Raiders Look to 1990-91

by Kelly Craig

Varsity Athletics had an extremely successful year as they won six titles and managed a few second place finishes in the AUAA. The Red Raiders had an equally enjoyable season themselves. Record wise, the Raiders did not make substantial improvements over last year. However, competition from the Raiders was felt by the rest of the AUAA.

Each Raider game saw successive improvement over the season. The Raiders steadily increased their com--petitiveness and made great strides in the last few weeks of the season. Next year promises to be an intense season of basketball as the nucleus of the Raiders team will return.

There are no graduating players on the Raiders team this season. With the return of Bryan Elliot next year, the Raiders will regain strength at the post guard position. Also returning to the Raiders next year are Roy Cocciollo, Glen Read, Steve Taylor, and Yaw Obeng. These key players will bring experience and strength to the team not to mention fantastic basketball.

Now, Phil Wright is in the process of recruiting players from the graduating classes around NB and in Ontario. With twenty eight top players to choose from, the Raiders should have a good foundation to work with next year. Despite the fact that it is early in the recruiting process, four players from the New Brunswick area have been selected to play for the Raiders.

Alex Kidney from Fredericton is a definite possibility for the Raiders next season. Kidney was the MVP for the Fredericton Black Kats team this past year and will be positioned as a guard. Robin McLaughlin, a 6'5" forward from the Grand Manan A team, will also be playing for the Raiders. Bruce Noble of Moncton, NB has the much needed height that is required in the AUAA. At 6'6", Noble was named to the New Brunswick all-star team. And Chris Adams will bring strength to UNB's inside game. Adams will be transferring to UNB next year from Acadia. At 6'5", Adams is a powerful player who is also a former FHS Black Kat.

Two other recruits that Coach Wright is hoping to attain for the Raiders are still up in the air. Joe Walker of Kennebecasis Valley has applied to UNB as well as several other universities. Also, the top player in the province, John Ryan, has applied to UNB. If everything should work out for the Raiders next year then these six top players will definitely wear the Raiders uniform in 1990.

The next basketball season promises to be just as unpredictable as in the past. Many of the teams will change substantially next year due to graduation; Acadia alone will lose five players. These five players were major contributors to Acadia in their AUAA win this year. St. FX also will lose some players who played the roles in the guard positions. UPEI, SMU, and Dal all look tough for next year, judging from all indications in the early part of recruiting.

UNB's strength will be built up for next season due to the excellent recruits that Coach Wright has his eyes on. The players have already set personal and team goals for next year. One of these goals deals with the AUAA playoffs. Through hard work and determination it most definitely looks like the Raiders will be at the playoffs in 1991.



Photo by Peter Tracy

Roy Cociollo shows his stuff against UMM



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