sports

NEW LEAGUE FOR WOMENS ICE HOCKEY

by Pat Clements

The 1989-90 season will represent a huge step forward for the sport of Women's Ice Hockey in general and the UNB Red Blazers in particular. This will be the year that the Blazers enter as a team in the first year New Brunswick Ladies Hockey League.

UNB has had a Women's hockey team for 15 years, but for all that time the team has been confined to playing exhibition games and tournaments. "Everybody is pretty excited about a league" says UNB coach Mike Power, "it gives us a chance to get more people involved in games, its nice to have a schedule set in advance." Power also says that the team will find it a change that results of their games will count towards something.

The NBLHL will have seven teams in its first season. Besides UNB there will be: Shediac Flames, The Moncton Right Spot, The Clement Cormier Caviliers, The Norton Phase Electric, The St. John Flyers, and The Grand Falls Elite. Each team will play an 18 game schedule. League playoffs will consist of a tournament containing the top 6 finishers at the Aitken Centre in March.

The Red Blazers will begin their season tomorrow when they travel to Hampton to face-off against Norton. UNB won't have their home opener until Nov. 19 when they host Moncton. The UNB team will play most of their home games at the Burtt's Corner Arena because, as Power puts it "the University's rink (the Aitken Centre) has committed much of its ice time and dressing room space to off-campus teams."

Power believes he will have solid team this season. "We have some quality veterans back, Jennifer Peicker broke most of the team scoring records last season and she is back for her fifth season. I think we can expect some good years from Andrea Stilwell and Cheryl Campbell also." The seventh year coach of The Red Blazers hedged his bets when asked how his team will do in the league, "we should be quite competitive, I think Moncton and Grand Falls will have strong teams, on a good day we will do well against them, we should be able to do very well against the other teams, so I guess we could put third place down as our goal and see what happens." Power also mentioned the fact that he had 8 rookies out so far was very pleasing. "But we have room for more" he says, "if a player with some experience or skating ability wants to come out we have room for them."

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second in the nation for nothing for most of the season. It's no disgrace to lose to a team like that, however, I would have liked to have seen a closer score, mentioned the coach.

Captain Fellows, Rod Clarke, Garn Pomeroy, Brad Daniels, and rookies Jeff Stapes and bill Sheel will be competing in tomorrow's race at UBC at 6:30 pm. The ten-kilometer grass course is relatively flat and will favour the runners who enjoy fast races. "This weekend doesn't mean that we're going to sit back and rest on our AUAA laurels. We're going to go out there and make a race of it, added coach Hull. Incidentally, all Red Harriers will be eligible to compete next year so UNB's cross country future certainly does look bright. This weekend will be a test of UNB's program at the national level and will indicate its magnitude.



COACH OF THE YEAR

Joyce Slipp of UNB has been honored as the recipient of this year's AUAA Field Hockey Coach of the Year award. Coach Slipp guided her Red Sticks to an undefeated regular season with a record of 8 wins, 0 losses, and 4 ties, as well as two more victories in the AUAA Championships. Thus her season was culminated with an AUAA Championship with a 2-0 win over UPEI in the opening round, and a 1-0 win over SMU in the final game.

Rick Hull of UNB has been honored as the recipient of the AUAA Men's Cross Country Coach of the Year award. Under Rick's guidance his Red Harriers steadily improved throughout the season, as he nurtured his athletes to peak at the right time. This right time was the AUAA Championships, as the Red Harriers defeated their rivals from DAL by one point, thereby giving UNB its first Men's Cross Country AUAA title since 1986.



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