17. His family stood at centre ice and wept as did many of the Red Devil players. The game against St. Thomas had UNB prevailing 8-4. Following the win, the UNB locker room was eerily silent while the players sat drained, both physically and emotionally. They thought about Mark Jeffrey and what the win meant to him. Coach Mike Johnston said 'Mark loved every win, but a St. Thomas win was especially sweet. He'll be savouring this one that's for sure.'

### Mark Jeffrey Memorial Game

**Varsity Reds  
vs.  
Acadia Axemen**

Sunday, November 7, 2:00 pm at the Aitken Centre

Hard nosed winger Gord Christian, who with three goals was named player of the game said in the aftermath, "Mark is such a big motivator for all of us and it feels great to come through for him. I know that he is smiling somewhere."

After an absence last season, a game in honour of Jeffrey will be played this Sunday against last year's national champions the Acadia Axemen at 1 pm. While some of the current UNB players never had the chance to meet the great man, they will certainly feel his presence simply because he is everywhere. His picture and a plaque grace the Aitken Centre lobby as well a photograph of Mark proudly parading the AUAA championship trophy around the Aitken Centre ice is hung in the entrance of the UNB locker room.

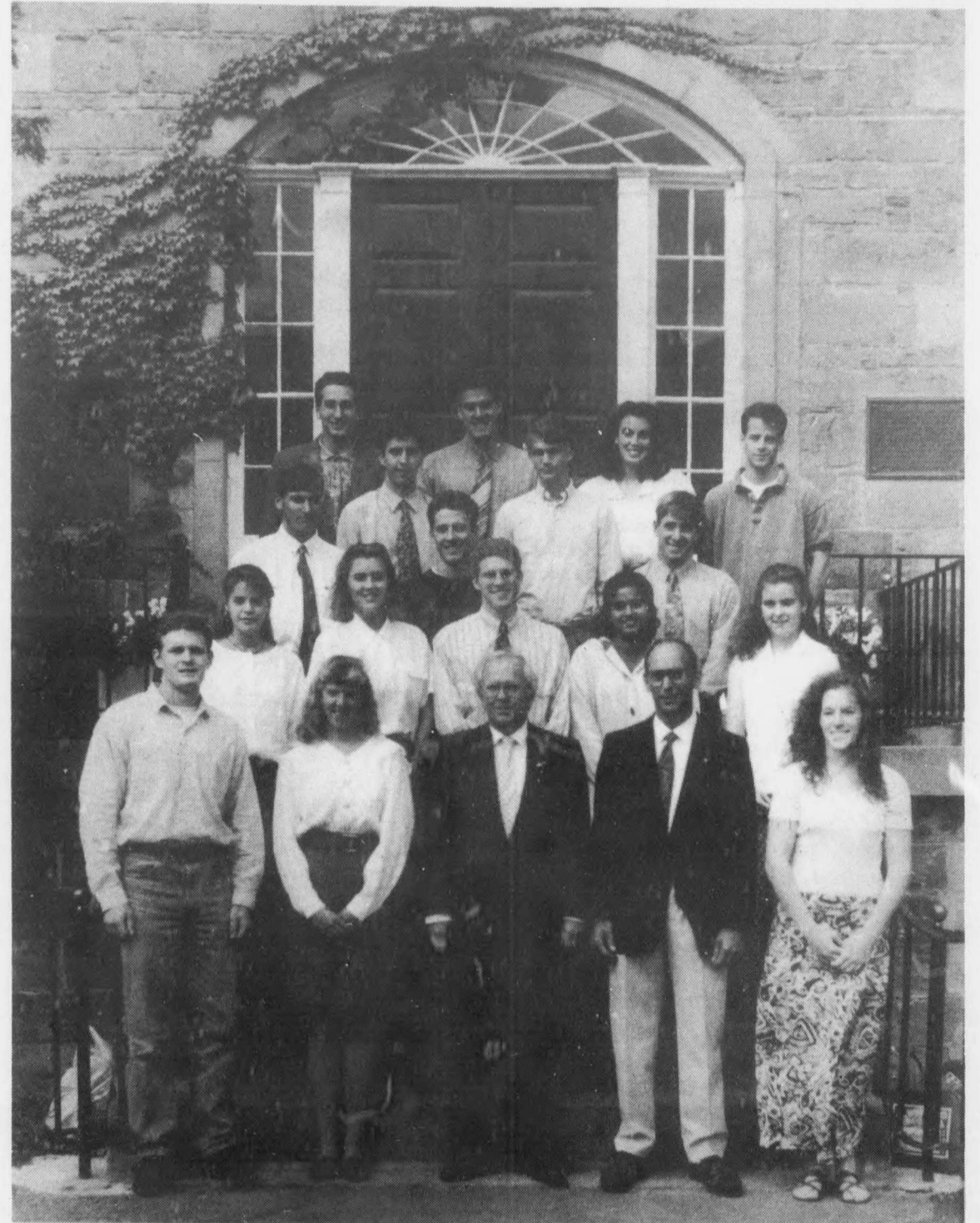
The game on Sunday will attract a larger than usual crowd simply because Mark touched that many people. They will be there to honour the only player in UNB Athletics history to have his number retired. Ticket sales will also benefit the Mark Jeffrey fund that was set up to help a UNB hockey player pay for their schooling, a fund that already has raised more than \$30,000.

Two hours before the game begins, about the same time the UNB players begin getting dressed for the game, I will be gearing up for a game of pick up hockey at an arena near my home in Montreal. Unfortunately I can't be at the game. Instead I'll wear my UNB hockey shirt with a patch that reads 'Jeffrey 17' on the sleeve. As I put the shirt on I'll look at the patch, and remember.

Editor's note: Frank Denis was Sports Editor of the *Brunswickan* from 1990-1993. He is currently looking for a job while living in Montreal after graduating in May with his Bachelor of Physical Education and Recreation degree. He is hoping to make a trip to Fredericton next weekend to see the pair of UNB-UPEI hockey games as well as other Varsity Reds games.

## — VARSITY NEWS —

# UNB Academic All-Canadians



Front row (l-r) Alastair Still, Donna Retson, UNB President Robin Armstrong, Asst. Athletic Director Don Eagle, Erin Savage. Second row (l-r) Elizabeth Rae, Tia Toner, Jacques Chamberland, Bindu Bittira, Jody LeBlanc. Third row (l-r) Doug Eagle, Daniel McMorran, Stephane LeBlanc. Fourth row (l-r) Chris Johnston, Greg Hughes. Back row (l-r) Ahmed Houmani, Malcolm Adams, Tanya Whalen, Greg Reid. Photo M. Landry

UNB's Academic All Canadians were announced last week. Athletes must have participated on at least one Varsity team during the 1992-93 season and maintained a minimum 3.5 grade point average. 35 students were named from various Varsity teams.

The following is a list of those students.

**Field Hockey:** Tanya Whalen, Jody LeBlanc.

**Men's Basketball:** Duff Andrew Miller.

**Women's Basketball:** Tracy Lordon, Donna Retson, Kara Palmer, Erin Savage.

**Women's Volleyball:** Elizabeth Rae, Tia Toner.

**Men's Volleyball:** Chris Johnston, Doug Eagle, Daniel McMorran, Bruce Ashfield.

**Hockey:** Alastair Still, Greg Reid, Brian Wilson.

**Soccer:** Ahmed Houmani,

**Swimming:** Jacques Chamberland, Staphane LeBlanc, Jason Lukeman, Sean Penney, Adam Sparkes.

**Cross Country:** Bindu Bittira, John Colwell, Rorri Currie, Suzanne Emmery, Michael Fellows, Mollie Ferris, Kevin Jamieson, Greg Hughes, Scott Sawyer, Bill Sheel, Nina Singh, Tia Toner.

## — SOCCER —

# Reds act as spoiler

*MUN misses play-offs as a result of poor weekend*

By Umas Forsythe  
Sports Staff

The Varsity Reds Soccer season came to a close last weekend with a tie against Memorial University. With the tie, the Varsity Reds ended the season with a 2-6-3 record and in eighth place, well out of the playoffs.

UNB was missing their three starting midfielders two to card violations and Paul Noble to an injury in practice on Friday.

MUN took the lead early in the first half only to lose their lead due to a mistake by the keeper who misplayed the ball and let Gray Zurheide score an easy empty netter. This goal gave Zurheide the conference scoring title with 11 goals.

The second half was dominated by the Red Shirts. The Seahawks had only one good chance which was stopped by Pat Byrne, but the Red Shirts couldn't convert on any of their chances. The best chance coming at the end of the game when Gray Zurheide was receiving a cross from Addeniyi Adekoya, but miss timed his shot and only got the side of the ball, barely changing its direction. Raymond Curits gave the MUN keeper a scare with a long cross that took off with the light breeze towards the top left corner, forcing him to push the ball over the net.

In other league action St. FX and UdeM tied for first place with 24pts. Dal in second with 20pts, and St. Mary's beating out MUN on a tie-breaking basis with 18pts. The AUAA's will be hosted by St. FX with the winner advancing to the CIAU's, being hosted by Acadia.